



**Five Judges Announced for International Wagner Competition:  
Stephanie Blythe, Dr. Dorothea Glatt, Sir Peter Jonas, Peter Kazaras,  
and Stephen Wadsworth**

**Tickets to Competition Finals Go On Sale April 10**

Seattle—Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins announced today the five judges selected for the first International Wagner Competition. The judges will be Stephanie Blythe, Dr. Dorothea Glatt, Sir Peter Jonas, Peter Kazaras, and Stephen Wadsworth. All have significant experience with the vocal requirements of Wagner's operas.

Mezzo-soprano Blythe and tenor Kazaras have established international careers on the opera stage. Both have sung in Seattle Opera's *Ring* as well as other productions here. Blythe made her company debut as Fricka in 2000 and returned to the company for Fricka and the second Norn in the 2001 and 2005 *Ring*. Kazaras appeared in the 2005 *Ring* as Loge, a role he also sang in the 1995, 2000, and 2001 presentations. Kazaras was recently named artistic director of Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program and has directed two productions for the Program as well as Bellini's *Norma* in 2003 for Seattle Opera's main stage.

Wadsworth is the director of Seattle Opera's third and current *Ring* production, last presented in 2005. He has also directed Wagner's *Fliegende Holländer* (in 1989) and *Lohengrin* (in 1994 and 2004) as well as several other productions for the company.

Glatt served as the assistant to Wolfgang Wagner, director of the Bayreuth Festival, for twenty-eight years. She has judged opera competitions (including several focusing on Wagnerian singers) in Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States.

Sir Peter Jonas will have served 15 years as the director of the Bavarian State Opera by the time he retires in July. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the chairman of the Deutsche Opernkonzferenz, an association of German-speaking opera houses.

*More biographical information about the judges can be found online in the IWC section of [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).*

## **International Wagner Competition General Information**

### **Eight Finalists Compete for Two \$15,000 Prizes**

As previously announced, the International Wagner Competition on August 19 will feature eight opera singers between the ages of 25 and 40, competing for **two \$15,000 prizes**. The finalists will sing a selection of Wagner's arias in concert with a full orchestra led by conductor Asher Fisch.

#### **Finalists:**

Carolyn Betty, soprano, auditioned in New York

Jason Collins, tenor, auditioned in Seattle

Dorothy Grandia, soprano, auditioned in London

Paul McNamara, tenor, auditioned in Berlin

Miriam Murphy, soprano, auditioned in London

James Rutherford, baritone, auditioned in London

Andrew Lindsay Sritheran, tenor, auditioned in London

Carsten Wittmoser, bass, auditioned in Berlin

The International Wagner Competition is made possible by a generous contribution from the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences. The competition is an extension of Seattle Opera's commitment to Wagner and has been established to identify and recognize opera singers who demonstrate clear promise of an important career in the Wagner repertoire.

## **Ticket Information**

International Wagner Information

August 19, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Tickets: \$42 to \$52

**Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 800-426-1619 or 206-389-7676**

Order Online: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

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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.

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