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## **Evan Rogister to make Seattle Opera debut conducting *Bluebeard's Castle with Erwartung***

Seattle—Seattle Opera announced today that Evan Rogister will conduct the company's double bill of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* and Schoenberg's *Erwartung*, in his Seattle Opera debut. Rogister replaces previously announced conductor Vjekoslav Sutej, who has withdrawn due to illness.

A former conducting fellow at Houston Grand Opera, Rogister led productions of Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* and Puccini's *Bohème* with the company. He has served as assistant conductor at Pennsylvania's Haddonfield Symphony, and has studied at Juilliard and the Peabody Conservatory. Recent credits include Prokofiev's *Amour des Trois Oranges* with the Bochum Symphony and his debut with the Prague Chamber Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2009, Rogister begins a two-year tenure as principal assistant conductor at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, where he will lead performances of Mozart's *Zauberflöte*, and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and *Bohème*.

The double-billed *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung*, Robert Lepage's one-of-a-kind production, pairs Bartók's scintillating fable, *Bluebeard's Castle*, with Schoenberg's dream-

like monodrama, *Erwartung*, for an unforgettable journey into the human subconscious. Artist of the Year recipient John Relyea is featured as Duke Bluebeard, and joined by the stunning Polish mezzo-soprano Malgorzata Walewska, making her Seattle Opera debut as his overly curious wife, Judith. Susan Marie Pierson captivates as the Woman whose elusive lover drives her to madness in *Erwartung*.

*Bluebeard's Castle* with *Erwartung* opens at McCaw Hall on February 21, and runs through March 7. Single tickets start at \$25 and are available online at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org), by calling 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619, or by mobile phone at [mobile.seattleopera.org](http://mobile.seattleopera.org).

*Please note the following artists list for Bluebeard's Castle with Erwartung replaces all previously published or announced cast lists. Further information about the 2008/09 season can be found at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org).*

***BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE***

Music by Béla Bartók  
Libretto by Béla Balász  
In Hungarian with English Captions

***ERWARTUNG***

Music by Arnold Schoenberg  
Libretto by Marie Pappenheim  
In German with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

8 Performances: February 21, 22m, 25, and 28, March 1m, 4, 6, and 7, 2009

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours including one intermission  
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

*Bluebeard's Castle*

Premiere: Budapest Opera, May 24, 1918  
Seattle Opera Premiere

*Erwartung*

Premiere: Prague, Neues Deutsches Theater, June 6, 1924  
Seattle Opera Premiere

*Bluebeard* Cast:

Duke Bluebeard: John Relyea  
Judith: Malgorzata Walewska†  
Prologue: Arthur Woodley

*Erwartung* Cast:

The Woman: Susan Marie Pierson

Conductor: Evan Rogister†  
Production: Robert Lepage†  
Stage Director: François Racine†  
Set and Costume Designer: Michael Levine†  
Lighting Designer: Robert Thomson†  
Media Effects Designer: Laurie-Shawn Borzovoy†  
Sets and costumes: Canadian Opera Company

† Company Debut

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### **About Seattle Opera**

SEATTLE OPERA'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEDICATES THE 2008/09 SEASON TO SPEIGHT JENKINS IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS GENERAL DIRECTOR.

Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera is 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's Wagner tradition began under the leadership of the company's founding general director, Glynn Ross, and has continued since 1983 under General Director Speight Jenkins. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 35 cycles of the *Ring* (three different productions), in addition to acclaimed productions of all the other major operas in the Wagner canon. Seattle Opera has achieved the highest per capita attendance of any major opera company in the United States and draws operagoers from four continents, nineteen countries, and forty-nine states.