



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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3009 INDUSTRIAL TERRACE, SUITE 100, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78758
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Austin Opera
announces its
2021–2022 SEASON

The Marriage of Figaro
Mozart’s greatest comedy of love and lust

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs
A new production premiere of Mason Bates and Mark Campbell’s
Grammy-winning opera about the visionary tech pioneer

and

An immersive two-part survey of Beethoven’s only opera

Fidelio: A Celebratory Gala Production
at the Long Center
plus
Beethoven in Virtual Reality: Fidelio
An Opera ATX Experience

(Austin, TX—May 26, 2021)—Austin Opera today announces its 2021–2022 Season, featuring its trademark blend of classic grand operas, new pioneering works with contemporary stories, and the use of innovative technology to push the boundaries of the audience experience. The season includes Mozart’s romantic comedy *The Marriage of Figaro*, a new production premiere of Mason Bates and Mark Campbell’s Grammy Award-winning *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, and a two-part exploration of Beethoven’s only opera: *Fidelio: A Celebratory Gala Production* at the Opera’s traditional home in the Long Center, plus, in association with Washington National Opera, *Beethoven in Virtual Reality: Fidelio*, an interactive adventure that can be experienced throughout the season.

“Our next season reinforces the new identity of Austin Opera—we are programming a beautiful production of one of the most beloved and classic operas of all time, premiering a new production of an acclaimed contemporary opera that is particularly relevant to our tech-driven city, and we take a deep dive into a timeless masterpiece with modern political relevance by offering it through both traditional performance means and cutting-edge technology,” says Annie Burrige, General Director & CEO of Austin Opera. “This new season will be a welcome return to normal for our loyal subscribers and attendees who expect their

hometown company to continue to break new ground in opera, and it will serve as a beacon for new audiences to discover why Austin Opera is a vital part of Austin's renowned live music scene. I'm also thrilled for our audiences to hear a full season conducted by Timothy Myers, our Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor, and the incredible casts he and Nathan DePoint, our Senior Director of Artistic Operations, have assembled."

The 2021–2022 Season opens at the Long Center in November with Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, presented in an inventive and stylish period production from Lyric Opera of Kansas City. *Figaro* tells an upstairs/downstairs story of love, lust, seduction, infidelity, and—ultimately—forgiveness, all set to some of the most sublime and memorable music ever written. An all-star cast is led by rising star soprano and Austin native Elena Villalón, who makes her hometown debut as the wily Susanna. The cast also includes Caitlin Lynch in her Austin Opera debut as the Countess, a role she has performed at the Metropolitan Opera; Christian Zaremba, who was last seen in Austin Opera's 2019 *Silent Night*, in his role debut as Figaro; Lindsay Metzger as Cherubino and Alissa Anderson as Marcellina in their Austin Opera debuts; and Austin favorites Matthew Treviño as Doctor Bartolo and Kathryn Grumley as Barbarina. The Austin Opera Orchestra will be conducted by Timothy Myers, the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor. E. Loren Meeker, the General & Artistic Director of OPERA San Antonio, makes her company debut as the production's director.

The season continues at the Long Center in February 2022 with the Texas premiere of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, a new take on the life of Apple pioneer Steve Jobs, featuring the innovative music of Mason Bates and the stirring libretto of Mark Campbell. The recording of the original Santa Fe Opera cast won the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. A co-production with The Atlanta Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the opera's inventive production design is designed to travel with ease. "Director Tomer Zvulun's ingenious concept will enable opera companies and symphonies across the country to cost-effectively program this groundbreaking work," says Burrige. "I'm thrilled to be part of the consortium giving *Jobs* a second life through this production." Zvulun last directed Austin Opera's 2019 production of *Silent Night*. The Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus will be led by Timothy Myers, the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor. Making their Austin Opera debuts are baritone John Moore, returning to the title role for which he won wide acclaim at Seattle Opera; Sarah Larsen as Laurene Powell Jobs and Bille Bruley as Steve Wozniak, both in their role debuts; and Wei Wu, an original member of the Grammy Award-winning cast, who returns to the role of spiritual advisor Kōbun Chino Otogawa. Rounding out the principal cast in the role of Chrisann Brennan is Madison Leonard, who returns to Austin following her triumphant debut as Gilda in 2019's *Rigoletto*.

Austin Opera's season concludes in spring 2022 at the Long Center with *Fidelio: A Celebratory Gala Production*. Beethoven wrote *Fidelio*, his only opera, in response to the volatile political situation in Europe during his time, and his themes of social justice, the meaning of freedom, and the power of love and fidelity are still remarkably relevant. This new production stars Alexandra Loutsion as the heroine Leonora, Sean Panikkar as her imprisoned lover Florestan, and Musa Ngqungwana as the jailer Rocco, all in their Austin Opera debuts. The Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus are conducted once again by Timothy Myers, the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor. Both performances will include events celebrating Austin Opera's resilience and will raise funds in support of the company's future in the areas of innovation, impact, and artistic excellence as part of the Austin Opera Forward Campaign. At the first performance on Friday, April 29, 2022, attendees can purchase tickets to a celebratory black-tie gala on the H-E-B Terrace, including a pre-show cocktail hour, an elegant, seated dinner, and an exclusive after-party under the tent with the artists. On Sunday, May 1, 2022, attendees can purchase tickets to an exclusive season-ending reception following the performance featuring *Fidelio*'s principal cast and members of the Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

A new, tech-driven take on *Fidelio* is part of Austin Opera's next installment of Opera ATX, its innovative series offering experimental operatic experiences true to the pioneering spirit of Austin. Through an

association with Washington National Opera, opera in virtual reality comes to Austin as Opera ATX presents *Beethoven in Virtual Reality: Fidelio*, a multisensory experience that brings scenes from Beethoven's *Fidelio* to vivid life. Two of opera's biggest American stars—Tamara Wilson as Leonora and Russell Thomas as Florestan—are joined by the Washington National Opera Orchestra conducted by Evan Rogister, under the creative direction of Francesca Zambello. *Beethoven in Virtual Reality: Fidelio* will be offered on special VR headsets at site-specific installations throughout the season. More details about the new Virtual Reality program—including a complete technical guide to ensure a smooth VR experience—are coming soon.

"The safety of Austin Opera's artists, musicians, and technical crews—as well as our audiences—remains our top priority," says Senior Director of Marketing & Communications Melysa Rogen. "We expect the Long Center to be operating at full capacity this fall, and we will be working closely with them to implement strategies aimed at reducing any remaining COVID-19 risks. Our Reopening Task Force, which includes local medical experts, will continue to monitor the latest health and safety protocols."

Current subscribers will receive renewal forms in the mail starting May 26 to secure their seats for the complete 2021–2022 Season. New subscriptions will go on sale May 26 at austinopera.org.

Austin Opera's 2021–2022 Season

The Marriage of Figaro

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

In Italian with projected English titles

Sets and costumes owned by Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Production funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes in length, including one 25-minute intermission

Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

Cast

Figaro	Christian Zaremba +
Susanna	Elena Villalón*+
Count Almaviva	TBA
Countess Almaviva	Caitlin Lynch*
Cherubino	Lindsay Metzger*
Doctor Bartolo	Matthew Treviño
Marcellina	Alissa Anderson*
Barbarina	Kathryn Grumley

Featuring the **Austin Opera Orchestra**

Creative Team

Conductor	Timothy Myers
Director	E. Loren Meeker*

Scenic & Costume Designer **Leslie Travers***
Lighting Designer **Driscoll Otto***

* Austin Opera Debut
+ Role Debut

Subscriptions available on May 26 at austinopera.org/subscriptions or 512-472-5992

The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs

Music by Mason Bates
Libretto by Mark Campbell

In English with projected English titles
New production premiere
Co-produced with The Atlanta Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City
Production funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts
Approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes in length

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Cast

Steve Jobs	John Moore*
Laurene Powell Jobs	Sarah Larsen*+
Steve Wozniak	Bille Bruley*+
Kōbun Chino Otogawa	Wei Wu*
Chrisann Brennan	Madison Leonard

Featuring the **Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus**

Creative Team

Conductor	Timothy Myers
Stage Director	Tomer Zvulun
Scenic & Costume Designer	Jacob A. Climer*
Projection Designer	S. Katy Tucker*
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel

* Austin Opera Debut
+ Role Debut

Mason Bates, composer

Mason Bates is imaginatively transforming the way classical music is created and experienced as a composer, DJ, and curator. His opera *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, written with librettist Mark Campbell, was hailed as one of the best-selling productions in the history of Santa Fe Opera and won the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. In 2018, he was also named Composer of the Year by Musical America. During his term as the first composer-in-residence at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, he presented a diverse array of artists on his *KC Jukebox* series using immersive production and stagecraft. Championed by legendary conductors from Riccardo Muti to Michael Tilson Thomas, his

symphonic music is the first to receive widespread acceptance for its unique integration of electronic sounds, and he was named the most-performed composer of his generation in a recent survey of American music. He has also composed for films, including Gus Van Sant's *The Sea of Trees* starring Matthew McConaughey and Naomi Watts. A diverse artist exploring the ways classical music integrates into contemporary culture, he serves on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Mark Campbell, librettist

Mark Campbell's work as a librettist is at the forefront of the contemporary opera scene in this country. A prolific writer, he has created 38 opera librettos, lyrics for 7 musicals, and the text for 6 song cycles and 2 oratorios. His works for the stage have been performed at more than 90 musical venues around the world and the names of his collaborators comprise a roster of the most eminent composers in classical music and include three Pulitzer Prize winners. His best-known work, *Silent Night*, which received a Pulitzer Prize in Music and is one of the most frequently produced operas in recent history, was performed at Austin Opera in 2019. *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, written with composer Mason Bates, received the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. His other successful operas include *The Manchurian Candidate* (performed in concert at Austin Opera in 2016), *The Shining, Stonewall, Later the Same Evening, The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare, As One, The Other Room, Memory Boy, Empty the House, The Inspector, Approaching Ali, A Letter to East 11th Street, Dinner at Eight, Volpone, and Bastianello/Lucrezia*. His musicals include *Songs from an Unmade Bed, The Audience,* and *Splendor*. He also created a successful new adaptation of Stravinsky and Ramuz's *The Soldier's Tale*.

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Fidelio: A Celebratory Gala Production

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven

Libretto by Joseph von Sonnleithner

In German with projected English titles

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes in length, including one 25-minute intermission

Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Special performance with pre-show gala dinner and post-show party featuring the principal artists; pricing and details will be available soon.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Pricing and details for the post-show celebration will be available soon.

Cast

Leonora (Fidelio)	Alexandra Loutsion*
Florestan	Sean Panikkar*+
Don Pizarro	TBA
Rocco	Musa Ngqungwana*+
Don Fernando	TBA
Marzelline	Vanessa Becerra*+
Jacquino	TBA

Featuring the **Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus**

Creative Team

Conductor **Timothy Myers**

* Austin Opera Debut

Subscriptions available on May 26 at austinopera.org/subscriptions or 512-472-5992

Opera ATX: *Beethoven in Virtual Reality – Fidelio* in association with Washington National Opera

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven

Libretto by Joseph von Sonnleithner

A collaboration with Washington National Opera featuring **Tamara Wilson, Russell Thomas**, the **Washington National Opera Orchestra, Evan Rogister**, and **Francesca Zambello**.

Details for the VR experience will be released in fall 2021

In German with English titles

Please allow 20 minutes for the full Virtual Reality experience

Subscriptions available on May 26 at austinopera.org/subscriptions or 512-472-5992

About Austin Opera

Serving Central Texas since 1986, Austin Opera inspires audiences with its trademark blend of innovation and artistic excellence. With the leadership of General Director & CEO Annie Burrige and the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor Timothy Myers, Austin Opera presents a curated season of grand opera productions at the Long Center, the crown jewel of Austin performing arts venues. Combining the finest American and international stars with the outstanding local talent of our Orchestra and Chorus, Austin Opera's productions include accessible takes on classic operas as well as challenging new works that reinforce the continuing relevance of opera.

Opera ATX, powered by Austin Opera, brings groundbreaking new works, emerging artists, exciting composers, and dynamic directors to Austin. By tapping into our city's live music DNA, Opera ATX reflects the spirit of the city and the pioneering image it is known for. We create the conditions for operatic experiences completely new to Austin—and perhaps completely new to the art form—by exploring alternative venues and unique local partnerships. Driven by Austin Opera's love of opera, love of audiences, and love of Austin, Opera ATX shows how Austin is shaping its opera company and inspiring innovative experiences.

Austin Opera is also a force in hundreds of classrooms across Central Texas, nurturing the next generation of opera audiences through its award-winning education programs. We work directly with educators, community leaders, students, and parents to make opera relevant, educational, and entertaining for students of all ages.

In 2020, Austin Opera was voted "Opera Company of the Year"—and Timothy Myers was named "Conductor of the Year"—in the [BroadwayWorld Opera Awards](#).

To learn more about Austin Opera, visit austinopera.org or follow along on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) at @austinopera.

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