



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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Seattle Opera Announces 2009/10 Young Artists

**Fall Touring Production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*
Presented in Seattle on November 20**

**Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*
Comes to Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center This Spring**

Seattle—Seattle Opera announced the ten singers selected to participate in the 2009/10 Young Artists Program. This year's Young Artists are Erik Anstine, Jenni Bank, Megan Hart, Michael Krzankowski, Maya Lahyani, Alex Mansoori, Eric Neuville, Vira Slywotzky, Marcy Stonikas, and Bray Wilkins.

These ten singers were selected from 642 applicants from across the country. Tenors Alex Mansoori and Bray Wilkins, sopranos Megan Hart and Vira Slywotzky, and baritone Michael Krzankowski are all returning for another season with the program. Complete biographies of all the singers can be found at www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/artists.aspx.

The program begins on October 5, 2009, when the singers will begin preparing for their fall touring production. This year, the Young Artists will perform an abridged version of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with piano accompaniment. *Così* is a joy-filled roller-coaster ride that follows the follies and foibles of four young lovers who get more than they bargained for when they wager on love. The Young Artists' production, which will be presented in Italian with English captions, will be staged by Benjamin Smith. The Young Artists will offer a single performance of *Così* in Seattle at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall on November 20. Tickets for the performance are \$20, and will go on sale

on September 12 at seattleopera.org/yap. Phone and in-person sales begin September 14. Additional venues will be announced at a later date.

In the spring, the Young Artists will present Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center. This fully staged production features the stage direction of the program's artistic director, Peter Kazaras, under the baton of Maestro Brian Garman, the program's music director. *Ariadne* opens on Friday, April 1, and runs through Sunday, April 11. Tickets will be \$35 for adults and \$15 for students and will also go on sale starting September 12.

New to the program this season is the inclusion of German art song recitals, which will give the singers an opportunity to prepare and present songs outside of the regular operatic repertoire.

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 Young Artists for the 2009/10 season were chosen from over 640 applicants. The singers will perform in venues throughout Washington as well as receive vocal coaching and instruction in language, acting, movement, 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. *Opera Goes to School* is designed to involve young children in the process of producing an opera. For several seasons, the program 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. Last season the Young Artists workshopped a new children's opera—*Siegfried and the Ring of Fire*, an adaptation of Wagner's *Siegfried*—which they will present in partnership with several Seattle schools this year.

Young Artists in Performance

Fall 2009

Mozart's *Così fan tutte*

Friday, November 20
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall
200 University Street, Seattle
8:00 p.m. – \$20

Additional venues will be announced at a later date.

Spring 2010

Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*

April 1, 3, 9, and 11m, 2010

Performed at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 for adults
 \$15 for students

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About Seattle Opera

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 38 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 operagoers from four continents and fifty states.