



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

RING NEWS

For Release November 4, 2004

Cycle Tickets On Sale November 15, 2004 For Seattle Opera's 2005 *Ring des Nibelungen*

Robert Spano to Conduct *Ring*, Jane Eaglen and Alan Woodrow to Return as Brünnhilde and Siegfried

Seattle—Cycle tickets for Seattle Opera's 2005 presentation of Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen* go on sale to the general public on November 15, 2004. Cycle tickets are priced from \$244 to \$1,152 and are expected to sell out quickly. Seattle Opera will present three full cycles of the *Ring* starting August 7, 2005, and ending August 28, 2005.

American conductor Robert Spano will conduct his first *Ring* cycle for Seattle Opera. Spano made his Seattle Opera debut in 2001 conducting Britten's *Billy Budd*. He has conducted nearly every major North American orchestra as well as being a frequent opera conductor at major houses around the world. Under his direction, the Atlanta Symphony garnered three Grammy Awards in 2003 for Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* (Telarc recording).

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.

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 and was seen this season as Telramund in Wagner's *Lohengrin*, will sing Wotan and the Wanderer in 2005. 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 (Seattle Opera Artist of the Year in 2003/04) as Fasolt and Hunding.

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 and 2004.

(over)

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.

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.)

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

Cycle Ticket Prices on sale November 15, 2004: \$244 to \$1,152

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

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

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> (6:00 p.m.)	(Mon) August 8	(Tues) August 16	(Wed) August 24
<i>Siegfried</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Wed) August 10	(Thurs) August 18	(Fri) August 26
<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Fri) August 12	(Sat) August 20	(Sun) August 28

2005 *Ring* Production Team

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

2005 *Ring* Artists

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

(over)

Loge: Peter Kazaras
Fasolt/Hunding: Stephen Milling
Donner/Gunther: Gordon Hawkins
Mime: Thomas Harper
Fafner: Gidon Saks
Waltraute (*Götterdämmerung*): Nancy Maultsby
Freia/Ortlinde/Gutrune: Marie Plette
Woglinde/Forest Bird: Wendy Hill
Wellgunde/Rosswesse: Laura Tucker
Flosshilde/Siegrune: Jennifer Hines†
Helmwige: Caroline Thomas
Gerhilde: Holly Hall
Waltraute (*Walküre*): Stacey Rishoi†
Grimgerde: Fredrika Brillembourg †
Schwertleite: Luretta Bybee
Bear: Steven Goldstein
† Seattle Opera debut

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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 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.

Seattle Opera would like to thank the major financial supporters of Seattle Opera's *Ring*: Marion O. Garrison, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Craig M. and Joan S. Watjen, Bagley Wright Fund, The Boeing Company, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and *Washington CEO*.