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**SEATTLE OPERA ANNOUNCES 2007/08 SEASON:
New Co-Production of *Iphigenia in Tauris* with Metropolitan Opera Premieres in Seattle**

Seattle Premiere of *I Puritani*

Return of *The Flying Dutchman*, *Tosca*, and *Pagliacci*

Seattle—Seattle Opera’s general director, Speight Jenkins, officially announced the company’s 2007/08 season today. The season begins August 4, 2007 and runs through May 17, 2008 with performances at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. The 2007/08 season opens with Wagner’s *Flying Dutchman* (*Der fliegende Holländer*) in August, followed by the premiere of a new co-production with the Metropolitan Opera of Gluck’s *Iphigenia in Tauris* (*Iphigénie en Tauride*) in October, 2007. In January 2008, Seattle Opera presents Leoncavallo’s beloved classic *Pagliacci*, featuring the brilliance of tenor Antonello Palombi as Canio and the stunning soprano Nuccia Focile as Nedda (also heard earlier as Iphigenia). Director Chris Alexander’s production of Puccini’s *Tosca* follows in February and March 2008. The season concludes in May 2008, with the Seattle premiere of Bellini’s *Puritani*, one of the greatest *bel canto* operas ever composed.

“I am delighted to offer five very intense and theatrical works containing some of opera’s greatest moments,” said Speight Jenkins. “Our casts are largely American, but also include singers from many countries, and they represent the best of opera today. I hope that the passion of those onstage will be equaled by the response of our audiences.”

The dynamic team of director Stephen Wadsworth and designer Thomas Lynch, acclaimed by Seattle audiences for their work on Seattle Opera’s current *Ring* cycle, opens the season with Seattle Opera’s revival of *Flying Dutchman*. Tony award-winning costume designer Martin Pakledinaz rejoins the *Ring* team for the new production of *Iphigenia in Tauris*, Seattle Opera’s first-ever collaboration with the Metropolitan Opera. From soprano Jane Eaglen and heroic baritone Greer Grimsley in Wagner’s *Flying Dutchman*, to soprano Nuccia Focile and tenor William Burden in *Iphigenia*, to tenor Antonello Palombi and baritone Gordon Hawkins in *Pagliacci*, Seattle Opera’s 44th season will offer a thrilling array of artists who have proved themselves to Seattle audiences, in combination with a compelling collection of newcomers such as bass Daniel Sumegi ((Daland) in *Dutchman* and sopranos Lisa Daltirus and Michele Capalbo (the two *Toscas*), and tenors Frank Poretta and Brandon Javonovich (the two *Cavaradossis*) in *Tosca*.

Seattle Opera's 2007/08 season closes in May, 2008 with *I Puritani*, a work of consummate genius that is performed rarely because it demands such a wide range from all four principals. *I Puritani* at Seattle Opera features sopranos Norah Amsellem and Eglise Gutiérrez (the Elviras), tenors Lawrence Brownlee and John Osborn (the Arturos), baritones Mariusz Kwiecien and Morgan Smith (the Riccardos), and basses John Relyea and Denis Sedov (the Georgios). New set designs by Robert A. Dahlstrom and lavish period costumes from the Metropolitan Opera designed by Peter J. Hall will provide a sumptuous atmosphere for Seattle audiences.

"This is a year marked by our first co-production with the Metropolitan Opera," said Jenkins. "These five works explore different styles of composing, and each opera offers a very different aspect of life. The unifying theme in all is an emphasis on human desire."

*For information on individual artists in the 2007/08 season, visit www.seattleopera.org/operas/, choose an opera, and click on **Artists**.*

Additional copies of this press release can be downloaded from www.seattleopera.org/news/

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

Der fliegende Holländer

Music by Richard Wagner
In German with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

8 Performances: August 4, 8, 11, 14, 17, 19m, 22, and 25, 2007

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 25 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; matinee begins at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Dresden, Königliches Sächsisches Hoftheater, January 2, 1843

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: January 1972 and January 1989

Artists

The Dutchman: Greer Grimsley

Senta: Jane Eaglen

Daland: Daniel Sumegi†

Erik: Jay Hunter Morris

Mary: Luretta Bybee

The Steersman: Jason Collins†*

Conductor: Asher Fisch

Stage Director: Stephen Wadsworth

Set Designer: Thomas Lynch

Costume Designer: Dunya Ramicova

Lighting Designer: Peter Kaczorowski

Chorusmaster: Beth Kirchhoff

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets and Costumes: Seattle Opera

One cast only

†Company debut

*Jason Collins was a finalist in the 2006 International Wagner Competition.

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IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS
(Iphigénie en Tauride)

Seattle Opera Premiere
New Co-Production with the Metropolitan Opera

Music by Christoph Willibald Gluck
Libretto by Nicolas François Guillard
In French with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
8 Performances: October 13, 14m, 17, 20, 21m, 24, 26, and 27, 2007

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

Premiere: Paris, Opéra, May 18, 1779

Artists

Iphigenia: Nuccia Focile/Marie Plette*
Orestes: Brett Polegato
Pylades: William Burden
Thoas: Phillip Joll
Diana: Michele Losier†
A Scythian: David Adam Moore
A Minister of Thoas: David Adam Moore

Conductor: Gary Thor Wedow
Stage Director: Stephen Wadsworth
Set Designer: Thomas Lynch
Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting Designer:
Choreographer: Daniel Pelzig
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets and Costumes: Seattle Opera

*On October 14, 21, and 26, 2007, only

†Company debut

PAGLIACCI

Music by Ruggero Leoncavallo
Libretto by Ruggero Leoncavallo
In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

8 Performances: January 12, 13m, 16, 19, 20m, 23, 25, and 26, 2008

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

Premiere: Milan, Teatro Dal Verme, May 21, 1892

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: November 1966, May 1974, and November 1983

Artists

Canio: Antonello Palombi/John Uhlenhopp*
Nedda: Nuccia Focile/Eva Batori*
Tonio: Gordon Hawkins/Mark Holland†*
Silvio: Morgan Smith
Beppe: Doug Jones

Conductor: Dean Williamson
Stage Director: Bernard Uzan
Set Designer: Bernard Uzan with Claude Girard
Lighting Designer: Donald Thomas
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets: L'Opéra de Montréal
Costumes: Seattle Opera

* On January 13, 20, and 25, 2008, only
† Company debut

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TOSCA

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa

In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

9 Performances: February 23, 24m, 27, 29, March 1, 2m, 5, 8, and 9m, 2008

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Rome, Teatro Costanzi, January 14, 1900

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: May 1964, February 1969, May 1977, September 1987,
September 1993, February 2001

Artists

Flora Tosca: Lisa Daltirus†/Michele Capalbo†*

Mario Cavaradossi: Frank Porretta†/Brandon Jovanovich†*

Baron Scarpia: Greer Grimsley/Gary Simpson*

Cesare Angelotti: Jason Grant

Spoletta: Steven Cole

Conductor: Vjekoslav Sutej

Stage Director: Chris Alexander

Set Designer: Thierry Bosquet

Costume Designer: Thierry Bosquet

Lighting Designer: Connie Yun

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets and Costumes: San Francisco Opera

* On February 24, 29, March 2, and 9, 2008, only

† Company debut

I PURITANI

Seattle Opera Premiere

Music by Vincenzo Bellini
Libretto by Count Carlo Pepoli
In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

8 Performances: May 3, 4m, 7, 10, 11m, 14, 16, and 17, 2008

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 30 minutes including two intermissions
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Paris, Théâtre Italien, January 24, 1835

Artists

Elvira: Norah Amsellem/Eglise Gutiérrez†*
Arturo: Lawrence Brownlee/John Osborn*
Riccardo: Mariusz Kwiecien/Morgan Smith*
Giorgio: John Relyea/Denis Sedov*
Enrichetta: Fenlon Lamb†
Sir Bruno Robertson: Simeon Esper

Conductor: Edoardo Müller
Stage Director: Linda Brovsky
Set Designer: Robert A. Dahlstrom
Costume Designer: Peter J. Hall
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets: Seattle Opera
Costumes: The Metropolitan Opera

* On May 4, 11, and 16, 200, only

† Company debut

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About Seattle Opera

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 opera-goers from four continents, nineteen countries, and forty-nine states.