



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2020 SUMMER SEASON
WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE, JUNE 7–JULY 3

JUST ANNOUNCED:

Music Director Designate Eun Sun Kim Will Conduct Verdi's *Ernani*

Ernani Returns in Sumptuous Production Featuring a Powerful Quartet of Singers; Revival of Handel's *Partenope* in Award-Winning Staging by Christopher Alden; Bay Area Premiere of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* by Composer and Local DJ Mason Bates

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com



Eun Sun Kim conducts Verdi's *Ernani* (Photo: Marc Olivier Le Blanc/San Francisco Opera); Christopher Alden's production of Handel's *Partenope* (Photo: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera); Bay Area premiere of Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (Photo: Ken Howard/Santa Fe Opera)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 30, 2020) — San Francisco Opera presents a trio of masterworks spanning the 18th century to the present for its 2020 Summer Season at the War Memorial Opera House June 7–July 3. In an update announced today, Caroline H. Hume Music Director Designate **Eun Sun Kim** will conduct Giuseppe Verdi's *Ernani* replacing James Gaffigan who has withdrawn from the production due to family reasons. The summer season will also include George Frideric Handel's *Partenope* in Christopher Alden's popular production and the Bay Area premiere of

composer Mason Bates' kaleidoscopic exploration of life, love and creativity, *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*.

Eun Sun Kim, who was appointed San Francisco Opera's Caroline H. Hume Music Director Designate last December, returns to the Company podium ahead of schedule to conduct Verdi's early masterwork *Ernani*. An acclaimed interpreter of Verdi's stage works including *Rigoletto* and *Il Trovatore* for the Berlin State Opera and a triumphant *La Traviata* for Houston Grand Opera, Kim will lead *Ernani* for the first time in her career. In 2019, Kim made "a company debut of astonishing vibrancy and assurance" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) with Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Following *Ernani*, she returns to the podium in September for the opening weekend of San Francisco Opera's 2020–21 Season with a gala concert and a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

Verdi: *Ernani* (June 7–July 2)

Verdi's 1844 *Ernani* is a swashbuckling tale of love and honor in 16th-century Spain that follows a fugitive prince (*Ernani*) whose love for the noblewoman Elvira is challenged by two powerful rivals, Don Ruy de Silva and the soon-to-be Holy Roman Emperor, Don Carlo. San Francisco's first operatic "hit" during the Gold Rush, *Ernani* is a thrilling exhibition of what the trained human voice can do through a series of masterful arias, ensembles and tense, dramatic situations.

Tenor **Russell Thomas** stars as the titular bandit *Ernani*. Rising American soprano **Michelle Bradley** and Italian baritone **Simone Piazzola** make their Company debuts as Elvira and Don Carlo. Bass-baritone and 2018 Richard Tucker Award winner **Christian Van Horn** returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage in the role of Silva. **Jose Maria Condemi** directs the "sumptuous" (*Chicago Tribune*) production designed by **Scott Marr** with lighting design by **Duane Schuler**.

Handel: *Partenope* (June 12–27)

Handel's 1730 comedy *Partenope* returns in the Olivier Award-winning production by American director **Christopher Alden**. Presented by San Francisco Opera in 2014, Alden's staging updates the action from Handel's ancient Neapolitan setting to a 1920s Parisian salon and, according to the *Mercury News*, "turns the opera's genderbending plot into a nonstop parade of visual and vocal delights."

In her American debut, soprano **Louise Alder** adds *Partenope* to her gallery of acclaimed Handel heroines. Two internationally renowned countertenors—Deutsche Grammophon recording artist **Franco Fagioli** and "the much buzzed about Polish break-dancing countertenor" (Parterre Box) **Jakub Józef Orliński**—will also make American staged opera debuts as Arsace and Armindo respectively. Mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack** reprises the role of Rosmira, tenor **Alek Shrader** returns as Emilio and baritone **Hadleigh Adams** is Ormonte.

English conductor and harpsichordist **Christopher Moulds**, who made his Company debut last summer with Handel's *Orlando*, returns to lead *Partenope*. **Roy Rallo** directs the revival of Alden's staging, which features sets designed by **Andrew Lieberman**, costumes by **Jon Morrell**, revival lighting design by **Gary Marder** and choreography by **Lawrence Pech**.

Bates: *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (June 20–July 3)

The summer season concludes with the highly anticipated Bay Area premiere of ***The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (June 20–July 3)** by composer **Mason Bates** and librettist **Mark Campbell**.

Proclaimed "a winning opera" by the *Los Angeles Times* at its 2017 world premiere in Santa Fe, this electro-acoustic one-act work explores the intersection of technology and humanity in modern life.

Kevin Newbury directs the fast-moving work which follows tech mogul Steve Jobs through a series of flashback episodes where the product innovation he champions aid and complicate his relationships. Conductor **Michael Christie**, who made his San Francisco Opera debut leading the 2013 world premiere of Mark Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, will be on the podium.

At the 2019 Seattle Opera premiere of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, the *Seattle Times* commented: "And we have to talk about the ridiculously gorgeous production design, which uses projection and lighting cues to transform a spare set of white-screened rectangular boxes into all of the locations and moods the story needs." The set designs are by **Victoria Tzykun**, lighting is by **Japhy Weideman** and projection designs are by London-based **59 Productions**, whose credits include Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*, a triumph at the Metropolitan Opera and LA Opera in recent seasons. The opera's costumes are designed by **Paul Carey** and sound designer is **Rick Jacobsohn**.

Edward Parks makes his Company debut in the title role. *Gramophone* praised Parks for his "central performance as Jobs capturing both his charisma and his cruelty in singing that swerves between persuasive elegance and caustic irony." The cast features three additional role creators. Mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** is Laurene Powell Jobs, a character she "radiantly personified," said the *Dallas Morning News*. Tenor **Garrett Sorenson** portrays Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak and bass **Wei Wu** sings Kōbun Chino Otogawa, Jobs' spiritual advisor whose guidance steers him through doubts and personal travails.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Single (non-subscription) tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2020 Summer Season are now available and priced from \$26 to \$398. A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee.

Tickets may be purchased online at sfopera.com, at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco) and by calling (415) 864-3330. The San Francisco Opera Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only).

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation, direction and parking information, visit sfopera.com/directions.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2019–20 Season, visit sfopera.com.

SUMMER 2020 SEASON

*San Francisco Opera Debut **American Staged Opera Debut ⚡Role Debut †Current Adler Fellow

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House.

ERNANI by Giuseppe Verdi

Production New to San Francisco Opera

June 7 (2 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.); July 2 (7:30 p.m.), 2020

Lyric Opera of Chicago production

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, based on the play *Hernani* by Victor Hugo

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 3 hours including two intermissions

World Premiere: Venice, March 9, 1844

First SFO performance: September 13, 1968

Most recent: September 1984 (1984–85 Season)

Cast:

Ernani

Russell Thomas♪

Elvira

Michelle Bradley*♪

Don Carlo

Simone Piazzola**

Don Ruy Gomez de Silva

Christian Van Horn♪

Giovanna

Esther Tonea*+♪

Don Riccardo Christopher Oglesby†♪
Jago Stefan Egerstrom*†♪

Creative Team:

Conductor Eun Sun Kim
Director Jose Maria Condemi
Production Designer Scott Marr*
Lighting Designer Duane Schuler
Choreographer Lawrence Pech
Chorus Director Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

PARTENOPE by George Frideric Handel

June 12 (7:30 p.m.), **18** (7:30 p.m.), **21** (2 p.m.), **23** (7:30 p.m.), **27** (7:30 p.m.), **2020**

English National Opera and Opera Australia co-production

Text anonymously adapted from a libretto by Silvio Stampiglia

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes including two intermissions

World Premiere: London, February 24, 1730
First SFO performance: October 15, 2014
Most recent: October–November 2014 (2014–15 Season)

Cast:

Partenope Louise Alder**♪
Rosmira Daniela Mack
Arsace Franco Fagioli**♪
Armindo Jakub Józef Orliński**♪
Emilio Alek Shrader
Ormonte Hadleigh Adams♪

Creative Team:

Conductor Christopher Moulds
Production Christopher Alden
Revival Director Roy Rallo
Set Designer Andrew Lieberman
Costume Designer Jon Morrell
Original Lighting Designer Adam Silverman
Revival Lighting Designer Gary Marder
Choreographer Lawrence Pech

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS — Music by Mason Bates; Libretto by Mark Campbell
Bay Area Premiere

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera, The Santa Fe Opera and Seattle Opera with support from Cal Performances and co-produced with Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

June 20 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 28 (2 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.); July 1 (7:30 p.m.), 3 (7:30 p.m.), 2020

Sung in English with English supertitles

By arrangement with Opus 3 Artists

Approximate running time: 1 hour and 30 minutes with no intermission

World Premiere: Santa Fe, July 22, 2017

Cast:

<i>Steve Jobs</i>	Edward Parks*
<i>Laurene Powell Jobs</i>	Sasha Cooke
<i>Steve Wozniak</i>	Garrett Sorenson
<i>Kōbun Chino Otogawa</i>	Wei Wu*
<i>Chrisann Brennan</i>	Anne-Marie MacIntosh†

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Michael Christie
<i>Director</i>	Kevin Newbury
<i>Set Designer</i>	Victoria Tzykun*
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Paul Carey*
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Japhy Weideman*
<i>Projection Designer</i>	59 Productions*
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Rick Jacobsohn*
<i>Revival Choreographer</i>	Lawrence Pech
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by The Dolby Family, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Keith and Priscilla Geeslin, Ann and Gordon Getty, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne and Tad Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey and Barbara A. Wolfe.

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Partenope is made possible, in part, by: Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem and Joan & David Traitel.

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs is made possible, in part, by: The Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions, Dr. & Mrs. William M. Coughran; Keith & Priscilla Geeslin; John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Simon-Kutcher and Partners; Barbara A. Wolfe; and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Yamaha is the official piano of the San Francisco Opera.

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High-resolution, downloadable photographs for the Summer 2020 productions and artist headshots are available at sfopera.com/press. For cast biographies, visit sfopera.com.

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