



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

## *(R)evolution of Steve Jobs* Composer Biography Mason Bates



Recently named the most-performed composer of his generation, **Mason Bates** serves as the first composer-in-residence of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His music enlivens imaginative narrative forms with novel orchestral writing, the harmonies of jazz and the rhythms of techno, and it has been the first symphonic music to receive widespread acceptance for its unique integration of electronic sounds. Leading conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Michael Tilson Thomas and Leonard Slatkin have championed his diverse catalogue.

He has become a visible advocate for bringing new music to new spaces, whether through institutional partnerships such as his residency with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra or through his club/classical

project Mercury Soul, which transforms spaces ranging from commercial clubs to Frank Gehry-designed concert halls into exciting, hybrid musical events drawing over a thousand people. In awarding Bates the Heinz Medal, Teresa Heinz remarked that "his music has moved the orchestra into the digital age and dissolved the boundaries of classical music."

In addition to performances of *Liquid Interface* and *Garages of the Valley* by the National Symphony Orchestra this season, the Kennedy Center will premiere a new work celebrating the centennial of John F. Kennedy. Scored for mezzo-soprano, orchestra and electronica, the work juxtaposes the poetry of longtime JFK confidant Robert Frost with excerpts of the President's own words. Fall 2016 saw the release of legendary film director Gus Van Sant's *The Sea of Trees*, starring Matthew McConaughey, Naomi Watts and Ken Watanabe and featuring a score by Bates. In July 2017, Santa Fe Opera premieres *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, a kinetic and emotional exploration of one of the most compelling figures of our time.