



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **Seattle Performances Added to 2008/09 Young Artists Fall Tour**

**Free Lunch Concert at City Hall  
November 13**

***Tatyana's Letter: Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin*  
At Benaroya Hall on November 14**

### **New Music Director Brian Garman Joins the Program**

Seattle—Seattle Opera's 2008/09 Young Artist Program kicked off this month, welcoming ten up-and-coming opera singers, a new Music Director, and the announcement of Seattle performance dates for the Young Artists' statewide fall tour.

This season the Young Artists will perform *Tatyana's Letter*, an English-language adaptation of Tchaikovsky's lyric opera *Eugene Onegin* in communities across Washington. The tour begins November 1 at the Performing Arts Center of Wenatchee, and will take them to Mount Vernon, Friday Harbor, Eastsound, and Auburn, before concluding at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp on November 21.

In mid-November, the singers will return to Seattle for a local performance of *Tatyana's Letter* in the Ilsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall. The November 14 performance will give operagoers a unique opportunity to see these exciting young singers, performing in English with piano accompaniment, in an intimate setting—the Recital Hall seats just over 500 people—for a cost of only \$20 per ticket.

“This new arrangement is a sleek, streamlined adaptation of *Eugene Onegin* that retains all the best-loved tunes while allowing the young artists to cut to the heart of this story of impetuous young love,” said Artistic Director Peter Kazaras.

On November 13, downtown residents and workers can catch a free lunchtime performance of an adaptation of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* at Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, at noon. The City Hall performance will be the only public showing of this English-language opera, which the Young Artists will present at schools and events throughout the season.

A new addition to the Young Artists Program staff this season is Maestro Brian Garman, the program's music director. Garman has conducted at opera companies across the country, including Pittsburgh Opera, Wolf Trap Opera Company, and New York City Opera. Last season he conducted the Young Artists' double bill of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Ravel's *Enfant et les sortilèges*. As music director, he will conduct the spring production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Garman will also supervise the musical aspects of the program, mentoring the development of the young artists over the course of the season. “How fantastic for Maestro Brian Garman to bring his experience and artistry to the continued development of the musical excellence of our Young Artists Program,” said Perry Lorenzo, Seattle Opera's Education Director. “We all loved his conducting last season, and we're looking forward to his *Midsummer Night's Dream*.”

During the next 20 weeks, the Young Artists will receive top-rate vocal coaching, instruction in diction, languages, acting, movement, stage makeup, and how to function effectively in the opera industry. In addition to their fall tour and spring production, they will participate in several

Seattle Opera outreach programs, helping to bring opera to more than 10,000 students through the company's *Experience Opera* and *Opera Goes to School* programs.

In *Tatyana's Letter*, the Young Artists focus on the musical highlights of Tchaikovsky's poignant musical version of Alexander Pushkin's narrative poem, *Eugene Onegin*. This English-language adaptation, performed with piano accompaniment, is a heartrending tale of love and death told through achingly beautiful music. Their adaptation of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* will present the famous siblings in modern dress with cell phone and latte in hand. For additional information on the Young Artists Program, including full biographies of the artists, ticket information, and performance schedules, visit

<http://www.seattleopera.org/affiliates/young/index.aspx>.

## **Young Artists in Performance**

### **Fall 2008**

#### ***Tatyana's Letter***

Lyrical Scenes from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*

November 14, 8:00 p.m.

Address: Ilsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 200 University Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$20

Tickets available online at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org), and through Seattle Opera Ticket Office, 206.389.7676.

#### ***Hansel and Gretel***

November 13, noon

Address: Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle

Tickets: Free

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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. 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 and fifty states.