

The Met
ropolitan
Opera



MASON BATES / LIBRETTO BY GENE SCHEER

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY

THE OPERA BASED ON THE BOOK BY MICHAEL CHABON

ANDRZEJ FILOŃCZYK MILES MYKKANEN SUN-LY PIERCE EDWARD NELSON
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS
YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN



Miles Mykkanen as Sam Clay and Andrzej Filończyk as Joe Kavalier

MASON BATES / LIBRETTO BY GENE SCHEER / BASED ON THE BOOK BY MICHAEL CHABON

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY

Recorded live at the Metropolitan Opera on October 2, 2025

Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Cast in order of vocal appearance

Sarah Kavalier Lauren Snouffer

Joe Kavalier Andrzej Filończyk

Gerhard Craig Colclough

Sam Clay Miles Mykkanen

Esther Klayman Eve Gigliotti

Solomon Kavalier Richard Croft

Sheldon Anapol Patrick Carfizzi

Estelle Kavalier Ellie Dehn

Radio Announcer Nathan Carlisle

Harry John Moore

Tracy Bacon Edward Nelson

Helen Amanda Batista

Rosa Saks Sun-Ly Pierce

Salvador Dalí Efraín Solís

Undercover FBI Agents Garen McRoberts
and Jonathan Elmore

Sgt. Saldo Ross Benoliel

Wounded Soldier Ned Hanlon

Mandolin/Guitar Nathan Huvar

The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and
Chorus

C. Graham Berwind, III Chorus Director

Tilman Michael

Peter Gelb

MARIA MANETTI SHREM GENERAL MANAGER

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER MUSIC DIRECTOR

Daniele Rustioni

PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

DISC ONE (87:47)**ACT I**

1	Prologue—Escape from the Moldau <i>Sarah, Joe, Gerhard</i>	6:46
2	Don't Promise <i>Sarah, Joe</i>	3:11
3	Brooklyn—Escape from Prague <i>Sam, Joe, Esther</i>	4:49
4	Tracing Superman <i>Joe, Sam</i>	3:47
5	Prague, Kavalier Apartment, and New York City, Clay Apartment <i>Solomon, Sarah, Joe, Sam</i>	2:53
6	New York City, Offices of Empire Toys and Novelties <i>Chorus, Sam, Anapol, Joe</i>	6:04
7	Prague and New York City <i>Chorus, Estelle, Sam, Joe</i>	7:53
8	Interlude: The Escapist <i>Chorus</i>	2:26
9	New York City, Radio Station <i>Radio Announcer, Harry, Tracy, Helen</i>	4:47
10	New York City, the Radio Station and the Hallway Outside <i>Rosa, Joe, Helen, Sam, Tracy, Radio Announcer</i>	2:13
11	Open Your Eyes <i>Radio Announcer, Rosa</i>	3:58
12	Prague, Kavalier Apartment <i>Joe, Rosa, Gerhard, Solomon, Sarah</i>	3:21
13	New York City, Times Square <i>Tracy, Sam, Helen, Anapol, Chorus</i>	3:04
14	New York City—In an Art Gallery <i>Chorus, Joe, Rosa, Sam, Helen, Tracy, Dalí</i>	6:29
15	Pier 39—Imagine <i>Rosa, Joe</i>	5:12
16	Flatbush, Brooklyn <i>Tracy, Sam</i>	3:21
17	New York City, the Clay's Apartment, and Auschwitz <i>Esther, Sam, Tracy, Estelle, Solomon</i>	3:29
18	Rosa's Apartment—Alone in the Dark <i>Rosa, Joe</i>	4:28
19	Top of the Empire State Building <i>Sam, Tracy</i>	4:51
20	Art Gallery Fundraiser <i>Chorus, Joe, Rosa, Sam, Tracy, Sarah</i>	4:45

DISC TWO (58:38)**ACT II**

1	Prague, Bridge Over the Moldau, and Pier 39, Warehouse Loft <i>Gerhard, Sarah, Joe</i>	6:09
2	New York City, Offices of Empire Toys and Novelties <i>Sam, Rosa, Anapol</i>	5:28
3	Radio Station and the Phone Booth Outside <i>Tracy, Sam, Chorus</i>	3:36
4	Warehouse at Pier 39 <i>Rosa</i>	1:48
5	Radio Station and the Phone Booth Outside <i>Chorus, Sam, Tracy, FBI Agents</i>	5:21
6	A Secret <i>Rosa, Sam</i>	6:38
7	Battlefield <i>Sgt. Saldo, Joe, Chorus, Rosa</i>	2:32
8	See What I See <i>Rosa, Joe</i>	3:22
9	Long Island Backyard, Empire Offices, and the Battlefield <i>Sam, Chorus, Rosa, Tracy, Joe</i>	6:22
10	A House on Long Island <i>Rosa, Sam</i>	2:12
11	The Battlefield <i>Tracy, Joe, Soldier</i>	5:32
12	Soliloquy <i>Joe, Rosa, Sarah, Sam</i>	3:07
13	Ani Ma'amin <i>Chorus, Sarah, Joe, Rosa, Sam</i>	6:31

Total run time: 147 mins

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

In the early days of World War II, Joe Kavalier escapes from Prague, leaving behind his parents and teenage sister, Sarah, and arrives in Brooklyn to live with his cousin Sam and aunt Esther. He plans to make enough money to bring his family to the United States to escape the German occupation. Joe, a gifted artist and amateur magician and escape artist, and Sam, a wisecracking writer, create a comic-book superhero to rival Superman and use their comic-book stories to urge Americans to join the fight against the Nazis. Sam's boss at a toy and novelty company, Sheldon Anapol, takes a chance on them and backs the venture. *The Escapist* becomes a hit, spawning a radio show. Attending a broadcast, Joe and Sam meet Tracy Bacon, the actor who plays the Escapist. Joe also meets Rosa, a talented artist who works for the Jewish Children's Fund, which ferries refugee children from Europe to the U.S. on its own ship, *The Ark of Miriam*. Joe and Rosa attend a gallery show benefiting the Jewish Children's Fund, where Salvador Dalí entertains the crowd. Joe helps the artist escape near suffocation after he gets trapped in a diving helmet. Joe and Rosa discuss arranging for Sarah to board *The Ark of Miriam*, and as they plan for the future, they fall in love. In Prague, Joe's mother is captured by the Germans and sent to a camp, and Joe's father is taken in a raid led by Gestapo Commander Gerhard, as Sarah narrowly escapes. Joe and Rosa's relationship blossoms, and Rosa confirms Sarah's passage on *The Ark of Miriam*. Meanwhile, Sam and Tracy Bacon have fallen for each other. They share a Shabbat dinner with Sam's mother, toasting the imminent arrival of Sarah's ship in New York, and spend a romantic night atop the Empire State Building, where they discuss their plan to take a train west to Hollywood. When they discover a newspaper headline reporting *The Ark of Miriam* has been sunk by German torpedoes, they race to tell Joe, who is performing his magic act at a benefit for the Jewish Children's Fund. They have Rosa tell him the news, and before a room filled with dinner guests, Joe has a breakdown.

ACT II

Joe's mental deterioration continues, worsened by the news of his parents' and sister's deaths. Hiding out in a warehouse, he imagines a surreal confrontation with Gerhard. Rosa, meanwhile, hasn't heard anything from Joe for weeks and can't find him anywhere. Acting on a clue, she goes to the warehouse and finds a makeshift studio Joe has set up but has trashed, a sign of his fraught mental state. Rosa also finds evidence indicating that Joe enlisted in the military and has shipped out. Sam, meanwhile, is attending a going-away party for Tracy, who has joined the military. The party turns out to be an exclusively gay affair, and when it is raided by the FBI, Sam hides while the others are arrested. A lingering FBI agent discovers Sam and sexually assaults him. Rosa finds a broken Sam, who can only



Andrzej Filończyk as Joe Kavalier and Sun-Ly Pierce as Rosa Saks

say he is finished: He's convinced he will be alone for the rest of his life. Rosa is distraught as well—not only has Joe disappeared without a farewell, but she's also learned she's pregnant. Sam offers to marry her and raise the child as his own. Rosa agrees, and they begin a life together, with Rosa filling in for Joe drawing the Escapist—along with a new character, Luna Moth, inspired by a story Joe made up for Rosa. Joe ends up on a battlefield in Europe, where he finds Tracy. Tracy tells Joe that Sam has asked him to stop writing to him. Tracy is surprised to learn Joe has never opened any of the hundreds of letters Rosa has sent him—if he had, Joe would have learned that he has a child. Tracy is killed, and Joe is devastated by another loss. He starts opening and reading Rosa's letters. One letter contains Rosa's drawing of Luna Moth, who now appears to Joe and guides him out of the battlefield and to the house on Long Island where Rosa and Sam live. Outside the door, Sarah appears and gives Joe the final push to reenter his life, leading Joe to meet his young daughter, who is also named Sarah, and to reunite with Rosa and Sam. Sam boards a train headed for California and picks up his pen to begin writing *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.

— Paul Cremo

Music Producer **David Frost**
Recording Engineer / Operations Director **John Kerswell**
Additional Engineering **Ed Hartley**
Mixed and Edited by **David Frost**
Mastering **Tim Martyn**

Production **Bartlett Sher**
Set, Lighting, and Video Design **59 Studio**
Costume Designer **Jennifer Moeller**
Sound Designer **Rick Jacobsohn**
Choreographer **Mandy Moore**
Dramaturg **Paul Cremo**

Product Manager **Steven Carter**
Senior Director, Editorial and Content **Jay Goodwin**
Design Director **Karin Satrom**
Editor **Jonathan Minnick**
Graphic Designer **Galen Hicks**

The production of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* was made possible by a generous gift from Lynne and Richard Pasculano and the Rosalie J. Coe Weir Endowment Fund

This production is sponsored by Rolex

Additional support was received from the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Endowment Fund, the Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation, Gordon P. Getty, and The Halff Windham Foundation

The Met gratefully acknowledges the support of the Laidlaw Opera Trust

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay is part of the Neubauer Family Foundation New Works Initiative

Composed by Mason Bates
Libretto by Gene Scheer
Based on the Book by Michael Chabon

Commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera
A co-production of the Metropolitan Opera and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Cover Illustration © 59 Studio
Production Photos © Evan Zimmerman / Met Opera
Bow Photo © Richard Termine / Met Opera
© 2025 The Metropolitan Opera. All Rights Reserved.
© 2026 The Metropolitan Opera. All Rights Reserved.



The cast and creative team take a bow on Opening Night, September 21, 2025.

MORE ABOUT THE MET

For information on Met productions, the *Live in HD* series of cinema transmissions, media activities, artist interviews, video and audio clips, and more, visit metopera.org.



Discover an unparalleled collection of 950+ performances on Met Opera on Demand, the company's online streaming service. Watch or listen anytime, anywhere, on your favorite devices—apps available for Amazon Fire TV and Tablet, Apple TV, iOS, Roku, Android, and Samsung Smart TV. Visit metopera.org/ondemand to start your free trial.