



FOR RELEASE: July 21, 2006

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SEATTLE OPERA'S "NEW VISIONS" EXHIBITION CELEBRATES CREATIVITY OF STAFF

First Exhibition Scheduled for *Der Rosenkavalier*, August 5 through 26

SEATTLE, WA—As a longtime employer of hundreds of local artists—scenic artists, costumers, woodworkers and welders, to name a few—Seattle Opera has a wide range of professional artistic talent among its staff. To celebrate and promote the work of these talented individuals, Seattle Opera has established an art show called *New Visions*. One employee's original artworks will be selected for display in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall during the run of each of this season's five operas.

New Visions is headed by and draws on the expertise of coordinator Sirke Salminen, the financial administrator for the Opera's Technical Department (and a photographer and artist) and a three-member art committee that will select the artists to be featured. Serving on the art committee for this season are Stefano Catalani, Bellevue Arts Museum Curator; Judy Whetzel, Seattle Opera Board member and former PONCHO President; and Speight Jenkins, Seattle Opera General Director.

The works on display may be available for sale, depending upon the artist's wishes. All sales will be handled by Amusements, the gift shop located in McCaw Hall.

The Mindful Photography of Amy Martindale

Seattle Opera Music Librarian Shows "The Small and the Delicate"

For the run of Richard Strauss's opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, August 5 to 26, *New Visions* features the photography of Seattle Opera music librarian Amy Martindale. Besides her study of computer science at Western Washington

University and, ten years later, performance production at Cornish College of the Arts, highlights from Martindale's professional history include a stint as a park ranger and working as a software engineer. Martindale shoots film on a 30-year old Nikon SLR—a present from her father in 1990, when she was setting off to be a park ranger. Though stunned by the incredible landscapes that she saw at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Martindale was drawn to the small and delicate: patterns and textures in the rock, beetle-prints in the sand, and flowers springing out of crevices.

Martindale's artist statement reveals her creative impulse: "It's all too easy to walk down the street without noticing what's around us. If we do look around, it is to see what our expectations have primed us to see, instead of perceiving what is actually there. When I walk down the street with a camera in my hands, it breaks that habit for me... I am particularly drawn to flowers and foliage because of their incredible richness—the vibrancy and gradation of color, the sensual sweep of leaf and petal."

Examples of Martindale's photography can be found online at www.mindfulphoto.com. More information about the 2006/07 Seattle Opera season is available at www.seattleopera.org.

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. In 2006, Seattle Opera presents its first International Wagner Competition, made possible by the Charles Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: 4Culture, ArtsFund, The Boeing Company, 98.1 KING FM, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs (City of Seattle), Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, and Washington State Arts Commission.