



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

\$15 Student Ticket Offered For May 22 Performance of Offenbach's *Hoffmann*

Seattle—In an effort to introduce more young music- and theater-lovers to the magic of opera, Seattle Opera is offering a \$15 student ticket for the May 22 performance of Jacques Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann (The Tales of Hoffmann)*.*

The Tales of Hoffmann provides a lively introduction to the world of opera. In this fantastical production, the central character is a poet who regales his friends with stories of three of his past romances. Robert Dahlstrom's sets and Marie-Theresa Cramer's costumes draw inspiration from grand opera, silent movies, and E.T.A. Hoffmann's fairy tales. Director Chris Alexander (winner of the 2004 Seattle Opera Artist of the Year award) keeps Hoffmann's action constantly moving, as the characters encounter a mechanical doll, a singing portrait, and a shadow-stealing sorcerer.

With its ingratiating music, *The Tales of Hoffmann* will delight students and adults alike. It is the final, greatest work of the composer Offenbach, who won over 19th-century Parisian audiences with his effervescent tunes, including the famous "can-can" from *Orphée aux enfers (Opheus in the Underworld)*. The English captions projected above the stage at the McCaw Hall make it easy for everyone to follow the opera's plot.

For more information about the opera, including a plot synopsis, music samples, and a behind-the-scenes article on the sets and costumes being built by Seattle Opera, visit the company's Web site:
www.seattleopera.org.

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The \$15 student tickets are not available online and must be purchased by phone or in person at Seattle Opera's Ticket Office (206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619, 1020 John Street, Monday through Friday). The \$15 student tickets are available for the Sunday, May 22, 2:00 p.m. matinee performance only. *The Tales of Hoffmann* is recommended for students ages 10 and up. Full-priced tickets for all performances may be purchased from the Ticket Office or online at www.seattleopera.org.

*Seattle Opera also offers students and seniors "50% off" tickets for any of its performances. These "50% off" tickets are available only at the McCaw Hall box-office windows on the day of performance. The box office generally opens two hours before curtain and tickets are limited to one per valid ID.

Les contes d'Hoffmann (The Tales of Hoffmann)

Music by Jacques Offenbach

Libretto by Jules Barbier

(after the play of the same title by Barbier and Michel Carré, based on the stories of E.T.A. Hoffmann)

In French with English captions

Nine Performances: May 7, 8 (matinee), 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, and 22 (matinee), 2005

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours with 2 intermissions

All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee performances, May 8 and May 22, begin at 2:00 p.m.

All performances in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Ticket Information

Ticket Prices: \$42–\$129

Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619

Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, VISA, MasterCard

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

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Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera has developed into one of the leading opera companies in the United States. The company is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances, especially the Opera's interpretations of the works of Richard Wagner.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, 4Culture, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, City Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, and Washington State Arts Commission. Seattle Opera is a participant in the Seattle Arts Stabilization Project, a joint venture of the Seattle Arts Stabilization Committee and the National Arts Stabilization Fund.