



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

## **Romanian Bass Gabor Andrasy Dies**

### **An Esteemed Artist Long Associated with Seattle Opera**

### **Upcoming *Lohengrin* Performances Dedicated to Andrasy**

**Seattle**—Gabor Andrasy, an esteemed artist closely associated with Seattle Opera, died July 14, 2004, in Florida. He was 61. The cause was complications resulting from abdominal cancer.

Of Hungarian extraction, but born in Romania, Andrasy came first to the United States in 1987 to sing Hunding in *Die Walküre* and Hagen in *Götterdämmerung* in Seattle Opera's production of Wagner's *Ring*. Over the course of seventeen years, he sang 127 performances of 18 roles at Seattle Opera. He became an American citizen a decade ago.

"Gabor was a vital part of Seattle Opera," said Speight Jenkins, general director. "A great bass, he sang here in five languages and even more styles. His most recent performances here were as Ezra Mannon in last fall's *Mourning Becomes Electra*. He will be remembered for all he did, most notably for his performances of Hagen.

"A man almost impossible to summarize, Gabor had great warmth, a wonderful sense of humor, a classic hot temper that vanished almost as soon as it appeared, and a capacity for real friendship given to a few. On Sunday in our last conversation, he said to me how much Seattle and all his friends meant to him, and how much the large number of cards he received both surprised and delighted him.

"He was a great artist and an even more significant human being, a treasure to all of us who had the good fortune to know him."

Andrasy was particularly well known for his Wagner roles at Seattle Opera, though his repertoire at Seattle

*(over)*

Opera extended well beyond Wagner. In addition to such Wagner roles as Hunding, Hagen, Fafner, Daland, King Heinrich, and Pogner, Andrasy performed Mozart's Commendatore and Sarastro, Weber's Hermit and Samiel, Beethoven's Rocco, Verdi's Grand Inquisitor and Philip II, Britten's Dansker (in *Billy Budd*), Catán's Captain (in *Florencia en el Amazonas*), and General Mannon (in Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra*). He was scheduled to return to the company this season and next for more performances as the Captain in Catán's *Florencia* and as Fafner in Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen*.

He is survived by his wife Terri and two adult children by a previous marriage. There will be a memorial service in Connecticut in early fall.

Seattle Opera is dedicating its upcoming performances of Wagner's *Lohengrin* in memory of Gabor Andrasy.

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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.

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