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**Seattle Opera Announces 2005/06 Young Artists  
Including First Male Soprano and First Contralto in Program**

**Singers Selected for Great American Voices Military Base Tour**

**Young Artists In Performance  
At Auburn, Bellingham, Bremerton, Everett and Kirkland**

**Britten's *Turn of the Screw* Selected for Young Artists Opera in Bellevue**

Seattle—Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins announced today that twelve singers have been selected for the 2005/06 Young Artists Program. For the first time, the singers picked include a male soprano (David Korn) and a contralto (Teresa S. Herold). Also, for the first time, the Young Artists Program will present Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, in a new production directed by Peter Kazaras.

“New and exciting this year are two voice types that we have not had in the program before: a contralto and a true male soprano,” said Seattle Opera Education Director Perry Lorenzo. Male sopranos (highest male voice type) have enjoyed “a real renaissance” in major opera houses over the past ten years, added Lorenzo, as U.S. companies reintroduce baroque operas and the works of 20th-century composer Benjamin Britten into their repertoire. Similarly, although several early works were scored for the contralto (the lowest female voice type), this voice type is far rarer than the soprano or mezzo-soprano. Recently, singers like contralto Ewa Podles (Erda in Seattle Opera's *Ring des Nibelungen*) have created a greater demand for true contralto singers in major opera houses.

This year's Young Artists are mezzo-soprano Lucia Cervoni, soprano Robyn Driedger-Klassen, mezzo-soprano Sarah Heltzel, contralto Teresa S. Herold, baritone Jeremy Alan Kelly, male soprano David Korn, soprano Maureen McKay, soprano Alexis Martin, soprano Anya Matonovic, tenor Wesley Edwin Rogers, tenor Ted Schmitz, and soprano Elizabeth Schultz. (More information on each singer can be found at Seattle Opera's Web site: <http://www.seattleopera.org/company/young/artists.aspx>)

Driedger-Klassen, Heltzel, Kelly, McKay, and Schmitz are returning to the program, and the rest are participating in the Young Artists Program for the first time. Rogers, however, is not unknown to Seattle Opera audiences. He has appeared here as Maintop in Britten's *Billy Budd*, the Fourth Jew in Richard Strauss's *Salome*, and, most recently, Trin in Puccini's *Fanciulla del West*.

In October and November, two casts of six singers each will take to the road to present the **Young Artists in Performance** in Everett, Auburn, Bellingham, Bremerton, and Kirkland, Washington.

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This year, the Young Artists were also selected to be part of the **Great American Voices Military Base Tour**, a new program sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts with the support of the Boeing Company and Opera America. The tour involves 24 opera companies performing at 39 military bases across the country. The Great American Voices concert will take place at the Kitsap Naval Base, Keyport, Washington, on November 10. (Further information about Great American Voices Military Base Tour can be found at <http://www.arts.gov/national/GAV/>)

For the Young Artists in Performance, the cast will begin the evening with a selection from Stephen Sondheim's *Little Night Music* and continue with pieces from classic works by Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti, Offenbach, Verdi, and Weill, among others. The evening will end with the finale from Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. On February 11, 2006, the Young Artists will finish their concert tour by performing with the Yakima Symphony in Yakima, Washington.

Another important feature of the Young Artists Program is the singers' participation in Seattle Opera's elementary school program, **Opera Goes to School**. This year, the Young Artists will perform *Theft of the Gold: The Ring Begins* (an adaptation of Wagner's *Rheingold*) with students in eight elementary schools located in Seattle, Bellevue, and Yakima, Washington. These productions will take place throughout February 2006.

The Young Artists Program concludes with **Britten's *Turn of the Screw*** in a fully staged production at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. The idea for doing Britten's opera, based on the famous ghost story by Henry James, came from Lorenzo. "He knew I wanted to do something a little off the beaten track," said Kazaras, who also directed last season's Young Artists in Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro*.

Dean Williamson will return to the program to conduct *The Turn of the Screw*. Williamson has led all previous performances of the Young Artists Opera as well as the recent mainstage production of Offenbach's *Contes des Hoffmann* at Seattle Opera.

Tickets for *The Turn of the Screw* will go on sale in November and be available through Seattle Opera's Ticket Office, 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619, or Seattle Opera's website, [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

### **2005/06 Young Artists Program**

More than 400 applicants sent in resumes to Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program for this season. During the final auditions, Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins and Lorenzo listened to dozens of live auditions in Seattle and in New York.

Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program is now entering its eighth year and has become known for launching promising young singers on their careers in opera. "Since we opened McCaw Hall in 2003, almost every opera has featured a former Young Artist in a mainstage role. Look at the singers in this year's *Ring* and the upcoming *End of the Affair*," said Lorenzo. "It is the best proof of the strength of the program and the type of singers that we develop."

This summer, in Seattle Opera's latest production of Wagner's *Ring*, former Young Artist Jennifer Hines made her mainstage debut as Flosshilde and Rosseweisse while Sarah Heltzel (who entered the program in 2004/05) made her mainstage debut as Siegrune. Other former Young Artists appearing on Seattle Opera's mainstage last season included Lawrence Brownlee as Arcadio in Catán's *Florencia del Amazonas*,

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Julianne Gearhart as Olympia in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann* and the Countess/Maid in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Heather Parker as Antonia in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*, and Joseph Rawley as the Innkeeper/Captain in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. In October, 2004/05 Young Artist Edlyn de Oliveira makes her mainstage debut as Sarah in Jake Heggie's *End of the Affair*.

### **Young Artists In Performance**

Tickets for the Young Artists in Performance are handled through the performance venue. Tickets are **not** available through Seattle Opera's Ticket Office. See the listing below for more information. Further information about the venues can be found in the calendar section of Seattle Opera's Web site, [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

**Historic Everett Theatre, Everett, WA**, October 29, 8:00 p.m.  
**Concert with Everett Symphony Chamber Orchestra**  
For tickets, call 425-258-1605

**Riverside Theatre, Auburn, WA**, November 4, 7:30 p.m.  
For tickets, call 253-931-3043

**Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham, WA**, November 6, 2:00 p.m.  
For tickets, call 360-734-6080

**Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland, WA**, November 12, 2005, 8:00 p.m.  
For tickets, call 425-893-9900

**Kitsap Golf and Country Club, Bremerton, WA**, November 13, 2:00 p.m.  
For tickets, call 360-377-0166

### **Britten's *Turn of the Screw***

The Young Artists will perform Britten's *Turn of the Screw* for 6 performances: March 31, April 1, 2 (matinee), April 7, 8, and 9 (matinee), 2006. All evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and all matinees at 2:00 p.m. at Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

Tickets for this event **will be available** through the Seattle Opera Ticket Office. Tickets will go on sale to donors and subscribers on November 7, 2005. Tickets will go on sale to the general public November 14, 2005. Further information on the production is available at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org). Previous Young Artists Operas at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center have sold out.

### **Britten's *Turn of the Screw* Ticket Information**

All performances take place at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington  
Tickets go on sale November 7, 2005, to Seattle Opera subscribers and donors  
Tickets go on sale November 14, 2005, to the general public

Tickets: \$15 student, \$35 adult, \$125 patron ticket  
Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619  
Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, VISA, MasterCard  
Online Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

## Seattle Opera Press Release, Page 4

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.

The Young Artists Program gratefully acknowledges the support of the Wallace Foundation, the Boeing Company, Microsoft Corporation, PONCHO, Artsfund, Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission, 4Culture, William Randolph, Hearst Foundation, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Peach Foundation, The Herman Lissner, Smith Barney, Bank of America, Quality Business Systems, Bellevue Arts Commission, Standing Ovation, BRAVO! Club, Puget Sound Energy, Kibble & Prentice, Inc., and Bellevue Convention Center Authority.