



**For Release: August 8, 2005**

**Hans Wolf,  
Former Seattle Opera Associate Conductor and Chorusmaster,  
Dies at Age 92**

**Seattle**—On Friday, August 5, 2005, former Seattle Opera associate conductor Hans Wolf died in Seattle after suffering a massive heart attack.

Wolf joined Seattle Opera as chorusmaster and associate conductor in 1969 and conducted many of the company's *Opera-in-English* performances. His last performances at the Seattle Opera podium were of Mozart's *Abduction From the Seraglio* in 1982. He also served as the company's director of community outreach, leading cooperative community productions of opera with such organizations as Pacific Lutheran University's Summer Opera in Tacoma, Seattle Junior Programs at the Center Playhouse, and Renton Community Opera.

"Hans was one of the warmest, most charming people I have ever known," said Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins. "Curiously, he would never allow anyone to celebrate his age. No ninetieth birthday celebration. He wanted to keep working—enjoying music, finding new singers—and he succeeded in his goal until the very end."

Wolf retired from Seattle Opera in 1983. He kept an office at the company's administrative headquarters, however, regularly showing up a few minutes before the office opened. ("If he was late, say two or three minutes," said Tavia Crowder, Seattle Opera's receptionist, "he'd say, 'I'm late this morning; take it off my pay check.' It was his little joke. I loved it.") Wolf's work in the past decade centered on the *Neglected Masterpieces of Operetta* productions he presented through Community Outreach Productions, of which he was artistic director. At the time of his death, he was in the process of preparing a presentation of an Offenbach operetta, *La Périchole*.

Wolf was also a co-founder of Tacoma Opera. Other credits include conducting for Riverside Opera Association in California as well as for several orchestras in Europe, including Vienna Symphony, the Mozarteum Orchestra, and the orchestras of Augsburg, Graz, Mannheim, and Wiesbaden.

Two years ago, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels proclaimed March 30, 2003, Hans Wolf Day in honor of Wolf's nearly five-decades-long contribution to the arts in Seattle. The proclamation described Wolf as "a

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well-loved ambassador for the arts throughout the region” and noted that “with passion and professionalism, Hans Wolf has contributed to the audiences’ increased appreciation for opera and promoted it as a more accessible art form.” Other honors for Wolf include a Seattle Opera Guild award in 1975, which cited Wolf’s “dedication and loyalty to Seattle Opera” and added: “He radiates music wherever he goes, and the places are many.”

The memorial for Hans Wolf will be a concert presentation of Offenbach’s *Périchole* at Town Hall in Seattle on November 12, 2005.

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Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera has developed into one of the leading opera companies in the United States. The company, which currently presents five productions a year, is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances. Seattle Opera’s summer presentations, particularly of Wagner’s *Ring des Nibelungen*, have been acclaimed often and widely as the Pacific Northwest’s premier cultural events.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers’ Endowment, 4Culture, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, City Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, and Washington State Arts Commission. Seattle Opera is a participant in the Seattle Arts Stabilization Project, a joint venture of the Seattle Arts Stabilization Committee and the National Arts Stabilization Fund.

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