



For Wednesday, March 15, 2006

***The Turn of the Screw* Opens March 31
At Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue WA**

Six Performances of Britten's Ghost Opera

Male Soprano Sings Miles

Seattle—Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program returns to Bellevue for six performances of Britten's opera *The Turn of the Screw*. Based on Henry James' ghost story, the opera is an eerie drama about a governess sent to a remote English country house to take care of two children. *The Turn of the Screw* **opens March 31** and runs April 1, 2m, 7, 8, and 9m.

The Young Artists' performances of *The Turn of the Screw* feature two different casts. "Young opera singers in their twenties join Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program to develop their artistic craft and professional skill. They work on arias and scenes, they sing for communities statewide, and they share their art with school children. Best of all, they perform an opera each year, each Young Artist embodying an opera character: a Figaro, a Mimì, a Peter Quint. Many of the Young Artists go on to sing principal roles on Seattle Opera's mainstage and in opera houses around the country," said Education Director Perry Lorenzo. Each year, Seattle Opera receives several hundred applications from the U.S. and Canada for the ten to twelve positions available in the Young Artists Program.

Male Soprano Sings Miles

This year, for the first time, Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program received an application from and accepted into the program a male soprano. **David Korn**, a 25-year-old graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, will sing **Miles in all performances** of *The Turn of the Screw*. It is a role that he had previously sung at Aspen Opera Theater, and his acceptance into the program was one of the reasons that Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins decided to stage this twentieth-century opera, a first for the Young Artists Program (previously, the program had only presented Mozart, Rossini, and Puccini operas). Britten is widely recognized as the most significant composer of English opera in the last hundred years. His opera *Peter Grimes*, a standard in today's repertoire, is a twentieth-century masterpiece.

Peter Kazaras, who served as Master Artistic Instructor for the Young Artists Program last fall, returns to direct *The Turn of the Screw*. Previously, he has directed Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro* for the Young Artists Program and Bellini's *Norma* for Seattle Opera. A tenor who has appeared frequently at Seattle Opera, Kazaras has sung the role of the mysterious Peter Quint in *The Turn of the Screw* several times (including in Seattle Opera's 1993 production).

Dean Williamson conducts members of the Auburn Symphony in the pit. Williamson has conducted all of the Young Artists' operas since the program began in 1998. He made his Seattle Opera mainstage debut last season, conducting Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *The Turn of the Screw* are on sale now for \$15 for students and \$35 for adults. A special \$125 patron ticket reflects the actual cost of producing the opera and helps support the Young Artists Program. All tickets can be purchased through the Seattle Opera Ticket Office, 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619, or in person at 1020 John Street, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.seattleopera.org.

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

Music by Benjamin Britten
Libretto by Myfanwy Piper
Sung in English

Performed at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington

March 31, April 1, 2m, 7, 8, and 9m, 2006

Estimated Running Time: 2 hours, 13 minutes including one intermission
Evenings 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinees 2:00 p.m.

Single Ticket Prices: \$15 Student, \$35 Adult

Patron Ticket: \$125 (\$90 counts as tax-deductible contribution)

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 800-426-1619 or 206-389-7676

Order through the Web: www.seattleopera.org

Artists

The Governess: Robyn Driedger-Klassen (3/31, 4/2, 4/8), Alexis Martin (4/1, 4/7, 4/9)

Quint/Prologue: Wesley Rogers (3/31, 4/2, 4/8), Ted Schmitz (4/1, 4/7, 4/9)

Miles: David Korn

Flora: Maureen McKay (3/31, 4/2, 4/8), Anya Matanovic (4/1, 4/7, 4/9)

Mrs. Grose: Teresa S. Herold (3/31, 4/2, 4/8), Lucia Cervoni (4/1, 4/7, 4/9)

Miss Jessel: Sarah Heltzel (3/31, 4/2, 4/8), Elizabeth Schultz (4/1, 4/7, 4/9)

Conductor: Dean Williamson

Director: Peter Kazaras

Set Designer: Donald Eastman

Lighting Designer: Connie Yun

Costume Designer: Cynthia Savage

Hair and Makeup Designer: Danyale Cook

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.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, 4Culture, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, City Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, and Washington State Arts Commission.