



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Seattle Opera Announces 2005 *Ring* Cast

Ewa Podles to Sing Erda in her Seattle *Ring* Debut

Greer Grimsley to Sing his First Seattle Wotan

Jane Eaglen and Alan Woodrow to Return as Brünnhilde and Siegfried

Seattle—Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, officially announced today the cast for the company's 2005 presentation of Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen*. New to the production is Polish contralto Ewa Podles (Seattle Opera's Artist of the Year in 2002/03), who will sing Erda and the First Norn. American baritone Greer Grimsley, who sang Gunther and Donner in the 2001 presentation, will sing Wotan and the Wanderer in 2005. (Grimsley also appeared in Seattle Opera's new production of *Parsifal* in the summer of 2003, singing Amfortas.)

English soprano Jane Eaglen and Canadian tenor Alan Woodrow return as Brünnhilde and Siegfried. Woodrow, who was injured in a gym before the 2001 opening, sang the first cycle from the side of the stage and withdrew from the remaining two cycles. English tenor Richard Berkeley-Steele, who took over for Woodrow in 2001, will now take on the role of Siegmund. Also among those returning are baritone Richard Paul Fink as Alberich, soprano Margaret Jane Wray as Sieglinde, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe as Fricka, and bass Stephen Milling as Fasolt and Hunding (see cast list). As previously announced, Robert Spano, music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, will conduct his first *Ring*. (Artists' biographies are available on Seattle Opera's Web site: www.seattleopera.org.)

The 2005 *Ring* is directed by Stephen Wadsworth with sets designed by Thomas Lynch, costumes designed by Martin Pakledinaz, and lighting designed by Peter Kaczorowski. This team, highly active in theater as well as opera, has worked on several Seattle Opera productions, including Wagner's *Fliegende Holländer*, presented in 1989, and *Lohengrin*, presented in 1994.

Sets and costumes for this production were built by Seattle Opera's Scenic Studios and Costume Shop. Hair and Makeup for the 2005 *Ring* will be designed by Denise O'Brien, who was the designer in 2001.

Seattle Opera has long been recognized as the Wagner capital of America. It has a tradition of presenting Wagner's operas and has presented every one of the composer's ten major operas. Seattle Opera first began presenting the complete *Ring* (as the composer intended: in a one-week period) in 1975. The Wadsworth production of Wagner's *Ring*, Seattle Opera's third *Ring* production, was presented in summer 2001 and inspired some of the best reviews in the company's history. (Quotes from *Ring* reviews are available on Seattle Opera's Web site: www.seattleopera.org.)

(over)

Seattle Opera in Summer 2005

Der Ring des Nibelungen

Music and Libretto by Richard Wagner

In German with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle, Washington

2005 Ring Ticket Information

Early-Bird Cycle Ticket Prices (good through August 2004): \$204 to \$960

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

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

Cycle tickets first go on sale to donors at the end of March 2004. Ticket priority will be given to donors at designated levels. (The donation deadline for ticket priority is March 15, 2004.)

Cycle tickets go on sale to the general public on November 15, 2004.

OPERA	CYCLE I	CYCLE II	CYCLE III
<i>Das Rheingold</i> (7:00 p.m.)	(Sun) August 7	(Mon) August 15	(Tues) August 23
<i>Die Walküre</i> (7:00 p.m.)	(Mon) August 8	(Tues) August 16	(Wed) August 24
<i>Siegfried</i> (6:30 p.m.)	(Wed) August 10	(Thurs) August 18	(Fri) August 26
<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (6:30 p.m.)	(Fri) August 12	(Sat) August 20	(Sun) August 28

Producer: Speight Jenkins

The Artists

Conductor: Robert Spano

Director: Stephen Wadsworth

Set Designer: Thomas Lynch

Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting Designer: Peter Kaczorowski

Hair and Makeup Designer: Denise O'Brien

Fire Designer and Flight Technical Director: Charles T. Buck

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Brünnhilde: Jane Eaglen

Wotan/The Wanderer: Greer Grimsley

Siegfried: Alan Woodrow

Alberich: Richard Paul Fink

Sieglinde/Third Norn: Margaret Jane Wray

Sigmund/Froh: Richard Berkeley-Steele

Hagen: Gidon Saks

Fricka/Second Norn: Stephanie Blythe

Erda/First Norn: Ewa Podles

Loge: Peter Kazaras

Fasolt/Hunding: Stephen Milling

Donner/Gunther: Gordon Hawkins

Mime: Thomas Harper

Fafner: Gabor Andrasy

Waltraute (*Götterdämmerung*): Nancy Maultsby

Freia/Ortlinde/Gutrune: Marie Plette

Woglinde/Forest Bird: Wendy Hill

Wellgunde/Rossweisse: Laura Tucker

Flosshilde/Siegrune: Beth Clayton†

Helmwige: Jennifer Wilson

Gerhilde: TBA

Waltraute (*Walküre*): Stacey Rishoi†

Grimgerde: Fredrika Brillembourg †

Schwertleite: Luretta Bybee

Bear: Steven Goldstein

† Seattle Opera debut

Information about the *Ring* on Seattle Opera's Web Site

For the Press and For the Public

"Jenkins Talks About Casting the 2005 *Ring*"

Ring Facts

Artists' Biographies

Production Photos

Ordering Tickets

Making a Donation

Wagner Section (which including a Wagner biography, Speight Jenkins' recollections of Seattle Opera's Wagner productions, synopses, review quotes and excerpts)

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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. Seattle Opera dedicates its inaugural season in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall to Dorothy Priscilla "Patsy" Bullitt Collins.

TR 12/05/03