



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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High resolution photos of the Young Artists and past Young Artists productions can be downloaded from: [http://www.seattleopera.org/news/image\\_library.aspx?id=4](http://www.seattleopera.org/news/image_library.aspx?id=4).

## **Seattle Opera Announces 2008/09 Young Artists**

*Tatyana's Letter:*  
**Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*  
to be featured in  
Wenatchee, Mount Vernon, Friday Harbor, Eastsound,  
Auburn, and Twisp**

**Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed  
in the spring at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center**

**Tickets Go on Sale September 2**

Seattle—Seattle Opera today announced the ten young artists selected to participate in its 2008/09 Young Artists Program. This year's Young Artists are Eugene Chan, Thomas Forde, Margaret Gawrysiak, Megan Hart, Michael Krzankowski, Alex Mansoori, Elizabeth Pojanowski, Vira Slywotzky, Michelle Trovato, and Bray Wilkins. Complete

biographies of these singers can be found at:

<http://www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/artists.aspx>.

Each fall, opera lovers throughout the state eagerly await the community opera performances of Seattle Opera's Young Artists. This year, the Young Artists will perform *Tatyana's Letter: Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin*, an English-language adaptation of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's poignant and moving musical version of Alexander Pushkin's famous narrative poem. This abridged production cuts to the chase, focusing on the musical highlights from Tchaikovsky's timeless opera. Performances start on November 1 at the Performing Arts Center of Wenatchee (**Wenatchee, WA**) and conclude November 21 at the Merc Playhouse (**Twisp, WA**). Other cities included in the fall opera tour are **Mount Vernon, Friday Harbor, Eastsound, and Auburn.**

In the spring, the Young Artists perform a fully staged opera at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. This season the program presents Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a shimmering and magical setting of Shakespeare's beloved comedy.

Tickets for the spring performances are already available to Seattle Opera subscribers. An online pre-sale will begin on August 30, 2008, for the general public, followed by phone and in-person ticket office sales on September 2, 2008. Tickets for the fall touring performances are available through each venue. For more information, visit [www.seattleopera.org/tickets](http://www.seattleopera.org/tickets).

### **About the Young Artists Program**

Seattle Opera launched the Young Artists Program in 1998 under the leadership of General Director Speight Jenkins, Education Director Perry Lorenzo, and conductor Dean Williamson. The ten Seattle Opera's Young Artists for the 2008/09 season were chosen from over 630 applicants. The singers will perform in venues throughout Washington as well as receive top-rate vocal coaching and instruction in language, acting, movement,

dance, stage combat, makeup, and how to function effectively in the opera industry. The Program has helped to launch the careers of many singers: former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage as well as at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and many others.

The Young Artists participate in several Seattle Opera outreach programs, helping to bring opera to more than 10,000 students. One program, *Experience Opera*, is designed to engage high school students in a lively opera curriculum. Another, *Opera Goes to School*, is designed to involve young children in the process of producing an opera. For the past three seasons, the program has offered an adaptation of Wagner's *Rheingold* called *Theft of the Gold: The Ring Begins*. This adaptation, created by Seattle Opera and sponsored in part by the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, has been performed in schools around Washington. This season the Young Artists will workshop a new children's opera—*Siegfried and the Ring of Fire*, an adaptation of Wagner's *Siegfried*.

## **Young Artists in Performance**

### **Fall 2008**

*Tatyana's Letter: Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin*

**Tickets and ticket price information available through venues listed below:**

November 1: Performing Arts Center of Wenatchee  
Address: 123 North Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee  
Ticket information: 509.663.2787

November 2: McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon  
Address: 2501 East College Way, Mount Vernon  
Ticket information: 866.624.6897

November 7: San Juan Community Theater, Friday Harbor  
Address: 100 Second Street, Friday Harbor  
Ticket information: 360.378.3210

November 8: Orcas Center, Eastsound, 7:30  
Address: 917 Mount Baker Road, Eastsound  
Ticket information: 360.376.2281

November 9: Auburn Avenue Theater, Auburn  
Address: 10 Auburn Avenue, Auburn  
Ticket information: 256.931.3043

November 21: Merc Playhouse, Twisp  
Address: 101 Glover Street, Twisp  
Ticket information: 509.997.4004

## **Spring 2008**

Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**Tickets available online at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org), and  
through Seattle Opera Ticket Office, 206.389.7676.**

March 27, 28, 29m, April 3, 4, 5m, 2009

Performed at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: \$35 (adult)  
\$15 (student)

Ticket Information: 206.389.7676 or [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

### **About Seattle Opera**

SEATTLE OPERA'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEDICATES THE 2008/09 SEASON TO SPEIGHT JENKINS IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS GENERAL DIRECTOR.

Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera is 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. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 35 cycles of the *Ring* (three different productions), in addition to acclaimed productions of all the other major operas in the Wagner canon. Seattle Opera has achieved the highest per capita attendance of any major opera company in the United States, and draws opera goers from four continents and fifty states.