

SEATTLE OPERA.

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Contact: Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, 206.676.5559, gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org

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Groundbreaking Seattle Opera production tells the complex story of Steve Jobs

***The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* comes to McCaw Hall in 2019**

**Co-commissioned by:
Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera,
with support from Cal Performances**

Seattle—A new artistic collaboration between Seattle Opera and three partner organizations will result in a world-premiere inspired by the late Steve Jobs, visionary co-founder of Apple and Pixar. *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* will first play at Santa Fe Opera in July 2017 before coming to Seattle Opera for its west coast premiere during the 2018/19 season.

This highly-anticipated performance represents a new direction for Seattle Opera, with many collaborations planned for the next two years. Partnerships between artists and multiple opera companies allow for the creation of the same beloved art but in a way that's more financially sustainable. From grand opera at McCaw Hall to chamber pieces performed in the community, Seattle Opera will continue to be involved in projects that push the art form to new heights, and in new directions said **Seattle Opera General Director Aidan Lang**.

“(R)evolution tells the story of a man who was brilliant, yet unknowable as he led a cultural transformation in the digital age,” Lang said. “It’s an honor for us to be working with Santa Fe Opera and San Francisco Opera to create a work that illuminates a side of Steve Jobs we’ve never seen before.”

Jobs led a binary life — magnetic and unapproachable, empathetic and cruel, meditative and restless. He helped people connect all while building a firewall around his own emotions.

“(Composer) Mason Bates’ new opera is a deeply layered, moving portrayal of a man grappling with the complex priorities of life, family, and work,” said **San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock**. “Like all great operas, I have been so impressed by how it speaks to the universality of the human condition. This is not just an opera about one man. It is an opera about all of us.”

The story takes off at a critical moment in the CEO’s life and circles back to examine the people and experiences that shaped him the most: his father’s mentorship, his devotion to Buddhism, his relationships, his rise and fall as a mogul, and finally his marriage to Laurene Jobs, who showed him the power of human connection.

Making his Seattle Opera debut is composer **Mason Bates**, a master at combining traditional symphony orchestra with electronic sounds. Joining Bates on the creative team are several Seattle veterans: Librettist **Mark Campbell**, of the famous *Silent Night*, who made his Seattle Opera debut with *As One* (2016), and **Kevin Newbury**, director of stage and screen who returns following *Mary Stuart* (2016).

In the spirit of Jobs’ innovation in the tech industry, this production promises to push boundaries. **Victoria “Vita” Tzykun**, the production’s scenic designer, says the products and experiences that Jobs dreamed up defied expectations and provided a sense of wonder.

“Capturing that sense of wonder is very important to us in this production,” said Tzykun, who made her Seattle Opera debut with *Semele* (2015). “In order to provide that for modern audiences, we are harnessing cutting-edge technology, and fusing it with traditional stagecraft in a way that will create a world that has not yet been seen on an operatic stage.”

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs

Music by Mason Bates

Libretto by Mark Campbell

In English with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performance dates TBA; 2018/19 Season

Premiere: July 22, 2017 at Santa Fe Opera
Seattle Opera Premiere

Commissioned by Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and San Francisco Opera with support from Cal Performances.

Co-production with Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera, and The Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Creative Team:

Director	Kevin Newbury
Scenic Design	Victoria “Vita” Tzykun
Costume Design	Paul Carey*
Lighting Design	Japhy Weideman*
Video Design	59 Productions

* Company Debut

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About Seattle Opera

Seattle Opera is a leading opera company, recognized both in the United States and around the world. The company is committed to advancing the cultural life in the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber, and through innovative education and community programs that take opera far beyond the McCaw Hall stage. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances and the company’s programs serve more than 400,000 people of all ages (including school performances, radio broadcasts, and community engagement initiatives). Seattle Opera is especially known for its acclaimed works in the Richard Wagner canon, and has created an “international attraction” in its presentation of Wagner’s epic *Ring*, according to *The New York Times*. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud and through the [Seattle Opera channel on Classical King FM. 98.1](#).

