



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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Press Contacts: Jonathan Dean, 206.676.5543, jonathan.dean@seattleopera.org

Sara Sorden, 206.676.5559, sara.sorden@seattleopera.org

Visuals Contact: Monte Jacobson, 206.676.5545, monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org

**Seattle Opera Joins the *Seattle Celebrates Bernstein* Festival with a
Free Panel Discussion on April 10:**

“Collaborating with Bernstein”

**Featuring Daron Aric Hagen, Peter Kazaras, and Stephen Wadsworth
Moderated by Speight Jenkins**

With Performances by Soprano Jennifer Zetlan and Mezzo-soprano Cecelia Hall

19 local arts organizations offer
Leonard Bernstein-related events from March to June

Seattle—*Seattle Celebrates Bernstein*, a city-wide arts festival honoring the great composer and conductor, kicks off today. The festival, which runs from March to June, is a combined effort by local arts organizations—orchestras, choruses, and theater companies—to present Bernstein’s works.

Seattle Opera is participating in the festival by offering an engaging panel discussion on April 10 titled “Collaborating with Bernstein.” This discussion, which will be moderated by General Director Speight Jenkins, features three Seattle Opera artists who worked with Leonard Bernstein and lived to tell the tale. Daron Aric Hagen, composer of Seattle Opera’s world premiere commission, *Amelia*, studied with Bernstein and was commissioned by the Denver Chamber Orchestra to write the orchestral piece “Grand Line” in 1987 as a tribute to the composer. Peter Kazaras, stage director, tenor, and artistic director of Seattle Opera’s Young Artists Program, created the role of François in Bernstein’s opera *A Quiet Place* and has also directed many of Bernstein’s works, including a production of the opera *Trouble in Tahiti* for the 2007 Young Artists. Stage director Stephen Wadsworth, a regular presence at Seattle Opera,

wrote with Bernstein the words and music for the opera *A Quiet Place* and has directed several productions of the opera around the world. Hagen, Kazaras, and Wadsworth will discuss their experiences with Bernstein, sharing stories and memories of their collaborations.

Of course, no Seattle Opera event would be complete without vocal performances. The “Collaborating with Bernstein” panel will feature two exciting young singers performing arias from Bernstein’s operas. Soprano Jennifer Zetlan, who will be performing in the world premiere of Hagen’s *Amelia* in May, will sing “Mommy, are you here?” from *A Quiet Place*. Mezzo-soprano Cecelia Hall will sing “There is a Garden,” from *Trouble in Tahiti*. Both will be accompanied by Seattle Opera coach-accompanist David McDade.

This free event takes place on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Seattle Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Avenue. Ticket reservations are required and can be made by calling the Seattle Opera Ticket Office at 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619. For more information about the “Collaborating with Bernstein” discussion, visit seattleopera.org/calendar. More information about the *Seattle Celebrates Bernstein* festival can be found at seattlecelebratesbernstein.org. For images from the 2008 Young Artists production of Bernstein’s *Trouble in Tahiti*, visit seattleopera.org/news/image_library_photos.aspx.

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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.