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**Press Contacts:** Hilda Cullen, 206.676.5543, [hilda.cullen@seattleopera.org](mailto:hilda.cullen@seattleopera.org)  
Sara Schweid, 206.676.5559, [sara.schweid@seattleopera.org](mailto:sara.schweid@seattleopera.org)  
**Visuals Contact:** Monte Jacobson, 206.676.5545, [monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org](mailto:monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org)

**Preview photos for the upcoming season may be downloaded from:**  
[http://www.seattleopera.org/news/image\\_library\\_photos.aspx](http://www.seattleopera.org/news/image_library_photos.aspx)

**Single Tickets Now on Sale  
for  
Seattle Opera's Eclectic 2008/09 Season**

**Strauss's riveting *Elektra*, Bizet's romantic *Pearl Fishers*,  
Premiere of *Bluebeard's Castle* with *Erwartung*, and  
a new production of Mozart's classic *Marriage of Figaro***

**and  
Young Artists Performances**

Seattle—Single tickets are now on sale to the public for all remaining productions in the Seattle Opera 2008/09 season as well as for all Young Artists performances. After opening the season with Verdi's masterful *Aida*, Seattle Opera's eclectic 2008/09 season continues with *Elektra*, *The Pearl Fishers*, a one-of-a-kind double bill created by Robert Lepage (Cirque du Soleil's *Kà* and the Met's new *Ring*) of *Bluebeard's Castle* with *Erwartung*, and a new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, a musical setting of Sophocles' riveting tale of revenge, returns to Seattle in October and November. Seattle audiences will be introduced to American soprano Janice Baird, who makes her local debut in the title role. Baird will

return to sing Brünnhilde in the 2009 *Ring*. Two-time Seattle Opera Artist of the Year Chris Alexander directs this powerful drama. The Saturday/Wednesday cast also features the Seattle Opera debuts of German soprano Irmgard Vilsmaier as Chrysothemis, and British mezzo-soprano Rosalind Plowright as Klytämnestra, and the return of Canadian tenor Richard Margison as Aegisthus. In the Sunday/Friday cast, American sopranos Jayne Casselman and Carolyn Betty make their Seattle debuts singing the roles of Elektra and Chrysothemis. American mezzo-soprano Luretta Bybee sings Klytämnestra, and American tenor Thomas Harper sings Aegisthus. American Bass-baritone Alfred Walker makes his Seattle Opera debut as Orestes.

In January, Seattle Opera will present Georges Bizet's sparkling and exotic *Pearl Fishers*. Director Kay Walker Castaldo makes her Seattle Opera debut with this stunningly beautiful production, featuring American soprano Mary Dunleavy in her Seattle Opera debut as the priestess Leïla, American tenor William Burden as her love interest Nadir, and American baritone Christopher Feigum to round out the triangle as Zurga. The Friday/Sunday cast features the Seattle Opera debuts of Russian soprano Larissa Yudina as Leïla and American tenor Brian Stucki as Nadir, and the return of former Seattle Opera Young Artist baritone David Adam Moore as Zurga.

In February and March, Seattle Opera will bring a one-of-a-kind production to audiences, with a double-bill of Béla Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* with Arnold Schoenberg's *Erwartung*. These innovative and haunting productions were crafted by Robert LePage, creator of Cirque du Soleil's *Kà* and the Met's new *Ring*. Canadian bass-baritone John Relyea (Seattle Opera Artist of the Year for his 2005 performance of the Four Villains in *The Tales of Hoffmann*) sings the role of the brooding Duke Bluebeard, and Polish mezzo-soprano Malgorzata Walewska makes her Seattle Opera debut as his overly curious wife, Judith. American soprano Susan Marie Pierson stars in the one-woman opera *Erwartung*.

The season concludes with Peter Kazaras's new production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. American bass Oren Gradus and French baritone Nicolas Cavallier share the title

role in their Seattle Opera debuts. Mariusz Kwiecien, Seattle Opera Artist of the Year for his 2007 Don Giovanni, returns as Count Almaviva in the Opening Night cast, and American soprano Twyla Robinson makes her Seattle Opera debut as the Countess. Danish baritone Johannes Mannov and American soprano Jessica Jones will sing the Count and the Countess in the Friday/Sunday cast. American soprano Christine Brandes and Cuban-American soprano Elizabeth Caballero share the role of Susanna, and Seattle favorites mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle and bass Arthur Woodley return as Marcellina and Dr. Bartolo. Kazaras reunites with conductor Dean Williamson to present Mozart's beloved comedy.

This fall, Seattle Opera's Young Artists will perform *Tatyana's Letter: Lyrical Scenes* from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, in communities throughout Washington. This English-language adaptation of Tchaikovsky's timeless opera features the program's ten up-and-coming opera singers. The Young Artists return to Bellevue in March and April to perform a fully-staged production of Benjamin Britten's shimmering and magical *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Tickets for all mainstage performances and for the Young Artists' spring opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, are now on sale to Seattle Opera subscribers and the general public through Seattle Opera's website, by phone, mobile phone, and in-person at the ticket office. Tickets for the Young Artists' fall touring performances are available through each venue. For more information about the Young Artists program, including tour dates and ticket information, visit [www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/index.aspx](http://www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/index.aspx).

Through its website, Seattle Opera offers a "select-your-seat" service that allows ticket buyers to see the exact location of their purchase as well as the view of the stage from their seats at McCaw Hall. Ticket-buyers browsing the internet from a mobile phone can use [mobile.seattleopera.org](http://mobile.seattleopera.org) to access an ExpressTix interface to purchase opera tickets. For more information on all available ticket options, visit [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

## Seattle Opera Ticket Information

### ***Elektra, The Pearl Fishers, Bluebeard's Castle with Erwartung, and The Marriage of Figaro***

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/ 800.426.1619

Online Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

Mobile Orders: [mobile.seattleopera.org](http://mobile.seattleopera.org)

*Elektra*: October 18, 19m, 22, 25, 26m, 29, 31, and November 1, 2008

*The Pearl Fishers*: January 10, 11m, 14, 17, 18m, 21, 23, and 24, 2009

*Bluebeard's Castle with Erwartung*: February 21, 22m, 25, 28, March 1m, 4, 6, and 7, 2009

*The Marriage of Figaro*: May 2, 3m, 6, 8, 9, 10m, 13, 15, and 16, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street

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

Ticket Prices for *Elektra, The Pearl Fishers, Bluebeard's Castle with Erwartung, and The Marriage of Figaro*: \$25 to \$172

### **Young Artists Program**

*Tatyana's Letter*: Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*

November performances in Wenatchee, Twisp, Mount Vernon, Friday Harbor, Eastsound and Auburn.

For more information, visit [www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/index.aspx](http://www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/index.aspx).

### *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

March 27, 28, 29m, and April 3, 4, and 5m, 2009

Evenings at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE 6th St, Bellevue, Washington

Ticket Prices: \$15 (student), \$35 (adult), and \$125 (Patron Ticket – includes a \$90 tax-deductible donation)

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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.

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