



**For Release: January 11, 2006**

**Seattle Opera Announces 2006/07 Season:  
Seattle premieres of Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri*  
and Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto***

**New production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni***

**Return of Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* and Puccini's *Bohème***

**Seattle**—Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, officially announced the company's 2006/07 season today. The season features two operas new to Seattle Opera's repertoire: Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*) and Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (*Julius Caesar*)—and three operas familiar to Seattle Opera's audiences: Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Puccini's *Bohème*. The *Don Giovanni* will be in a new production.

The season opens in August 2006 with Seattle Opera's popular production of Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* featuring soprano Carol Vaness singing her first Marschallin. Mezzo-soprano Alice Coote makes her Seattle Opera debut as Octavian. In 2005, this English singer appeared as Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina* at San Francisco Opera and, in 2006, she sings Cherubino for her Metropolitan Opera debut. Asher Fisch, who conducted Seattle Opera's *Parsifal* in 2003 and *Lohengrin* in 2004, will conduct *Der Rosenkavalier*. Dieter Kaegi, the director of the 1997 production here, will return to direct the opera. The sets and costumes are those created by Bruno Schwengl for Seattle Opera's 1997 production.

On August 19, 2006, during the run of *Der Rosenkavalier*, Seattle Opera's holds its first International Wagner Competition. Subscribers will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for this new event when they renew. (Finalists will be announced soon.)

Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*), in October 2006, is the second opera of the season, and Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (*Julius Caesar in Egypt*), in February and March 2007, the fourth opera of the season. Both of these operas, done for the first time at Seattle Opera, make great demands on the singers—true *bel canto* “aplomb” is needed for the Rossini opera, and both an authoritative and scintillating baroque style for the Handel opera. Interestingly, Handel's opera involves the highest range of male voices (with a countertenor and male soprano) and the lowest range of female voices (with a true contralto).

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American mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, seen here last summer as Fricka in Wagner's *Ring*, is Isabella, the Italian Girl in Rossini's opera, for the Opening Night cast. Her Lindoro is tenor William Burden, who sang the role at Santa Fe Opera in 2002 and at San Francisco Opera this season. In the Sunday/Friday cast, mezzo-soprano Helene Schneiderman, last seen here as the Muse in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*, sings the Italian Girl (a regular role for her in Europe) opposite tenor Lawrence Brownlee as Lindoro. A former Seattle Opera Young Artist who last appeared here in Daniel Catán's *Florenzia en el Amazonas*, Brownlee is now enjoying a *bel canto* career in Europe and soon making his Metropolitan Opera debut.

Polish contralto Eva Podles (2002/03 Seattle Opera Artist of the Year) sings the role of Handel's Julius Caesar. Other unusual voice types in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* are two countertenors and a male soprano. The countertenor role Tolomeo will be sung by Brian Asawa (1996/97 Seattle Opera Artist of the Year) in the opening night cast and by Mark Crayton (in his Seattle Opera debut) in the Sunday/Friday cast. Male soprano David Korn, a Seattle Opera 2005/06 Young Artist, makes his mainstage debut in this production as Nireno.

The new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, which comes in January 2007, between *Italiana* and *Cesare*, reunites the *Contes d'Hoffmann* production team of director Chris Alexander, set designer Robert Dahlstrom, costume designer Marie-Theresa Cramer, and lighting designer Robert Wierzel. *Don Giovanni* will be presented in January 2007. The Don will be sung by two young baritones: Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien (last seen here in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*) in the Opening Night cast and American baritone Morgan Smith (a former Seattle Opera Young Artist who last appeared here in Puccini's *Fanciulla del West*) in the Sunday/Friday cast.

The season concludes in May 2007 with Puccini's *Bohème*, one of the most popular operas ever. Italian soprano Nuccia Focile returns to the company as the fragile Mimì in the Opening Night cast while soprano Gun-Brit Barkmin makes her company debut in the role in the Sunday/Friday cast. Australian tenor Rosario La Spina will make his Seattle Opera debut as Rodolfo in the Opening Night cast, while American tenor Scott Piper sings the role in the Sunday/Friday cast. The production will be conducted by Vjekoslav Sutej, who last appeared here to conduct *Florenzia en el Amazonas*, and directed by Josemaria Condemi, who has served as an assistant director for several mainstage productions at Seattle Opera and directed the 2003 Young Artists production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. *La bohème* features sets by Pier Luigi Pizzi (rented from Lyric Opera of Chicago) and the costumes designed by Martin Pakledinaz for Seattle Opera's 1991 production.

Among the artists making Seattle Opera **debuts** during the 2006/07 season are:

**Conductor:** Gary Thor Wedow (*Giulio Cesare in Egitto*),

**Director:** Robin Guarino (*Giulio Cesare in Egitto*), Josemaria Condemi (*La bohème*)

**Set Designer:** Robert Innes Hopkins (*L'italiana in Algeri*), Pier Luigi Pizzi (*La bohème*)

**Costume Designer:** David Woolard (*L'italiana in Algeri*), Constance Hoffman (*Giulio Cesare in Egitto*)

**Sopranos:** Pamela Armstrong (Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*), Gun-Brit Barkmin (Mimì in *La bohème*), Christine Brandes (Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*), Margarita de Arellano (Musetta in *La bohème*), Dana Beth Miller (Dona Elvira in *Don Giovanni*), Ailish Tynan (Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*), Franzita Whelan (Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*),

**Mezzo-Sopranos:** Anna Burford (Cesare in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*), Alice Coote (Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*), Kristine Jepson (Sextus in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*), Gloria Parker (Cornelia

in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*), Melissa Parks (Zulma in *L'italiana in Algeri*)

**Male Soprano:** David Korn (Nireno in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*)

**Countertenor:** Mark Crayton (Tolomeo in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*)

**Tenors:** Rosario La Spina (Rodolfo in *La bohème*), Scott Piper (Rodolfo in *La bohème*)

**Baritones:** Wolfgang Holzmair (Faninal in *Der Rosenkavalier*), Marcus DeLoach (Schaunard in *La bohème*), Jeremy Kelly (Schaunard in *La bohème*), George Mosley (Haly in *L'italiana in Algeri*)

**Bass-Baritone:** Simone Alberghini (Mustafà in *L'italiana in Algeri*), Tony Dillon (Benoit and Alcindoro in *La bohème*), Brian Kontes (Leporello in *Don Giovanni*)

**Bass:** Kevin Burdette (Mustafà in *L'italiana in Algeri* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni*), Vladimir Ognovenko (Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*), Deyan Vatchkov (Colline in *La bohème*)

*To learn more about the coming season, please see **the letter from Speight Jenkins** to subscribers at [www.seattleopera.org/news/](http://www.seattleopera.org/news/). For information on individual artists, check Seattle Opera's Web site: [www.seattleopera.org/operas/](http://www.seattleopera.org/operas/) and click on the **Artists** pages for each opera in the 2006/07 season.*

*Additional copies of this press release, complete artist lists, Speight Jenkins' letter, and more information on the International Wagner Competition can be downloaded from [www.seattleopera.org/news/](http://www.seattleopera.org/news/)*

**Seattle Opera Ticket Information**  
**Subscriptions renewals begin January 11, 2006**  
**Subscriptions go on sale January 16, 2006**

5-Opera Renewal Subscription Ticket Prices: \$166 to \$3,187\*

5-Opera New Subscription Ticket Prices: \$198 to \$3,187\*

August 19, 2006 International Wagner Competition: \$42 to \$52

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

Online Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

All performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., the matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Evening performances of *Der Rosenkavalier* begin at 7:00 p.m.

\*Prices include a \$2 per ticket facility fee and (in some locations) a preferred seating donation. This \$2 facility fee has been implemented in order to cover the capital costs of the opera house renovation that have not yet been funded.

## ***DER ROSENKAVALIER***

Music by Richard Strauss

Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

In German with English Captions

### **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**8 Performances: August 5, 9, 12, 15, 18, 20m, 23, 26, 2006**

Approximate Running Time: 4 hours and 20 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m., matinees begin at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Dresden, Konigliches Opernhaus, January 26, 1911

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: January 1969, September 1975, August 1997

### **Artists**

Marschallin: Carol Vaness

Octavian: Alice Coote†

Sophie von Faninal: Frances Lucey

Baron Ochs: Peter Rose

Herr von Faninal: Wolfgang Holzmaier†

A Singer (Italian Tenor): Vinson Cole

Marianne: Mary McLaughlin

Valzacchi: Doug Jones

Annina: Graciela Araya

Commissary of Police: Andrew Greenan

Marschallin's Major-Domo/Innkeeper: William Saetre

Conductor: Asher Fisch

Stage Director: Dieter Kaegi

Scenery Designer: Bruno Schwengl

Costume Designer: Bruno Schwengl

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

One cast only

†Company Debut

***L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI (THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS)***

Music by Gioachino Rossini  
Libretto by Angelo Anelli  
In Italian with English Captions

**Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**8 Performances: October 14, 15m, 18, 21, 22m, 25, 27, 28, 2006**

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 45 minutes including one intermission  
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.  
October 22 is the Family Matinee performance.

Premiere: Venice, Teatro S Benedetto, May 22, 1813  
**Seattle Opera Premiere**

**Artists**

Isabella: Stephanie Blythe / Helene Schneiderman\*  
Lindoro: William Burden / Lawrence Brownlee\*  
Mustafa: Simone Alberghini† / Kevin Burdette\*†  
Taddeo: Earle Patriarco  
Elvira: Sally Wolf  
Zulma: Melissa Parks†  
Ali (Haly): George Mosley†

Conductor: Edoardo Müller  
Stage Director: Chris Alexander  
Set Designer: Robert Innes Hopkins†  
Costume Designer: David Woolard†  
Lighting Designer: Duane Schuler  
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

\*On October 15, 22, 27, 2006 only

†Company Debut

## ***DON GIOVANNI***

**NEW SEATTLE OPERA PRODUCTION**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

In Italian with English Captions

### **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**8 Performances: January 13, 14m, 17, 20, 21m, 24, 26, 27, 2007**

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 10 minutes including one intermission

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Prague, National Theatre, October 29, 1787

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: April 1968, March 1979, May 1991, January 1999

### **Artists**

Don Giovanni: Mariusz Kwiecien /Morgan Smith\*

Donna Anna: Pamela Armstrong† /Franzita Whelan\*†

Donna Elvira: Marie Plette /Dana Beth Miller\*†

Don Ottavio: Kurt Streit /John Osborne\*

Leporello: Eduardo Chama /Brian Kontes\*†

Zerlina: Ailish Tynan†/Heather Parker\*

Masetto: Kevin Burdette

Commendatore: Vladimir Ognovenko†

Conductor: Andreas Mitisek

Stage Director: Chris Alexander

Set Designer: Robert A. Dahlstrom

Costume Designer: Marie-Theresa Cramer

Lighting Designer: Robert Wierzel

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

\* On January 14, 21, 26, 2007 only

† Company Debut

***GIULIO CESARE IN EGITTO (JULIUS CAESAR)***

Music by George Frideric Handel  
Libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym  
In Italian with English Captions

**Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**8 Performances: February 24, 25m, 28, March 3, 4m, 7, 9, 10, 2007**

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 30 minutes including two intermissions  
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: London, King's Theatre, February 20, 1724

**Seattle Opera Premiere**

**Artists**

Cesare: Ewa Podles /Anna Burford\*†  
Cleopatra: Alexandra Deshorties /Christine Brandes\*†  
Cornelia: Helene Schneiderman /Gloria Parker\*†  
Sesto Pompeo (Sextus): Kristine Jepson† /Carolyn Kahl\*  
Tolomeo: Brian Asawa /Mark Crayton\*†  
Achillas: Arthur Woodley  
Nireno: David Korn†

Conductor: Gary Thor Wedow†  
Stage Director: Robin Guarino  
Set Designer: Paul Steinberg  
Costume Designer: Constance Hoffman†  
Lighting Designer: Robert Wierzel  
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

\* On February 25, March 4, 9, 2007 only

† Company Debut

## ***LA BOHÈME***

Music by Giacomo Puccini  
Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica  
In Italian with English Captions

### **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**10 Performances: May 5, 6m, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13m, 15, 16, 19, 2007**

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes including two intermissions  
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Turin, Teatro Regio, February 1, 1896

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: September 1965, September 1971, May 1979,  
March 1985, September 1991, May 1998

### **Artists**

Rodolfo: Rosario La Spina† /Scott Piper\*  
Mimi: Nuccia Focile /Gun-Brit Barkmin\*†  
Marcello: Philip Cutlip /Michael Todd Simpson\*  
Colline: Deyan Vatchkov† /James Creswell\*  
Schaunard: Jeremy Kelly† /Marcus Deloach\*†  
Musetta: Karen Driscoll /Margarita de Arellano\*†  
Benoit/Alcindoro: Tony Dillon†

Conductor: Vjekoslav Sutej  
Stage Director: Josemaria Condemi  
Set Designer: Pier Luigi Pizzi†  
Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz  
Lighting Designer: Thomas C. Hase  
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

\* On May 6, 8, 11, 13, 2007 only

† Company Debut

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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.*