



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Seattle Opera Opens McCaw Hall to the Public For Free Select-A-Seat Event on August 1

Seattle—Seattle Opera will hold a free Select-A-Seat event at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall on August 1, 2004. The doors will open at 1:00 p.m., and visitors can try out the seats and sightlines in the auditorium. Seats still available for season subscription will be marked. Seattle Opera Ticket Office staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about Seattle Opera's 2004/05 season and take subscription orders. Prices for subscriptions start at \$110 for a 3-opera package, \$152 for a 4-opera package, and \$180 for a 5-opera package.

Seattle Opera's Select-A-Seat at McCaw Hall runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 1, and is free to the public.

Seattle Opera Begins Season With *Lohengrin* on July 31

Seattle Opera opens its 2004/05 season on July 31 with Wagner's *Lohengrin*. Dutch tenor Albert Bonnema sings Lohengrin and internationally known bass Gidon Saks sings King Heinrich in their Seattle Opera debuts. American soprano Marie Plette sings Elsa, and English soprano Jane Eaglen sings her first Ortrud. Returning for an encore is bass-baritone Greer Grimsley, who sings Telramund, the role of his Seattle Opera debut in 1994. In the pit is Israeli conductor Asher Fisch, who conducted Seattle Opera's *Parsifal* in August 2003.

Season subscriptions and single tickets for Seattle Opera's *Lohengrin* can be purchased through www.seattleopera.org or by calling Seattle Opera's Ticket Office at 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619. *Lohengrin* will run for eight performances: July 31, August 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 (matinee), 18, and 21, 2004. All evening performance begin at 7:00 p.m., and the August 15 matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. Single ticket prices are \$47 to \$123.

(over)

Traffic Alert For *Lohengrin* Opening Night

The July 31 performance of *Lohengrin* coincides with SeaFair's Torchlight Parade. Certain streets will begin to close late in the afternoon. The street expected to experience the greatest delays is the Mercer exit from I-5.

SeaFair will begin closing lanes on some streets as early as 5:00 p.m. on July 31, including southbound 5th Avenue North between Mercer and Broad. **The best approaches for the Mercer Garage located next to Marion Oliver McCaw Hall will be from Aurora exiting at Valley Street, approaching Mercer Garage from the east via Roy Street, or from 15th NW and Elliot Ave to Mercer, approaching the Mercer Garage from the west.** The Seattle Center reports that Parade participants will not be parking in the vicinity of the Center and there should be ample parking available at the Mercer Garage and surrounding surface lots.

Please note, for patrons traveling to Seattle Center from the south, the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be closed July 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. for the SeaFair Torchlight Run & Walk.

Seattle Opera suggests that patrons plan to come early and dine in the neighborhood. Café Impromptu at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall will open at 5:00 p.m. for dinner.

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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.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING-FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers Endowment, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Microsoft, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Seattle Opera Guild, and Washington State Arts Commission. Seattle Opera is a participant in the Seattle Arts Stabilization Project, a joint venture of the Seattle Arts Stabilization Committee and the National Arts Stabilization Fund. The 2004/05 season is sponsored by Microsoft.