



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **Seattle Opera's BRAVO! Club Breaks Membership Record Club for Young Operagoers Is Now One of the Largest in the U.S.**

**Crowd-pleasing Laser Opera Show takes place December 4  
at Pacific Science Center**

**Winter Ball and Auction to be held January 15  
at Seattle's Arctic Club Hotel**

Seattle—Seattle Opera's BRAVO! Club, an organization for operagoers in their 20s and 30s, has just reached a new membership record. Currently, 650 young opera lovers are a part of this exciting group—the highest number since its inception in 1996. A.J. Kamra, vice president of marketing for the Club, attributes the high numbers to the balance of exceptional entertainment from both the Opera and BRAVO! “We make everything fun, as we work to demystify opera for our members and make it more accessible.”

Throughout the season, BRAVO! Club hosts social and educational events for its members, ranging from backstage tours and private lectures, to cocktail parties and Young Artists Program recitals. General Director Speight Jenkins recognizes the important role a group such as BRAVO! serves for Seattle Opera's future. “To encourage young people between twenty and forty to experience opera is vitally important to all of us at Seattle Opera,” said Jenkins. “The number of people in BRAVO!, which has for several years grown steadily, says much for the Club's leadership.”

One of the Club's most popular events, the Laser Opera, will be held on December 4 at Pacific Science Center in Seattle. This annual event, now in its fourth year, juxtaposes two unlikely partners: opera—usually confined to performance halls—and laser shows—historically set to rock or other popular music.

As part of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, General Director Speight Jenkins will select his favorite arias for this year's Laser Opera. He is also creating the program notes and narrating the event, and is looking forward to experiencing Laser Opera for the first time. "It will be a pleasure to say a few words on each piece," Jenkins said, "which will take those who are there through some great recordings made over a number of years, of a whole variety of operas."

Kamra emphasizes how exciting it will be to have Jenkins' involvement, noting that any opportunity to speak plainly about opera makes the art form more accessible. "It's fabulous for us to have Speight Jenkins hanging out at the Laser Opera and breaking down opera for us."

Complimentary movie theater-style snacks will be available, along with drinks for purchase. Attendees are encouraged to bring pillows and blankets for a cozy and casual evening on the floor of the Laser Dome. Theater-style seating will be available as well.

The Laser Opera is an all-ages show that is open to the public. BRAVO! Club members can attend for free, and tickets for non-members are only \$5. New members who join BRAVO! at the event will receive their \$5 ticket fee back. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for a 7:00 show, and reservations are highly recommended.

In January, BRAVO! Club turns its focus toward fundraising. To support Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program, whose members often attend or perform at BRAVO! Club events, the Club holds an annual Winter Ball and auction. The Winter Ball is scheduled for January 15 at Seattle's Arctic Club Hotel, and will be inspired by Seattle Opera's upcoming production of Bizet's sparkling love story *The Pearl Fishers*.

For more information, visit [www.bravoclub.org](http://www.bravoclub.org).

## **More about BRAVO! Club**

Founded in 1996 through the collaborative efforts of Seattle Opera and 30 dedicated volunteers, BRAVO! has grown into a diverse group of more than 650 operagoers in their twenties and thirties—one of the largest clubs of its kind nationwide. With a mission to develop new generations of opera lovers in Seattle, BRAVO! creates a community in which its members can interact, get involved, learn more, and get excited about opera.

For a \$65 membership fee, BRAVO! Club members receive discounted Seattle Opera tickets (with savings as high as 50%), as well as invitations to more than 30 events during the year. For more information on joining BRAVO!, visit [www.bravoclub.org](http://www.bravoclub.org) or call 206.676.5547.

## **BRAVO! Club Laser Opera**

December 4, 2008

Pacific Science Center Laser Dome  
200 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Seattle, WA

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., show begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 (BRAVO! members are free)

Reservations recommended: 206.676.5553 or [bravo@seattleopera.org](mailto:bravo@seattleopera.org)

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## **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 operagoers from four continents and fifty states.