



FOR RELEASE: March 12, 2008

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Seattle Opera Celebrates Young Artists Program's First Decade

Opera luminaries—all former Young Artists—to perform at Gala event

Seattle—Seattle Opera will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Young Artists Program at their 2008 Gala “Springtime Serenade” on April 26 at McCaw Hall. An all-star lineup of former Young Artists will perform, including 2006 Richard Tucker award-winner Lawrence Brownlee and 2007 Richard Tucker award-winner Brandon Jovanovich.

The centerpiece of the evening will be a recital of favorite arias by former Young Artists Lawrence Brownlee, Jennifer Hines, Brandon Jovanovich, David Korn, Anya Matanovic, and Morgan Smith, all scheduled to sing in an intimate reunion of program alumni. The evening’s festivities will also include a champagne reception, dinner, and dancing at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

“What a joy—it will be wonderful to have Larry, Jennifer, Brandon, David, Anya, and Morgan return to Seattle Opera,” says Education Director Perry Lorenzo. “They will sing for us in celebration of Seattle Opera’s decade of cultivating the new generation of opera stars.”

Since its inception in 1998, the Young Artists Program has helped to launch the careers of many singers: Former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage and have appeared with more than fifty opera companies in the U.S. and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and many others.

Seattle Opera's annual Gala benefits Seattle Opera's Education Department programs: Opera Goes to School (a one-week workshop for fourth- and fifth-grade students), Experience Opera (lectures and dress rehearsal tickets for high school students), and the Young Artists Program (training for emerging opera singers embarking upon their professional careers). Each season, the Seattle Opera Education Department presents up to 250 events attended by more than 25,000 young people and adults throughout the Puget Sound region.

Following a champagne reception at 6:00 p.m., attendees can enjoy the recital on the mainstage, followed by a gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Peter McCoy in McCaw Hall's Grand Lobby. The "Springtime Serenade" continues until midnight with dancing in "Club Impromptu" on the South Promenade.

"You can look forward to a memorable evening filled with fabulous food, entertainment, and springtime fun, all for a great cause," said Seattle Opera's Director of Development, Mary Kaufman-Cranney.

About the Artists: In 2006, Lawrence Brownlee became the first opera singer to win both the Richard Tucker Award and the Marian Anderson Award in the same year. Brownlee will be featured as Arturo in Seattle Opera's *I Puritani* this May. Jennifer Hines appears frequently at the New York City Opera and returns to Seattle Opera as Flosshilde and Schwertleite in the 2009 *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Brandon Jovanovich, who won the 2007 Richard Tucker Award, garnered rave reviews for his portrayal of Cavaradossi in Seattle Opera's just-completed *Tosca*. Male soprano David Korn has sung here in the role of Nireno in Handel's *Julius Caesar* and the Shepherd Boy in Puccini's *Tosca*. Anya

Matanovic debuted at New York City Opera in 2007 and has sung Mimì in Baz Luhrmann's version of Puccini's *Bohème* in Los Angeles and Papagena in Mozart's *Magic Flute* at Santa Fe Opera. Morgan Smith will next be seen at Seattle Opera as Riccardo in Bellini's *I Puritani*. He performed as Silvio in *Pagliacci* this January and sang the title role of *Don Giovanni* here in 2007.

2008 SEATTLE OPERA GALA "Springtime Serenade"

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, April 26, 2008

\$350 (Friend, individual) to \$10,000 (Distinguished Sponsor Table, for up to 10 guests)

Net proceeds benefit Seattle Opera's education and outreach programs.

For more information, see www.seattleoperagala.org.

Early reservations are suggested as seating is limited. Those interested in attending this event or hosting a table should contact Jennifer Johnson at 206.676.5535 or jennifer.johnson@seattleopera.org.

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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. 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 operagoers from four continents, nineteen countries, and forty-nine states.

"Springtime Serenade" Sponsors

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