



SEATTLE OPERA

SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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Press Contacts: Hilda Cullen, 206.676.5543, hilda.cullen@seattleopera.org
Rosemary Jones, 206.676.5559, rosemary.jones@seattleopera.org
Visuals Contact: Monte Jacobson, 206.676.5545, monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org

Seattle Opera Announces 2007/08 Young Artists

**Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*
And Donizetti's *Rita* to be featured in
Friday Harbor, Eastsound,
Mount Vernon, Wenatchee, Edmonds, Kirkland,
And Seattle**

**Ravel's *Enchanted Child* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* will be
performed in the spring at Theatre at Meydenbauer Center**

Seattle—Seattle Opera today announced the selection of its 2007/08 Young Artists as the company prepares to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of its Young Artists Program in 2008. The Young Artists will perform two one-act operas in the fall—Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Donizetti's *Rita*—in communities throughout Washington state, and they will return to Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in the spring to perform a double-bill of Ravel's *Enchanted Child* (*L'enfant et les sortilèges*) and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*.

Over the last decade, singers participating in the program have become familiar to opera-lovers throughout the state through community opera performances and appearances on the Seattle Opera mainstage. This year's Young Artists are Noah Baetge, Eugene Chan, Leena Chopra, Margaret Gawrysiak, Megan Marie Hart, Emily Hindrichs, Joshua Jeremiah, David Lara, Ani Maldjian, Michael Anthony McGee, Elizabeth Pojanowski, and Marcus Shelton. Complete biographies of these singers can be found at www.seattleopera.org.

For this year's tour, Young Artists Program Artistic Director Peter Kazaras selected Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, a bittersweet masterpiece about love and marriage from the composer of *West Side Story* and *Candide*, and Gaetano Donizetti's *Rita*, a rarely performed comic opera from the composer of *The Elixir of Love*. Performances start on October 26 at the San Juan Community Theater (Friday Harbor, WA) and conclude November 17 at the Capitol Hill Arts Center (Seattle, WA).

These "black box style", complete one-act operas are performed in English accompanied by piano. All roles are sung by members of Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program: exciting young opera singers who are embarking on their professional careers.

In the spring, the Young Artists perform a fully staged opera at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. This season the program presents two one-act operas in Bellevue: Ravel's unique *Enchanted Child (L'enfant et les sortilèges)* and Puccini's comic masterpiece, *Gianni Schicchi*.

Tickets for both the fall and spring performances will go on sale on September 4, 2007 to Seattle Opera subscribers. An online pre-sale will begin on September 9 for the general public, followed by phone and in-person ticket office sales on September 10, 2007. For more information, visit www.seattleopera.org/calendar.

About the Young Artists Program

Seattle Opera launched the Young Artists Program in 1998 under the leadership of General Director Speight Jenkins, Education Director Perry Lorenzo, and conductor Dean Williamson. The twelve Seattle Opera's Young Artists for the 2007/08 season were chosen from nearly 600 national applicants. The singers will perform in venues throughout Washington as well as receive top-rate vocal coaching and instruction in diction, acting, movement, dance, stage combat, makeup, and how to function effectively in the opera industry. The Program has helped to launch the careers of many singers: former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage as well as at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and many others.

The Young Artists participate in several Seattle Opera outreach programs, helping to bring opera to more than 10,000 students. One program, *Experience Opera*, is designed to engage high school students in a lively opera curriculum. Another, *Opera Goes to School*, is designed to involve young children in the process of producing an opera. For the past three seasons, the program has offered an adaptation of Wagner's *Rheingold* called *Theft of the Gold: The Ring Begins*. This adaptation, created by Seattle Opera and sponsored in part by the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, will be performed in schools around Washington in February.

Young Artists in Performance

Fall 2007

Trouble in Tahiti and *Rita*

**Seattle Performances: Tickets available online at www.seattleopera.org
and through Seattle Opera Ticket Office**

November 16 and 17: Capitol Hill Arts Center, 8:00 p.m.

Address: 1621 12th Avenue, Seattle

Ticket Price: \$20.00

Ticket Information: 206.389.7676 or www.seattleopera.org

Outside of Seattle: Tickets available through venues listed

October 26: San Juan Community Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Address: 100 Second St, Friday Harbor

Ticket information (price available from venue): 360.378.3210

October 27: Orcas Center, 7:30 p.m.

Address: 917 Mt. Baker Rd, Eastsound

Ticket information (price available from venue): 360.376.2281

October 28: McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon, 2:00 p.m.

Address: 2501 East College Way, Mount Vernon

Ticket information (price available from venue): 360.416.7727

November 3: Wenatchee, 7:30 p.m.

123 North Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee

Ticket information (price available from venue): 509.663.2787

November 4: Edmonds Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Address: 410 Fourth Ave., Edmonds.

Ticket information (price available from venue): 425.275.9595

November 10: Kirkland Performance Center, 8:00 p.m.

Address: 350 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland

Ticket information (price available from venue): 425.893.9900

Spring 2008

The Enchanted Child (L'enfant et les sortilèges) and *Gianni Schicchi*

**Tickets available online at www.seattleopera.org,
and through Seattle Opera Ticket Office.**

March 28, 29, 30m, April 4, 5, 6m, 2008

Performed at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington

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

Ticket Prices: \$125 (Patron Ticket – includes a \$90 tax-deductible donation)

\$ 35 (adult)

\$ 15 (student)

Ticket Information: 206.389.7676 or www.seattleopera.org

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 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 and fifty states.

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