

## PROGRAM PROFILES

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017**

*The 2017-18 San Francisco Opera Season*

**Kip Cranna, Cenacolista**

With the opening of the 2017-2018 San Francisco Opera Season, we are privileged to again welcome our Cenacolo member Kip Cranna to describe the repertoire: five different performances from Turandot to Girl of the Golden West, plus three concerts. As always, Kip will outline the highlights of each of the operatic performances and their principals, while also enticing us with details about the concerts. He is well equipped to do this, currently serving as the [Dramaturg](#) [do google this!] and has also been serving on the Opera Company's staff since 1979, including as Director of Music for over 30 years!



*Photo by Cory Weaver*

Among his many awards, Kip has received the San Francisco Opera Medal and the Bernard Osher Award for Distinguished Efforts. His curriculum vitae includes a BA from the University of North Dakota and a PhD in Musicology from Stanford. He has also been the program director and lecturer for the Carmel Bach Festival, teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory and the Fromm Institute, and moderates the San Francisco Opera Guild's "Insight" panel discussions. Needless to say, our fellow Cenacolista knows of what he speaks—if you are at all interested in understanding what the San Francisco Opera and Il Cenacolo are all about, don't miss this luncheon!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017**

*Domes, Arches and Minarets:*

*A History of Islamic-Inspired Buildings in America*

**Phil Pasquini**

Ever marveled at the beautiful domes and minarets gracing buildings and structures throughout the US—even here in San Francisco and California? Phil Pasquini, cousin to Cenacolista brothers Marc and Dennis Pasquini, will trace the 200+ year history and development of Islamic-inspired architecture in America from the earliest Spanish-Moorish buildings constructed in the 1700s to the contemporary structures of our 21st century. Phil will show us how Islamic architecture was adapted and incorporated by many of the famous architects such as our own Timothy Pflueger, Thomas Patterson Ross, Frank Lloyd Wright, Carl and Robert Boller and Philip Johnson, to name just a few. Five years in the making, Phil will detail how he traveled throughout our country to photograph and describe these architectural marvels depicted in his published book of the same name—which we can purchase at our luncheon.



*Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco.*

*Photo from aviewoncities.com*

Born in Sacramento, Phil earned his BFA and MFA at the San Francisco Art Institute. He was awarded an individual fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and enjoyed a 39-year career as a college professor at San Francisco City College and a lecturer in the Classics Department at San Francisco State, the École Supérieure de Commerce de Toulon, France and the Hadassah Technological College, Jerusalem, Israel. He has also worked for 22 years as a photojournalist for various international newspapers, magazines and publications.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017**

*The Life and Afterlife of the Etruscan Banquet*

**Lisa Pieraccini, PhD**

The Etruscans, the first “banqueters” of ancient Italy, created an aristocratic feasting ideology that became an essential component of elite Etruscan culture. The depictions of their feasting span from daily life to the afterlife. The banquet became a quintessential component of Etruscan culture where certain foods and beverages took on symbolic meaning.



*From The National Archaeological  
Museum of Tarquinia*

<http://www.tarquinia-cerveteri.it/en/museum-and-necropolis-of-tarquinia/museum>

What can we learn from the eating and drinking customs of the Etruscans? How have these customs formed part of the culinary fabric of Italy today? These are all matters which are of special interest for us as “Cenacolisti.”

Questions such as these will be answered by Dr. Pieraccini, who has regaled us about Etruscan culture and mores at several of our past Thursday luncheons. She is a professor and project director at the Del Chiaro Center for Ancient Italian Studies at UC Berkeley. Having received her PhD at UC Santa Barbara, she is a leading much-published authority on Etruria. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about our ancient forebearers.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017**

*La Sagrada Familia*

**Alex Kugushev, Cenacolista**

Barcelona's basilica La Sagrada Familia is a cultural and religious phenomenon unique in contemporary Western civilization. These days, churches throughout the rest of Western Europe stand empty, but the citizens of Barcelona have countered the trend by creating a monument for the ages. The construction which has been continuously ongoing since 1883—

the year when Antoni Gaudí initiated it—is slated for completion, as the Barcelonans proudly insist, “over the next few decades.” We will experience, in a richly illustrated presentation, the beauty we see now and how it came to be—the genius of Gaudí and spirit of Barcelona.

Noneother than our erudite fellow Cenacolista and frequent Thursday luncheon presenter Alex Kugushev will educate us about this wondrous monument. We are all acquainted with Alex’s accomplishments which need not be repeated here—simply put: we’ll see you at the October 26th Cenacolo Luncheon!

*One-minute video of the simulated completion of the basilica according to Gaudi’s design:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcDmloG3tXU> (Click here)



[Photo from DocumentaryTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcDmloG3tXU)

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