The Gospel of Mary Magdalene
Mark Adamo, Composer & Librettist

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

American mezzo-soprano **SASHA COOKE** (Mary Magdalene) makes her San Francisco Opera debut this summer. Other engagements in the 2012–13 season include Magnolia (*Show Boat*) at Houston Grand Opera, Sonja (Argento's *The Aspern Papers*) with the Dallas Opera, and concerts with the San Francisco Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the Detroit Symphony, among others. She sang Kitty Oppenheimer in the Metropolitan Opera premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic,* the DVD release of which won a 2012 Grammy Award. Other roles include Olga (*Eugene Onegin*), Composer (*Ariadne*), Charlotte (*Werther*), Dorabella (*Cosi fan tutte*), Endimione (*La Calisto*), Medea (*Giasone*) and Meg Page (*Falstaff*). A graduate of the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Program and the Juilliard School, Cooke is a frequent performer of new music having premiered works by John Musto, William Bolcom, John Corigliano, and Lowell Liebermann. On the concert stage, she has been a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Lyon Symphony, Berlin's Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, and New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, among others. A dedicated recitalist, Cooke was presented by Young Concert Artists in her widely acclaimed New York and Washington debuts at Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center, as well as in concerts throughout the U.S. Her recent album *If You Love for Beauty* is available on Yarlung Records.

American soprano **MARIA KANYOVA** (Miriam) made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2012 as Pat Nixon in Adams's *Nixon in China*, a role she has performed with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, the Ravinia Festival, Chicago Opera Theater, Opera Colorado, Phoenix Symphony, Kansas City Lyric Opera, and the Canadian Opera Company; she also performs the role on a recent recording of *Nixon in China* on the Naxos Label. Recent engagements include the title role of *Madama Butterfly* with Tulsa Opera; Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*) with Madison Opera; Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; and Marie Antoinette (Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*) with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and the Wexford Festival. Other career highlights include Violetta (*La Traviata*) with Portland Opera; Mimì (*La Bohème*) and Nedda (*Pagliacci*) with the Dallas Opera; Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) and Gretel

(*Hänsel und Gretel*) with Los Angeles Opera; Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; Nedda, Mimì (in a PBS telecast), the title role of *Suor Angelica*, and Corinna (*Il Viaggio a Reims*), all with New York City Opera; Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Donna Elvira, and Susanna with Opera Colorado; Mimì with Houston Grand Opera; and the title role of *Madama Butterfly* with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Her engagements in the 2012–13 season include Gretel with Lyric Opera of Chicago and the title role of *Madama Butterfly* with New Orleans Opera.

American tenor **WILLIAM BURDEN** (Peter) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1992 as Count Lerma (*Don Carlo*) and has returned as Janek (*The Makropulos Case*), Lindoro (*L'Italiana in Algeri*), and Tom Rakewell (*The Rake's Progress*). Most recently, he created the role of Daniel J. Hill in the Company's world premiere of *Heart of a Soldier*. He has appeared in many prestigious opera houses in the United States and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Paris Opera, Munich's Bavarian State Opera, and Madrid's Teatro Real, among others. His many roles include the title roles of *Faust, Pelléas et Mélisande, Roméo et Juliette, Béatrice and Bénédict, Candide,* and *Acis and Galatea*; Don José in *Carmen*; Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*; and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. He also created the role of Gilbert Griffiths in Picker's *An American Tragedy* at the Metropolitan Opera, and the role of Dodge in Hagen's *Amelia* at the Seattle Opera. Recent credits include Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) at Seattle Opera, Peter Quint (*The Turn of the Screw*) at Los Angeles Opera, Nadir (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*) with New Orleans Opera, Lensky (*Eugene Onegin*) with Cincinnati Opera, the King of Naples in Adès's *The Tempest* at the Met, Nikolaus Sprink in Puts's *Silent Night* with Opera Company of Philadelphia, Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) at Munich's Bavarian State Opera, and creating the role of Frank Harris in the world premiere of Morrison's *Oscar* at the Santa Fe Opera.

American baritone **NATHAN GUNN** (Yeshua) made his San Francisco Opera debut as Figaro in the 2003 production of *The Barber of Seville,* a role that he reprised in 2006. He has also appeared with the Company in the title role of *Billy Budd* and as Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) and Papageno (*The Magic Flute*). Gunn has appeared at major opera houses and festivals around the world including the Metropolitan Opera; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Seattle Opera; Houston Grand Opera; the Dallas Opera; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Paris Opera; and Bavarian State Opera, among others. His many roles include the title role of *Hamlet*; Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Tarquinius (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Belcore (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and Ottone (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*). A frequent interpreter of new works, Gunn has created a number of roles in world premiere operas, including Daron Hagen's *Amelia,* André Previn's *Brief Encounter,* Peter Eötvös' *Love and Other Demons,* and Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*. His broad discography includes two solo albums; the title role of *Billy Budd,* which won a 2010 Grammy Award; Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Allegro*; *Peter Grimes*; and *Il*

Barbiere di Siviglia, among others. Gunn's recent engagements include the title role of *Billy Budd* at the Met, Ravenal (*Showboat*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) at Houston Grand Oper, Raimbaud (*Le Comte d'Ory*) at the Met, and Lodger (Argento's *The Aspern Papers*) with the Dallas Opera.