



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

## NEWS

**For Release: December 5, 2003**

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### **Single Tickets On Sale December 8 For All Performances of *Carmen, Ariadne, and Fanciulla***

**—Truhitte Replaces Studebaker As Don José—**

**—Amusements Open For Holiday Shopping December 8—**

**Seattle**—Single tickets for the remaining operas in Seattle Opera's 2003/04 season go on sale December 8, 2003. The remaining three operas for this season are a new production of Bizet's *Carmen*, a new production of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Puccini's *Fanciulla del West* (Girl of the Golden West). Tickets are priced from \$37 to \$125.

#### **Thomas Truhitte Sings Don José**

California tenor Thomas Rolf Truhitte replaces Thomas Studebaker in the role of Don José in the performances of *Carmen* on January 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25. Truhitte previously sang the role at Sacramento Opera and Opera San Jose in 2000. His other recent roles include Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Siegmund in Wagner's *Walküre*, the Duke in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Rodolfo in Puccini's *Bohème*. Truhitte has sung at the Spoleto Festival in Italy, Virginia Opera, Townsend Opera Players, Mendocino Music Festival, North Bay Opera, and Stockton Opera. This is his Seattle Opera debut.

#### **2003/04 Season Continues In New McCaw Hall *Fanciulla* Family Day Tickets Begin At \$15**

Seattle Opera's inaugural season in McCaw Hall opened with a new production of Wagner's *Parsifal* in August 2003 and the world premiere of the final version of Marvin David Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra* in October 2003.

The season continues with one of the world's most popular operas, Bizet's *Carmen*, in a new production directed by James Robinson. Mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe returns to Seattle Opera to sing the title role in the Opening Night cast. In the Sunday/Friday cast, mezzo-soprano Mary Phillips sings the title role. Conductor George Manahan also returns to Seattle Opera for this production.

In February, Seattle Symphony music director Gerard Schwarz conducts Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, featuring singers Margaret Jane Wray (Ariadne), Angelika Kirchschrager (The Composer), and John Horton Murray (Bacchus). This witty opera about love and art receives a new look in a production directed by Chris Alexander and designed by Robert A. Dahlstrom.

The season concludes in May with Puccini's spaghetti Western opera, *La fanciulla del West* (*The Girl of the Golden West*). Soprano Andrea Gruber sings the warm-hearted Minnie, the "Girl" who must save her guy. Tenor Richard Margison sings Dick Johnson, Minnie's fellow. Baritone Greer Grimsley, last seen here as Amfortas in *Parsifal*, sings the dastardly sheriff, Jack Rance. Conductor Oleg Caetani makes his Seattle Opera debut with this production. As part of Seattle Opera's ongoing effort to encourage young people to attend the opera, **May 23** has been designated ***Fanciulla* Family Day**. For students under the age of 18, \$15 tickets are available for the May 23 matinee performance (tickets are limited to 4 students for every one adult ticket purchased).

Complete artist lists and biographies as well as more production information are available at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

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## Amusements Open For Holiday Shoppers

On December 8, Amusements: Gifts of Artistic Expression will be open for extended hours, 12 noon to 7:00 p.m., for holiday shopping. Located in the Kreielsheimer Promenade level of McCaw Hall, the shop features opera- and ballet-related items, books, CDs, jewelry, and creative toys for children. Amusements is a joint venture run by Seattle Opera and Pacific Northwest Ballet, and all sales benefit those organizations.

The McCaw Hall Box Office will be open for ticket purchases during the same hours, 12 noon to 7:00 p.m.

## Young Artists Opera Tickets On Sale

Tickets for the Young Artists opera, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, go on sale December 8. This tale of tested fidelity features singers from the 2003/04 Young Artists Program and is directed by Josemaria Condemini and conducted by Dean Williamson. All performances take place at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

## Opera Dates

### McCaw Hall, Seattle, WA:

*Carmen*: January 10, 11,\* 14, 16, 17, 18,\* 21, 23, 24, 25,\* 28, and 30

*Ariadne auf Naxos*: February 28, 29,\* March 3, 5, 6, 7,\* 10, 12, and 13

*La fanciulla del West*: May 8, 9,\* 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 23\*

\*Sunday matinee

### Theatre At Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA:

*Così fan tutte*: April 2, 3, 4,\* 9, 10\*

(April 10 only has 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. performances)

\*Sunday matinee

## Single Ticket Information

*Carmen, Ariadne, Fanciulla*: \$37 to \$125

*Fanciulla Family Day (5/23)*: \$15 for students under the age of 18, \$37 to \$125 for adults

*Così fan tutte*: \$15 to \$28

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

Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, VISA, MasterCard

On-Line Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

All performances except those of *Così fan tutte* are in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle's new opera house. *Così fan tutte* takes place at the Meydenbauer Theatre in Bellevue. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinees for all the operas begin at 2:00 p.m.

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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 dedicates its inaugural season in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall to Dorothy Priscilla "Patsy" Bullitt Collins.

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