

Embargoed until Tuesday, November 5, 2002

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## **Seattle Opera Announces 2003/04 Season**

### **Its First in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

#### **Four New Productions**

#### **Including First-Ever *Parsifal* at Seattle Opera**

**and**

#### **World Premiere of the Final Two-Act Version of**

#### **Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra***

Seattle—Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, announced today the company's 2003/04 season (see **Jenkins' letter**), the company's first in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. The inaugural season features new productions for four of the five operas—Richard Wagner's *Parsifal*,\* Marvin David Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra*, Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, and Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Closing out Seattle Opera's first season in McCaw Hall is *La fanciulla del West*.

Since Seattle Opera is known throughout the world for its Wagner productions and *Parsifal* is the only one of Wagner's ten major operas that the company has not presented, *Parsifal* is a fitting choice for the opening opera in the new opera house. The second opera of the season, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, is a world premiere. An earlier version of this American opera has been staged before (in New York and Chicago), but Seattle Opera will present, in this new production, the composer's final two-act version. The third opera of the season is the ever-popular *Carmen*, which will be presented in a period co-production with Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Colorado Operas. The fourth opera is *Ariadne auf Naxos*, which will be presented in a production featuring an intriguing blend of old and new. The last opera of the season is *La fanciulla del West*, in a traditional production with sets from New York City Opera.

During Seattle Opera's 2003/04 season, several major artists will be making their company debuts, among them sopranos Linda Watson and Monique McDonald, tenors Christopher Ventris, John Horton Murray, and Antonello Palombi, baritone Kim Josephson, directors Bartlett Sher and James Robinson, designers Michael Chybowski (lighting), Allen Moyer (sets), Jennifer Tipton (lighting), and Elizabeth Caitlin Ward (costumes), conductors Asher Fisch and Oleg Caetani, and composer Marvin David

(over)

Levy. Among those returning are sopranos Lauren Flanigan, Nina Warren, Margaret Jane Wray, and Andrea Gruber, mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Blythe and Angelika Kirchschlager, tenors Paul Charles Clarke and Richard Margison, baritones Greer Grimsley, Richard Paul Fink, Jason Howard, and Roberto Salvatori, and basses Stephen Milling and Gabor Andrasy. Also returning are director François Rochaix and designer Robert Israel (who worked together on Seattle Opera's second *Ring*—1985-1995), directors Chris Alexander and Bernard Uzan, designers Robert Wierzel (lighting) and Robert Dahlstrom (sets), and conductors Richard Buckley, George Manahan, and Gerard Schwarz.

The new scenery in the Opera's 2003/04 season will be built by Seattle Opera Scenic Studios (the build for *Parsifal* gets underway in January 2003), and the new costumes will be built by Seattle Opera Costume Shop.

On August 9, 2003, Seattle Opera will hold a gala in the new hall to celebrate General Director Speight Jenkins' twentieth anniversary with the company.

### **Performance and Series Information**

Seattle Opera has eight full subscription series (A-H), each based on a specific day of the week, and has added a new 3-opera subscription series (Series J3) with performances on three different days of the week: Wednesday (*Carmen*), Sunday (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Tuesday (*Fanciulla*).

Number of Productions:	5
Number of Performances:	48 (includes five non-subscription performances)
Number of Subscription Series:	9 (consists of eight 5-opera and one 3-opera series)
McCaw Hall Capacity:	2,900 (Seattle Center Opera House capacity: 3,017)

### **Subscription Sales Information**

Subscription renewals begin this month and continue through February 2003.

New subscriptions go on sale February 18, 2003.

5-Opera Package:	\$166–\$3,104
3-Opera Package:	\$109–\$305
Tickets Mailed Out:	June 2003
Subscription Office:	206-389-7676/800-426-1619
Credit Cards Accepted:	American Express, VISA, MasterCard
On-Line Orders:	<a href="http://www.seattleopera.org">www.seattleopera.org</a>

All performances are in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle's new opera house. Evening performances of *Parsifal* begin at 6:30 p.m. Evening performances of all other operas—*Mourning Becomes Electra*, *Carmen*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *La fanciulla del West*—begin at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinees for all the operas begin at 2:00 p.m.

\*Seattle Opera originally announced its new production of *Parsifal* in August 2001.