



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

**Amsellem to Sing Opening Night and Also on Sunday, With “Alternate” Cast  
Bouras to Take Over Remaining “Alternate” Performances  
In Seattle Opera’s *Rigoletto***

Seattle—Making her Seattle Opera debut, French-American soprano Norah Amsellem, who sings the role of Gilda in Verdi’s *Rigoletto* in the opening night (October 16) cast, takes on double duty as she will also sing the role with the alternate cast on Sunday, October 17. Amsellem replaces American soprano Sandra López, who has withdrawn from the production. Recent roles for Amsellem include Violetta in Verdi’s *Traviata* at Teatro Real in Madrid and the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Liù in Puccini’s *Turandot* at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Italy.

American soprano Christina Bouras, who is flying to Seattle tomorrow (October 16), will take over the remaining alternate-cast performances, Friday, October 22, 26, 29, and 31. Bouras has sung Gilda with New York City Opera and Glimmerglass Opera. The lyric coloratura has sung other major roles as well, including the title role of Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Leïla in Bizet’s *Pêcheurs de perles* with Sarasota Opera.

Seattle Opera’s second opera of the season, Verdi’s *Rigoletto*, opens October 16, 2004, in a new production directed by Linda Brovsky that places the action in Mussolini’s fascist Italy. *Rigoletto*’s tragedy of revenge features such familiar tunes as “La donna è mobile (Woman is fickle)” and such great ensemble pieces as “Bella figlia dell’amore (Beautiful daughter of love).” The opera routinely makes the “top 10” favorites list of operagoers.

Other principals in the alternate cast are baritone Stephen Kechulius as Rigoletto, tenor Raúl Hernández as the Duke, Perry L. Brown as Sparafucile, and mezzo-soprano Mary Ann McCormick as Maddalena.

New costumes have been designed by Marie Anne Chiment, and set designer Robert A. Dahlstrom has adapted his “16th-century” set designs for this 1930s time period. For more information, see “Behind the Scenes” on [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

The Italian maestro Edoardo Müller conducts all performances.

(over)

## ***Rigoletto***

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

(after the 1832 play *Le roi s'amuse* by Victor Hugo)

In Italian with English Captions

All performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle, Washington

Ten performances: October 16, 17 (matinee), 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31 (matinee), 2004

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours, including 2 intermissions

All evening performances of *Rigoletto* begin at 7:30 p.m., the matinees at 2:00 p.m.

### *Rigoletto* Ticket Information

Ticket Prices: \$42 to \$129

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619

Online Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

### Artists

*Rigoletto*: Kim Josephson/Stephen Kechulius†\*

Gilda: Norah Amsellem†/Christina Bouras (October 22, 26, 29, 31)

Duke of Mantua: Frank Lopardo†/Raúl Hernández†\*

Sparafucile: Perry L. Brown

Maddalena: Mary Ann McCormick

Count Monterone: Jason Grant†

Giovanna: Emily Clubb†

Count Ceprano: Byron Ellis

Countess Ceprano/Maid: Julianne Gearhart

Borsa: Doug Jones

Marullo: Barry Johnson

Conductor: Edoardo Müller

Director: Linda Brovsky

Set Designer: Robert A. Dahlstrom

Costume Designer: Marie Anne Chiment†

Lighting Designer: Thomas C. Hase

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Hair and Makeup Designer: Joyce Degenfelder

Scenery: Seattle Opera Scenic Studios (1988, revised 2004)

Costumes: Seattle Opera Costume Shop (2004)

† Seattle Opera debut

\*October 17, 22, 26, 29, and 31 only

This production of *Rigoletto* is sponsored by The Boeing Company with additional support from American Airlines, Key Bank, and Cossé International Securities. Frank Lopardo's performances are made possible by generous support from the James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment.

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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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