

QolorFLEX NuNeon, Dimmers & Accessories



Photo by [Zach Mendez](#)

OPERA SB

Founded in 1994, Opera Santa Barbara presents exciting, high-quality opera productions and community programs to audiences throughout California's Central Coast.

The production of *Das Rheingold* at the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, presented by Opera Santa Barbara, was the first opera to re-open in June 2021 to a live audience in the region, in the early stages following the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project Name:	QolorFLEX NuNeon in <i>Das Rheingold</i> 's Rainbow Bridge, presented at the Lobero Theatre , produced by Opera Santa Barbara
Location:	Santa Barbara, California
Project Installation:	June 2021
Lighting Designer:	François-Pierre Couture
Lighting Package:	Jennifer Skinner, Kinetic Lighting
Additional Equipment:	Ensemble Theatre Company
City Theatrical Solutions:	16 reels of QolorFLEX NuNeon®, RGB, 4 QolorFLEX® 5x8A Dimmers, 4 Meanwell 320W Power Supplies, 40 2m QolorFLEX NuNeon Aluminum Extrusions, 360 QolorFLEX NuNeon Mounting Clips

Q&A WITH THE DESIGNER

City Theatrical (CTI): Tell us about your show, *Das Rheingold*. What made this production unique?

François-Pierre Couture (FPC): This was the first opera to re-open to a live audience in California's Central Coast region. Everyone involved in the production process was very excited and anxious to flex our muscles again. I was not entirely sure if all my design and production reflexes would respond, but just like riding a bicycle, we stepped right into our roles with enthusiasm. Crystal Manich, the show's director, and I decided to stage the orchestra in view, with the singers, as a celebration of this reunion with the audience. This proved to be immensely cathartic, especially as the lighting engulfed the whole theater to form *Das Rheingold*'s climactic Rainbow Bridge.

CTI: Were there any challenges that the QolorFLEX NuNeon and QolorFLEX 5x8A Dimmers helped you overcome?

FPC: QolorFLEX NuNeon was essential in the realization of this design. Since the Orchestra was staged on a series of risers, I decided to use QolorFLEX NuNeon to define and frame the negative space while bringing focus to the stage through a series of concentric portals. The lack of elaborate scenery was easily circumvented by the striking intensity,



Photos by François-Pierre Couture



Photos taken during Technical Rehearsals:



Q&A (Continued)

dynamic response, and color accuracy of QolorFLEX NuNeon, RGB which, with the help of a well designed LED lighting system, allowed us to create rich visual and emotional landscapes. QolorFLEX NuNeon's ease of installation allowed us to keep our load-in to one day, with two days of prep. It was a huge advantage for this production.

CTI: How did QolorFLEX NuNeon look on stage?

FPC: It was my first time using QolorFLEX NuNeon. I have used similar products in the past, and working with NuNeon was a far better experience. First, it is bright and smooth! I was worried, since the diameter of the silicone is 9mm, that it would not have the presence needed to make an impact on the stage. I ended up running the intensity between 12% and 20% as any brighter would overpower the stage. It was also very consistent, both in dimming and color/brightness, which is very important in these types of installation, as the human eye is very good at noticing variations in hue and intensity.

CTI: What it was like to work with QolorFLEX NuNeon?

FPC: It was very easy to manipulate. Thanks to its double bending direction and 50mm trimming increments, I had no issue combining the strands into the lengths I needed. The prefabricated aluminum extrusions were also the perfect channel to house the LED and keep it straight.

Since it was my first time wiring QolorFLEX NuNeon, I received a lot of help from technicians at City Theatrical, which helped plan the purchase and wiring of the product. Overall, it was easy and straightforward and everyone was thoroughly impressed with the final product. I am planning to use it again in upcoming projects.



QolorFLEX NuNeon



QolorFLEX 5x8A Dimmers

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