



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE: September 23, 2009

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Seattle Opera's General Director Called Up to Major Leagues

Speight Jenkins to Throw First Pitch at September 29 Mariners Game

Seattle—Seattle Opera's General Director Speight Jenkins has been called up to the Major Leagues. On September 29, Jenkins—a die-hard Mariners fan—will throw the ceremonial first pitch at the Mariners game against the Oakland Athletics.

Jenkins, a right-hander from Dallas, Texas, has led the Seattle Opera—one of the strongest major league teams in the opera world—for 26 years. He combines passion, opera savvy, and charisma to get the very best out of his players and to put on a great show. His first love is opera, but he's always liked baseball—so when the Mariners called him up, he was happy to rise to the challenge.

Although he has produced more than 164 productions during his tenure with Seattle Opera, he realizes that baseball is an entirely different beast. “If you think I was anxious about putting on the *Ring*, that's nothing compared to the terror I have about getting one pitch over the plate!” Jenkins said.

The Mariners contributed to Speight's terror by discounting tickets to all Seattle Opera subscribers, board, and staff.

“Let the show—no matter what—go on,” says Jenkins.

Seattle Opera is providing additional pre-game talent to the match-up on the 29th: tenor Dimitri Pittas—who will make his Seattle Opera debut as Alfredo in the company's production of Verdi's *Traviata* on October 17—will sing the national anthem.

Tickets to Seattle Opera Night at the Mariners are available at

http://www.mlb.com/sea/ticketing/special_group.jsp?group=opera.

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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. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 38 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 and fifty states.