



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS BAY AREA PREMIERE OF
THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS
SEPTEMBER 22–OCTOBER 7



Scenes from *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera

Grammy Award-Winning Co-Commission by Composer Mason Bates and
Librettist Mark Campbell Exists at the Intersection of
Creativity, Technology and Human Communication



Mason Bates (composer); John Moore (Steve Jobs); Sasha Cooke (Laurene Powell Jobs);
Bille Bruley (Steve Wozniak); Wei Wu (Kōbun Chino Otogawa); Olivia Smith (Chrisann Brennan)

Kevin Newbury Directs and Michael Christie Conducts a Cast Featuring
John Moore, Sasha Cooke, Bille Bruley, Wei Wu and Olivia Smith

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com
September 27 Performance Will Be Livestreamed

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 31, 2023; Updated September 22) — San Francisco Opera's 101st season continues with the highly anticipated Bay Area premiere of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* opening on Friday, September 22. The San Francisco Opera co-commissioned opera by Bay Area composer Mason Bates and Pulitzer Prize-winning

librettist Mark Campbell is presented in its original production directed by Kevin Newbury. Conductor Michael Christie leads the San Francisco Opera cast, Orchestra and Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director John Keene. Bates joins the Orchestra in the pit to perform the score's electronic components.

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs is a 90-minute, electro-acoustic opera in one act which follows the titular tech mogul through a series of non-linear flashback episodes. Mason Bates said, "The story of Steve Jobs exists at the intersection of creativity, technology and human communication—a thematic crossroads that opera can explore unlike any other medium." The work expands on the Wagnerian concept of leitmotifs—melodies assigned to specific actions and characters—as the persons in the story have their own soundworlds. "Each character in this opera walks onstage with not only a theme but an entire sonic identity," said the composer. "As they interact, their musics collide, blending almost as if mixed by a DJ."

Proclaimed "a winning opera" by the *Los Angeles Times* at its 2017 world premiere in Santa Fe, *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* won the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording in 2019. The work has been presented by seven different opera companies and in multiple productions. San Francisco Opera's performances, originally scheduled for June 2020 and delayed by the pandemic, will bring the work to the Bay Area and Silicon Valley environs that provide its setting.

The intersection of music and technology is a central tenet of Mason Bates' creative work as a composer, DJ and curator. Championed by conductors Michael Tilson Thomas, Riccardo Muti and Marin Alsop, Bates' symphonic compositions have received widespread acclaim for their unique integration of electronic sounds. He is a former composer-in-residence for both the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and is the co-founder and artistic director for Mercury Soul, a presenter known for combining electronica and classical music. *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* is Bates' first opera for which he collaborated with librettist Mark Campbell. At the forefront of the contemporary opera scene, Campbell's libretti credits include notable new operas like *As One*, *The Shining* and *Elizabeth Cree*. Campbell's 2012 collaboration with Kevin Puts on *Silent Night* won the Pulitzer Prize for music.

Kevin Newbury returns to San Francisco Opera, where he has directed Bellini's *Norma* and Mark Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, to stage his original, fast-moving production of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. Conductor Michael Christie, who led the first

performances of Bates and Campbell's opera and the Grammy Award-winning recording, will be on the podium. Christie made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2013 leading the world premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*.

About the staging, 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 production showcases the work of set designer Victoria (Vita) Tzykun, lighting designer Japhy Weideman with projection designs by Ben Percy and London-based 59 Productions, whose credits include the acclaimed production of Philip Glass' *Satyagraha* presented by the Metropolitan Opera and LA Opera. Costumes for *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* are designed by Paul Carey and the sound designer is Rick Jacobsohn. San Francisco Opera Dance Master Colm Seery is the revival choreographer.

The cast is headed by baritone John Moore who makes his Company debut as the iconoclastic Steve Jobs. Hailed for his "handsome timbre, unflagging energy, and an easy command of the stage" (*Seattle Times*), Moore has won considerable praise for his interpretation of Steve Jobs with companies in Seattle, Atlanta, Austin, Kansas City and Utah.

Mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, who "radiantly personified" (*Dallas Morning News*) Laurene Powell Jobs at the world premiere, reprises the role. A favorite collaborator with many Bay Area institutions, Cooke's memorable stage interpretations for San Francisco Opera have included her 2013 Company debut as the title role of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, Anna in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, Magdalena in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, the title role of Handel's *Orlando* and Hansel in Humperdink's *Hansel and Gretel*.

Bass Wei Wu makes his Company debut as Jobs' spiritual advisor Kōbun Chino Otagawa, the role he created in the opera's first performances. Tenor Bille Bruley appears with San Francisco Opera for the first time as Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. First-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow soprano Olivia Smith portrays Jobs' girlfriend Chrisann Brennan.

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs is inspired by the life and creative spirit of Steve Jobs and does not purport to depict actual events as they occurred or statements, beliefs or

opinions of the persons depicted. It has not been authorized or endorsed by Apple Inc., the Estate or Family of Steve Jobs or by any persons depicted.

San Francisco Opera's commitment to expanding the operatic repertoire has produced 30 commissions/co-commissions by many leading composers including John Adams, Gabriela Lena Frank, Philip Glass, Jake Heggie, André Previn and Bright Sheng. Bates and Campbell's *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* is the first of three San Francisco Opera co-commissions to be presented during the Company's 101st season with the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Omar* (Nov 5–21) by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels, and the late Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence* (June 1–21) in its U.S. premiere.

Sung in English with English supertitles, the six performances of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* are scheduled for September 22 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (2 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.); October 3 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 2023.

POST-PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION AND AFTER-PARTY

A post-performance conversation with artists from the production and after-party will follow each performance of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* in the Lower Level restaurant of the Opera House. Attendees are encouraged to stay for the talkbacks and enjoy the after-party which features music from the decade beginning in 1980, the year that Apple went public. Drinks, including a specialty cocktail, are available for purchase. The talkbacks and after-parties are free and open to all ticket holders.

LIVESTREAM: *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, Wednesday, September 27

San Francisco Opera offers livestreams for each of its productions during the 2023–24 season. The Wednesday, September 27 performance of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* will be livestreamed at 7:30 p.m. PT. The performance will also be available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Thursday, September 28 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and limited on-demand viewing are \$27.50. For tickets and more information about livestreams, visit sfopera.com/digital.

MERCURY SOUL TRANSFORMS THE HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO MINT

Friday, September 15

The Mint, San Francisco's stunning Greek-Revival structure at 88 5th Street, will be the setting for an evening of DJ sets, captivating pop-up classical performances and immersive visuals. Indulge in cocktails beneath the night sky in the Mint's courtyard, while experiencing a lavish blend of DJ sets by DJ Masonic (Mason Bates) and DJ Justin Reed (illmeasures Chicago) interspersed with works by composers from San Francisco Opera's 101st season, including George Frideric Handel, Mason Bates and Michael Abels. For tickets and more information, visit mercurysoul.com/mint.

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TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* range from \$26 to \$378 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com.

Tickets for the September 27 livestream of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* are \$27.50. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

Subscriptions for the Company's 101st season are available, priced from \$146 to \$3280 for Full Series (6–8 productions), \$52 to \$1,640 for Half Series (2–4 productions) and a Design Your Own (DYO) option (minimum four operas). 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. For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select Full and Half Series, visit sfopera.com/subscribe.

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 information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are much appreciated. To donate visit sfopera.com/donate.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2023–24 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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CASTING AND CALENDAR

**American Debut *San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut

‡Current Adler Fellow +Merola Opera Program Graduate ++Merola and Adler Fellowship Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco), unless noted.

THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS music by Mason Bates, libretto by Mark Campbell BAY AREA PREMIERE

September 22 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (2 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.); October 3 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 2023

Opera in one act

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

By arrangement with Opus 3 Artists

Sung in English with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 1 hour and 42 minutes without intermission

World Premiere: Santa Fe, July 22, 2017

Cast:

<i>Steve Jobs</i>	John Moore *
<i>Laurene Powell Jobs</i>	Sasha Cooke
<i>Steve Wozniak</i>	Bille Bruley *
<i>Kōbun Chino Otagawa</i>	Wei Wu *
<i>Chrisann Brennan</i>	Olivia Smith †‡
<i>Paul Jobs</i>	Joseph Lattanzi * †‡
<i>Teacher</i>	Gabrielle Beteag †‡
<i>Board Member</i>	Angela Moser †
<i>Designer #1</i>	Jere Torkelsen †
<i>Engineer</i>	Michael Jankosky †
<i>Designer #2</i>	Stella Hannock * †
<i>Designer #3</i>	Christopher Jackson †
<i>Receptionist</i>	Liesl McPherrin †
<i>Reporter</i>	Andrew Thomas Pardini †
<i>Secretary</i>	Silvie Jensen †

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Michael Christie
<i>Director</i>	Kevin Newbury
<i>Set Designer</i>	Victoria (Vita) Tzykun *
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Paul Carey *
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Japhy Weideman *
<i>Projection Design</i>	59 Productions *
<i>Projection Designer</i>	Ben Percy *

Associate Projection Designer
Sound Designer & Mixing Engineer
Revival Choreography
Original Choreography
Chorus Director
Fight Director

Brad Peterson *
Rick Jacobsohn *
Colm Seery
Chloe Treat *
John Keene
Dave Maier

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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