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Minnesota Opera partners with ADA Artist Management, Austin Opera, Berkshire Opera Festival, Opera Colorado and San Diego Opera to present world premiere of
The Trial of Susan B. Anthony

Adriana Zabala stars in the new song cycle by Steven Mark Kohn, set to premiere digitally on October 26.

MINNEAPOLIS (October 1, 2020)—ADA Artist Management, along with co-producers Austin Opera, Berkshire Opera Festival, Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado and San Diego Opera, announce the world premiere of Steven Mark Kohn's song cycle *The Trial of Susan B. Anthony*. Mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala plays multiple roles, including the judge, the prosecuting and defense attorneys, a witness and Susan B. Anthony herself in this seven-movement piece outlining the activist's quest for justice. She will be accompanied by pianist Myra Huang.

This premiere comes amidst the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, inviting conversation about this milestone of democracy, along with the work that remains to achieve gender and racial equity. Ana De Archuleta, President and CEO of ADA, says, "We find ourselves at a point in history where it is of the utmost importance to collaborate and share within our creative industry. We are thrilled to partner with these outstanding institutions to present this timely world premiere event."

Zabala says, "The story could not be more relevant, and Steve gives me the chance to share the nuances of the event, its triumph and failure, and invites reflection on both the hopeful and robust progress and the devastating challenges of this country's ongoing story."

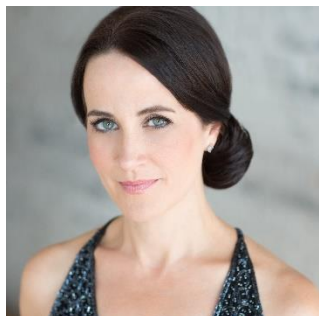
Composer/Librettist Steven Mark Kohn says, "I have always known about Susan B. Anthony, and her story popped into my head when I was searching for a new subject, one that could be a dramatic tour-de-force for a single singer/actor. It was David versus Goliath; a woman in 1872 fighting against the male-dominated machine, the system; unyielding, formidable, even merciless. Her story remains relevant today, as there will always be those who must raise their voices in seeking justice."

The 30-minute program will premiere on ADA's YouTube channel on Monday, October 26, and will continue to be available on that platform until November 9. Audiences must register to attend the premiere; details will be shared by ADA and the co-producing opera companies.

ADA will host a panel discussion after the premiere to explore the program, the context in which it was created, and its relevance to current events. Panelists will be announced at a future date.

For more information about *The Trial of Susan B. Anthony*, please contact Shawn Marie Jeffery at ADA Artist Management (sjeffery@ada-artists.com, 646.785.7676).

Artist Biographies



Hailed as “a vivid, fearless presence” by the *New York Times* and as “an extraordinary, vibrant mezzo” by the *Los Angeles Times*, Adriana Zabala (mezzo-soprano) recently created the title role in Aldridge’s *Sister Carrie*, and also sang in the world premiere casts of six other operas including works by composers William Bolcom, Kevin Puts, Paola Prestini, and librettists Mark Campbell, Herschel Garfein, and Deborah Brevoort. She is featured on the world premiere recording of Pauline Viardot’s *Le Dernier Sorcier*, and on several other critically acclaimed releases of new and traditional repertoire.

Ms. Zabala has appeared in recital at the Barns at Wolf Trap, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall, the Kennedy Center, The Source Song Festival, The New York Festival of Song, and the Salzburg International Chamber Music Series. In addition to more than fifty roles with opera companies throughout the United States and beyond, she has been a guest artist with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the New Jersey, Jerusalem, Virginia, Charlotte, and Jacksonville Symphonies, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Salzburg, Austria, and an alumna of the Minnesota Opera, Wolf Trap, and Santa Fe Opera young artist programs. She is Associate Professor of Voice at the Yale School of Music.



Myra Huang (piano) is highly sought after for her interpretation of lieder and art song as well as her depth of musicianship and impeccable technique. Last season, Huang performed in recitals throughout the U.S., including The Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, The Kennedy Center, The Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, and The 92nd St Y. Huang was chosen as the recipient of The Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award for 2019 by The Classical Recording Foundation for her consummate artistry.

Huang has served on the music staffs of the Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, and The Palau De Les Arts in Valencia, Spain. She was a staff pianist for the Operalia competition, directed by Placido Domingo, for fifteen years. Huang regularly teaches at young artist programs throughout the U.S., and is on the music staff of The Steans Music Institute at Ravinia, as well as guest staff of The Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at The Metropolitan Opera. This season, Huang joins the Faculty of The Manhattan School of Music in the Vocal Arts Department, Opera Studies Division.

Huang is an avid recitalist and recording artist. Her album *Gods and Monsters* with tenor Nicholas Phan was nominated for “Best Classical Vocal Solo Album” at the 2018 Grammy® Awards. Her most recent album, *Clairières*, features the music of Lili and Nadia Boulanger and has been released to critical acclaim. Huang is a Steinway Artist.



Steven Mark Kohn (composer/librettist) has worn several different creative hats. As a composer, he has written music for a number of award-winning children's films for ABC, PBS and the Disney Channel, including the Emmy-nominated ABC Weekend Special *Runaway Ralph* starring Fred Savage and Ray Walston. He has composed and arranged commercial music for *Wheaties*, *Arby's*, *Volvo*, *Hickory Farms*, *Matrix* and many others. He created the music for over 60 titles in the popular audio book series *Health Journeys*, which has sold over two million copies worldwide.

His *Hymn for String Orchestra* has been recorded by the San Jose Chamber Orchestra and E. C. Schirmer publishes his art song catalogue. His three volumes of American Folk Song arrangements were premiered in Carnegie Hall by David Daniels and Martin Katz and have since been performed around the world by hundreds of artists. Steven is also a writer for the theater, and has created lyrics for the musicals *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, *Unstoppable Me*, *Little Mozart* and *A Beautiful Place*, as well as the libretto for the opera *Riders of the Purple Sage*, all to the music of his long-time friend, composer Craig Bohmler. He has written two historical song cycles, *Mary Chesnut; A Civil War Diary* for soprano Jennifer Larmore and *The Trial of Susan B. Anthony* for mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala. His short story *The Professor's Diary* appeared in *National Lampoon* magazine. For the Cleveland Institute of Music, he designed and built the Electronic Music Studio, wrote the course textbook and served on the composition faculty for 21 years.
