Commissioned by American Lyric Theater in 2012 to commemorate the Turing Centennial, The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing is a two-act opera inspired by the life of the groundbreaking computer scientist, Alan Turing. After saving England in World War II by cracking the Nazi U-boat code, he was found guilty of gross indecency for a homosexual relationship. He chose chemical castration over imprisonment as his punishment. Two years later, Turing was found poisoned near a cyanide-laced apple with a bite taken from it. The apple is believed to be a reference to his obsession with Disney’s Snow White, and the image is rumored to be the inspiration for Apple Computer’s logo. Turing’s mysterious death was labeled a suicide – but there are many other theories.

“Our opera imagines the man inside the legend of Alan Turing: his unique perspective of the universe, his unabashed view of his homosexuality, and his impact on the future of civilization. This piece is relevant today not only for restoring Turing to our collective memory, but also because the institutionalized homophobic attitudes faced by Turing continue to threaten the lives of gay men and women across the globe. In fact, this opera is not merely about homophobia, it is about prejudice. This opera celebrates the power of memory, creativity, and the potential within us all to live fully and truly.”

-Justine F. Chen and David Simpatico
CAST AND PERFORMANCE FORCES
Alan Turing (Lyric Baritone)
Christopher Morcom (Lyric Tenor)
Sara Turing (Coloratura Soprano)
Fred Clayton / Winston Churchill (Bass-Baritone)
Joan Clark (Mezzo-Soprano)
Steve Todd / Arnold Murray (High Lyric Tenor)
Don Bayley / A Bobby (Bass)

SATB Chorus (Minimum 24 Singers): Chatters, Wrens, Crypts, Carolers, Judge Harrison, School Boys

ORCHESTRA (32 Musicians): picc, fl (picc), ob, B-flat cl (bass cl), asax (barsax), bn (cbn) / fh, B-flat tpt, tbn, tba / perc
(1) - timp, crot, t.bells, brake drum, hi-hat/susp cyms/crash cyms, sleigh bells, snare drum, BD, sports whistle /
keyboard (pipe organ, pft, cel), Harp / Strings (5/4/4/4/2)

Duration: 110'

HISTORY
Commission: September 2012
Under the auspices of the Composer Librettist Development Program at American Lyric Theater

- Libretto Workshop & Reading: February 2013
- Piano/Vocal Workshops in 2015 and 2017
- Orchestral Workshop in February 2019 in collaboration with Chicago Opera Theater

NEXT STEPS
Seeking Co-Producers for World Premiere Consortium

ABOUT THE WRITERS
Composer and violinist JUSTINE F. CHEN joined American Lyric Theater’s Composer Librettist Development Program as a resident artist in 2010, and has been the recipient of many prestigious awards and commissions. A native New Yorker, she has been commissioned and performed by New York City Opera, New York City Ballet, The Juilliard School, and New York Festival of Song. The New York Times described her dance score as “the kind of propulsive, emotionally resonant score that choreographers tend to dream of.” Her first opera was presented by Juilliard, NYCO’s VOX Showcase, and Chants Libres. Recent projects include songs for soprano Jennifer Zetlan’s Marilyn Horne Foundation Recital, and for Elizabeth Futral’s Cleopatra-themed NYCO recital. She earned her DMA, MM, and BM from Juilliard in violin and composition, and specializes in contemporary music performance.

DAVID SIMPATICO joined American Lyric Theater’s Composer Librettist Development Program as a resident artist in 2010. His works have been presented at major theatres around the globe, including Lincoln Center, NYC Town Hall, the Hammersmith Apollo (London), Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, the New York Shakespeare Festival, and the New York Theatre Workshop. Using the safety net of comedy to explore life-and-death issues, his work examines man’s struggle to claim his place in a chaotic universe. He was recently an Artist in Residence at Pace University, where he taught and led a staged reading workshop of his play Bad Blood. David writes, directs, edits and stars in Zombie Hideaway, a webisodic series, as well as Rev. Jimmy’s Lake of Fire, featured on his new Youtube channel, Noise Ball. He graduated Northwestern University with a BS in Theater.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT AMERICAN LYRIC THEATER:

Lawrence Edelson, Producing Artistic Director: LawrenceEdelson@altnc.org – 646.498.4226
David Rubeo, Executive Director: DavidRubeo@altnc.org – 646.216-8298