



For Release: June 8, 2006

**American Soprano Carol Vaness Sings Her First Marschallin
In *Der Rosenkavalier*
At Seattle Opera**

Single Tickets on Sale June 12

Seattle—Carol Vaness sings her first Marschallin in Seattle Opera’s production of Richard Strauss’s *Rosenkavalier*, which opens August 5. While having a diverse repertoire that extends from Handel and Gluck to Barber and Poulenc, the soprano has been especially celebrated for her Mozart roles—among them Elettra, the Countess, Fiordiligi, Donna Anna and Donna Elvira, and Vitellia—and for her portrayal of Puccini’s Tosca. Vaness has long been recognized as one of the more engaging singers on the opera stage, winning over audiences not only through the beauty of her voice, but also through the interpretations she offers. Now she is preparing one of the most intriguing characters in opera: the Marschallin, Marie Thérèse.

“When Speight Jenkins asked me to be the Marschallin, I was thrilled because I’ve wanted to sing the role for twenty years,” said Vaness, who arrives in Seattle this month to begin rehearsals. “I do think it has some of the most beautiful music ever written. There just isn’t anything like it.”

For Seattle Opera’s production of *Der Rosenkavalier*, Vaness will be joined by English mezzo-soprano Alice Coote as Octavian in her Seattle Opera debut, Irish soprano Frances Lucey as Sophie, and English bass Peter Rose as Baron Ochs. Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmair makes his Seattle Opera debut as Faninal.

Asher Fisch, who conducted Seattle Opera’s *Parsifal* in 2003 and *Lohengrin* in 2004, will be on the podium. Dieter Kaegi, director of Seattle Opera’s 1997 production, will return to the company. The sets and costumes are by Bruno Schwengl.

“Carol Vaness has the life experience and the beauty as well as the vocal, musical and dramatic capacity to be a great Marschallin. I am very happy to be able to present her in a role that should suit her so well,” said Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins.

Vaness has sung with the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Seattle Opera, among others. The Marschallin is her tenth leading role with Seattle Opera. She made her company debut as Massenet’s *Manon* in 1985. For more information on the production, including complete biographies of the artists, go to www.seattleopera.org.

Tickets for Seattle Opera’s performances of *Der Rosenkavalier* go on sale June 12.

DER ROSENKAVALIER

Music by Richard Strauss
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal
In German with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
8 Performances: August 5, 9, 12, 15, 18, 20m, 23, and 26, 2006
Approximate Running Time: 4 hours and 20 minutes including two intermissions
Evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m., August 20 matinee begins at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets go on sale June 12, 2006: \$49 to \$135
Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619
Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

Artists

Marschallin: Carol Vaness
Octavian: Alice Coote†
Sophie von Faninal: Frances Lucey
Baron Ochs: Peter Rose
Herr von Faninal: Wolfgang Holzmaier†
An Italian Tenor: Vinson Cole
Marianne: Mary McLaughlin
Valzacchi: Doug Jones
Annina: Graciela Araya
Commissioner of Police: Andrew Greenan
Marschallin's Majordomo/Innkeeper: William Saetre
Faninal's Majordomo: Simeon Esper†
Notary: TBA
Noble Orphans: Dana Johnson, Emily Clubb, Gail Neil
Milliner: Julianne Gearhart
Vendor of Pets: Noah Baetge†
Lackeys/Waiters: Wesley Rogers, Barry Johnson, Leodigario del Rosario, Brian Box

Conductor: Asher Fisch
Stage Director: Dieter Kaegi
Scenery Designer: Bruno Schwengl
Costume Designer: Bruno Schwengl

Sets & Costumes: Built by Seattle Opera

One cast only
†Company debut

Julianne Gearhart, Wesley Rogers, and Leodigario del Rosario are former Seattle Opera Young Artists.

International Wagner Competition

August 19, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$42 to \$52

Also in August, Seattle Opera will hold the finals for its first International Wagner Competition, features eight singers from the United States, Europe, and New Zealand competing for two \$15,000 prizes. Details of the competition can be found 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 Arts and Sciences.

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