

**For Immediate Release**

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MZJ Music Presents  
THE BOSTON TEA PARTY OPERA  
The New York International Fringe Festival - FringeNYC  
A production of The Present Company  
August 8th – 24th  
Tickets: \$18-\$24. For tickets visit [www.FringeNYC.org](http://www.FringeNYC.org)

MZJ Music is proud to present the world premiere of the BOSTON TEA PARTY OPERA at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual New York International Fringe Festival - FringeNYC.

*New love blooms - and old loyalty dies,  
as Sam Adams leads a rebellion  
against an Empire's high taxes, heavy-handedness and invasions of privacy.  
A mythic, modern version of the moment Americans discovered their identity as a people.*

This epic but accessible music-drama rides the line between traditional opera and modern musical theater. The show features an interracial cast, and touches upon the controversial yet ever-evolving meaning of the term “Tea Party.” The Boston Tea Party Opera invites the audience to compare the patterns of injustice and oppression suffered by the American colonists leading up to the Revolutionary War—and similar patterns unfolding in America today. The show is the world's first and only libertarian opera.

Portions of the show were recently presented at StageFest 2014 in Jersey City, and at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum in Boston.

The show is created and directed by Matthew Zachary Johnson, faculty at Mannes College the New School for Music. Johnson is the composer of a body of often-performed works for saxophone, including *Scherzo*, *Grand Sonata*, and the instrumental soliloquy *Serenade*. According to About.com classical guide Aaron Green, “If this is the direction classical music is heading, well, I'd say the future will be full of wonderful music.”

Choreography is a significant part of the show, with poetic gestural dance used to communicate the major events including the Boston Massacre and the culminating Tea Party itself. As Artistic Director of the xodus dance collective, her choreography has been showcased at such venues as: The Ailey Theatre, Riverside Theatre, American Dance Guild Festival, DUMBO Dance Festival, the IABD showcase in Toronto, HERE Arts Center, the Downtown Dance Festival and the Inside/Out Festival at Jacob's Pillow. Karen is currently a faculty member of: Steps on Broadway, Montclair State University, and Joffrey Ballet School (summer intensives). She has also taught at Ballet Hispanico and The Ailey Extension.

The Boston Tea Party Opera was originally listed as being 3 hrs 30 minutes long—a Wagnerian proportion. NYTheater Now commented that “For sheer ambition, I'm not sure that much can top The Boston Tea Party Opera. At 3-1/2 hours, it's the longest show in the festival.” We're still a big, ambitious show—but now in a much leaner package. After extensive trimming by the composer, it times at 2 hours and 15 minutes, including intermission!

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