



**For Immediate Release**

**Jane Eaglen Sings Tribute to Birgit Nilsson  
During Seattle Opera's *Die Fledermaus***

**Seattle**—In honor of the Swedish dramatic soprano Birgit Nilsson, whose death at the age of 87 was announced Wednesday, soprano Jane Eaglen sang the “Liebstod” from Richard Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde* during the second act of *Die Fledermaus* on opening night, January 14. Eaglen is currently appearing at Seattle Opera as Rosalinde in Johann Strauss, Jr.’s *Fledermaus*.

Eaglen met Nilsson on the fortieth anniversary of the latter’s Metropolitan Opera debut as Isolde when Eaglen was singing the same role at the Met. Seattle Opera presented Nilsson as Turandot in 1969.

Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins introduced the tribute to Nilsson onstage during Act II of *Die Fledermaus*. Jenkins knew Nilsson and had admired her from the first time that he heard her sing, as Isolde in 1959. Speaking of Nilsson, Jenkins said, “Her voice, musicality, and dramatic conviction in all that she sang and her absolute fidelity to the music and text made her not just one of the greatest singers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but also one of the greatest in the 400-year history of opera.”

###

## ***DIE FLEDERMAUS***

Music by Johann Strauss, Jr.

Libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée after Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy's *Réveillon*

In English with English Captions

### **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**Nine Performances: January 14, 15m, 18, 20, 21, 22m, 25, 27, and 28, 2006**

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 15 minutes with two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

**Single Ticket Prices: \$43-\$141**

**Student Rush Tickets: \$20 (available 2 hours before performance at McCaw Hall)**

**Special Student Tickets, January 22 and 27: \$15 (limit 2 per order)**

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

**Order Through the Web: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)**

*Die Fledermaus is sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle.*

*Jane Eaglen's performance is sponsored by the James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment.*

---

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, The Wallace Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs (City of Seattle), 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.