



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **KATHERINE ANDERSON, CFO OF SEATTLE OPERA, WINS 2008 CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Seattle—Seattle Opera announced today that Chief Financial Officer Katherine Anderson has been named the Puget Sound Business Journal’s 2008 Annual CFO of the Year in the Non-Profit category. The award was announced at an event held on February 28, 2008 at the Westin Hotel in Seattle.

“We are delighted that Katherine has been honored with this prestigious award, which also spotlights the importance of good fiscal stewardship,” said Seattle Opera Executive Director Kelly Tweeddale. “Katherine combines non-profit expertise with for-profit entrepreneurial skills—an important signature of keeping Seattle Opera as one of the financially strong and healthy arts institutions in our region.”

Anderson joined Seattle Opera in the fall of 2005 as the company’s first CFO. “The addition of Katherine Anderson to Seattle Opera has been remarkable,” said General Director Speight Jenkins. “She has organized the company in the best financial way possible and works with everyone in the company superbly.”

Anderson’s formidable background in financial management and her fiscal leadership have allowed the company to become more proactive and plan for significant issues in the future. In terms of operations, Seattle Opera has no accumulated deficit, a rarity for

such an extremely complex arts organization. The company is part performing arts organization, part manufacturer with the production of sets and costumes, part educator, and part community partner. The organization balances 11 collective bargaining units, and during the Ring Cycle, Seattle Opera can work with a labor pool totaling over 1,000 participants. The company recently announced plans to move its headquarters into a new or reconstructed facility at the Mercer Arena site at Seattle Center.

Anderson has more than twenty years experience as a senior financial officer and CPA. Previous positions include Chief Financial Officer and Controller for Casey Family Programs and Vice-President and Controller for First Interstate Bank of Washington. Anderson has held several Board positions with Financial Executives International, and she currently serves as Area Vice President. She has also been involved with the American Institute of CPAs, the Washington Institute of CPAs, the Seattle Rotary Club, Leadership Tomorrow, and the Women CPAs of Seattle, serving as president from 1988 – 89. She sits on the Board of Directors of Sterling Financial Corporation, the parent company of Sterling Savings Bank. Anderson is active in a number of community and arts organizations, including PONCHO. She is a graduate of Humboldt State University.

The CFO of the Year Awards were established by the Puget Sound Business Journal in 2007 to recognize financial professionals in Washington for outstanding performance in their roles as top financial executives. A distinguished panel of judges reviewed the large number of nominees, who were required to hold the position of CFO or an equivalent position within a company based in Washington State. The categories for the award included Public Companies, Large Private Companies, Small Private Companies, and Non-profit Organizations. Finalists were announced on February 1, 2008, and the winners were announced at an awards ceremony on February 28, 2008.

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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 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 opera-goers from four continents and fifty states.