

COMMEMORATIVE POSTER BY BAY AREA ARTIST MICHAEL SCHWAB CELEBRATES SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S NIXON IN CHINA

Limited edition posters available through San Francisco Opera Shop and sfopera.com

Meet Michael Schwab at the Opera Shop on June 17

San Francisco, CA (May 31, 2012) – San Francisco Opera has commissioned famed Bay Area artist Michael Schwab to create an original artwork commemorating the Bay Area premiere of *Nixon in China* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman. The striking artwork will be available as a limited edition poster and will also be featured on the cover of the Company's *Nixon in China* program book. San Francisco Opera's presentation of *Nixon in China*, opening on June 8 as part of the Company's 2012 Summer Season, marks the 25th anniversary of this seminal opera.



© Michael Schwab

The poster is printed on archival fine art paper and is available as an unsigned 16"x24" poster (\$75) and signed 24"x36" collector's poster (\$150) through the San Francisco Opera Shop at the War Memorial Opera House and online at sfopera.com. A limited number of framed posters will also be available for purchase at the Opera Shop, open during performances beginning June 8.

Artist Michael Schwab will sign posters at the Opera Shop immediately following the Sunday, June 17 2 p.m. matinee performance of *Nixon in China*.

From his studio in Marin County, Michael Schwab has established a national reputation as one of America's leading graphic artists. Dramatic in its simplicity, Schwab's work is easily recognized by his signature use of large, flat areas of color, dramatic perspectives and bold, graphic images of archetypal human forms. He has created award-winning images, posters, and logos for numerous clients, including the Golden Gate National Parks, Major League Baseball, Robert Mondavi, Muhammad Ali, Nike, Robert Redford, and most recently, the poster for the America's Cup 2013 in San Francisco. His previous collaborations with San Francisco Opera include posters for the Company's 2011 *Ring* Cycle and *Boris Godunov* in 1992.

About NIXON IN CHINA

Described by the *New York Times* as a work of "clarity, simplicity, shocking elegance," John Adams' rhythmically rich recreation of Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential trip to Beijing has established itself as one of the most important American operas of the 20th century. Twenty-five years after premiering at Houston Grand Opera under the leadership of David Gockley and marking the 40th anniversary of Nixon's historic trip, this presentation of Adams and Goodman's landmark work marks its Bay Area stage premiere. Baritone Brian Mulligan, who thrilled audiences in San Francisco Opera's *Faust* (2010) and *Werther* (2010), makes his role debut as Richard Nixon. The cast also features Maria Kanyova (Pat Nixon), Simon O'Neill (Mao Tse-tung), Hye Jung Lee (Madame Mao Tse-tung), Chen-Ye Yuan (Chou En-lai) and Patrick Carfizzi (Henry Kissinger). Conductor Lawrence Renes will lead the orchestra in an acclaimed Vancouver Opera production directed by Michael Cavanagh that was described by the *Vancouver Sun* as "vibrant, exhilarating and totally compelling."

San Francisco Opera's *Nixon in China* runs for seven performances June 8-July 3, 2012 at the War Memorial Opera House. For tickets and information, visit sfopera.com or call (415) 864-3330.

- SFO -

For further press information, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact: Jon Finck 415.565.6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com
Julia Inouye 415.565.6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com
Robin Freeman 415.565.6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com