



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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**GHOST SHIP SIGHTED AT SEATTLE OPERA:
GRAND PRODUCTION OF WAGNER'S
FLYING DUTCHMAN OPENS AUGUST 4**

**Greer Grimsley to sing role of the Dutchman,
Jane Eaglen to sing Senta**

**2006 International Wagner Competition finalist
Jason Collins debuts as the Steersman**

Seattle—Long recognized as one of the leading presenters of Wagner's operas in the United States, Seattle Opera revives its critically acclaimed production of *The Flying Dutchman* (*Der fliegende Holländer*) this summer. The red sails of the Dutchman's ghostly ship unfurl on August 4 and the opera stays docked at McCaw Hall for eight performances: August 4, 8, 11, 14, 17, 19 (matinee), 22, and 25, 2007. Tickets start at \$25 and are available by calling 206.389.7676/800.426.1619 or through www.seattleopera.org.

The ghostly tale of a sailor doomed to sail the seas forever may seem familiar to moviegoers—both Wagner and the screenwriters of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy recognized the romantic appeal of the tale of the Dutchman, who can only go ashore every seven years to seek true love. In Wagner's version, the faithful Senta frees the Dutchman from his curse through her love.

The production is directed by Stephen Wadsworth, whose many credits at Seattle Opera include the company's *Ring des Nibelungen* (which returns in 2009) and Seattle Opera's new co-production with the Metropolitan Opera: *Iphigenia in Tauris* (opening October 13). Conductor Asher Fisch returns to Seattle Opera after winning the company's Artist of the Year Award for his conducting of last season's *Der Rosenkavalier* and the 2006 International Wagner Competition.

Baritone Greer Grimsley and soprano Jane Eaglen, who both have won Seattle Opera Artist of the Year Awards for previous Wagnerian roles here, portray the doomed Dutchman and his mortal love Senta. American tenor Jay Hunter Morris sings Erik. Making their Seattle Opera debuts in this production are Australian bass Daniel Sumegi (Senta's father, Daland) and American tenor Jason Collins (the Steersman). Collins previously sang at McCaw Hall as one of the finalists of Seattle Opera's 2006 International Wagner Competition. American mezzo-soprano Luretta Bybee sings Mary. The same cast appears for all performances.

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THE FLYING DUTCHMAN
(Der fliegende Holländer)

Revival of 1989 Seattle Opera Production

Music and libretto by Richard Wagner
In German with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

8 Performances: August 4, 8, 11, 14, 17, 19m, 22, and 25, 2007

Tickets: \$25 to \$162

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 25 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; the matinee begins at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Dresden, Königliches Sächsisches Hoftheater, January 2, 1843

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: January 1972 and January 1989

Artists

The Dutchman: Greer Grimsley

Senta: Jane Eaglen

Daland: Daniel Sumegi†

Erik: Jay Hunter Morris

Mary: Luretta Bybee

The Steersman: Jason Collins†*

Conductor: Asher Fisch

Stage Director: Stephen Wadsworth

Set Designer: Thomas Lynch

Costume Designer: Dunya Ramicova

Lighting Designer: Joan Arhelger

Chorusmaster: Beth Kirchhoff

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets and Costumes: Seattle Opera (Original Production, Premiered 1989)

One cast only

†Company debut

*Jason Collins was a finalist in the 2006 International Wagner Competition.

Jane Eaglen's performances are made possible by generous financial support from the James and Sherry Raisbeck Lead Singers' Fund.

Sponsors: Poncho and the Kreielsheimer Endowment Fund.

Season Sponsors: Boeing and Microsoft.

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. Seattle Opera's Wagner tradition began under the leadership of the company's founding general director, Glynn Ross, and has continued since 1983 under General Director Speight Jenkins. 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.