



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **Seattle Opera Announces 2006/07 Young Artists**

**Young Artists Perform Two Chamber Operas in the Fall**  
*The Tragedy of Carmen and The Maid Becomes the Mrs!*

**Verdi's *Falstaff* Selected for Young Artist's Opera in April**  
*Falstaff* Tickets On Sale September 25

Seattle—Director Speight Jenkins today announced the twelve young artists who will be taking part in Seattle Opera's 2006/07 Young Artists Program. This year's Young Artists are tenor Noah Baetge from Seattle WA, soprano Holly Boaz from Vashon WA, mezzo-soprano Lucia Cervoni from London Ontario (Canada), contralto Teresa S. Herold from Fort Fairfield ME, baritone Joshua B. Jeremiah from Myerstown PA, baritone David Lara from Buhler KS, baritone Jonathan Lasch from Minneapolis MN, soprano Caitlin Lynch from Detroit MI, soprano Ani Maldjian from Los Angeles CA, soprano Anya Matanovic from Issaquah WA, bass-baritone Michael Anthony McGee from Dallas TX, and tenor Marcus Glenn Shelton from Edmonds WA.

Baetge, Boaz, Jeremiah, Lara, Lasch, Lynch, Maldjian, McGee, and Shelton join the Young Artists Program for the first time this season. Cervoni, Herold, and Matanovic were in the program last season. Seattle residents Baetge and Shelton however are no strangers to the company. Both performers have appeared on Seattle Opera's mainstage. Baetge sang the Animal Vendor in Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* this August and Shelton, a member of the Seattle Opera Chorus, has appeared in several productions on the mainstage.

The twelve Young Artists were chosen from approximately 500 applicants. Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins and tenor Peter Kazaras, who was named Artistic Director of the Young Artists Program last spring, held auditions in Seattle and New York to determine the final twelve.

### **Young Artists Program Stages Two Chamber Productions This Fall**

With Kazaras in the newly created position of Artistic Director for the Young Artists Program, two chamber productions will be offered in October and November rather than the concert recitals previously done in the fall by the Young Artists Program. Kazaras selected Peter Brook's *Tragedy of Carmen* and Pergolesi's intermezzo, *The Maid Becomes the Mrs! (La serva padrona)*.

Kazaras, who appeared in Peter Brook's *Tragedy of Carmen* during its original New York run, thinks the 85-minute English adaptation of Bizet's opera is well-suited to the Young Artists audience. "The beauty of this is that even people who know nothing else about opera have heard about this show," said Kazaras. In this stripped-down traveling version of *The Tragedy of Carmen* ("the entire production needs to fit in a box that can be put into the trunk of a car," Kazaras noted), the singers' mission will be to convey the passion of Bizet's music and Brook's retelling of the story. "The Young Artists Program is all about training singers, and this show will be one that the singers really make happen for the audience," said Kazaras.

Kazaras directed Seattle Opera's new production of Bellini's *Norma*, and he has directed the Seattle Opera Young Artists productions of Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro* (2004) and Britten's *Turn of the Screw* (2005). The noted tenor also has appeared in many Seattle Opera productions including, most recently, Loge in the 2005 *Ring des Nibelungen*. Kazaras served as a judge for Seattle Opera's International Wagner Competition in August.

Pergolesi's comic opera *The Maid Becomes the Mrs! (La serva padrona)* will also be performed by the Young Artists this fall. This *commedia del arte* classic about a maid who eventually marries her miserly master, has been adapted into English for performance in community venues and local high schools by Kazaras.

Education Director Perry Lorenzo, expressed his delight at how Kazaras is changing the program's fall training to emphasize complete productions. "It is an opera singer training program, so we're doing operas for the full 20 weeks," he said.

### **Young Artists in Performance, Fall 2006**

The Young Artists are scheduled to perform Peter Brook's *The Tragedy of Carmen* in Keyport, Cheney, Auburn, Wenatchee, Kirkland, Edmonds, and Seattle. This production opens October 27 at the Naval Undersea Museum, sponsored by the Kitsap Naval Base, Keyport, Washington.

*The Maid Becomes the Mrs!* will be performed at select venues including St. John's Episcopal Church in Olympia, Washington, on November 5.

### **Opera Goes to School**

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 in February 2006.

### **Falstaff in Bellevue**

The Young Artists Program concludes in the spring with Verdi's *Falstaff*, in a fully staged production at the Theatre in Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. Verdi's *Falstaff*, a comedy in three acts based on Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, is ideally suited for Seattle Opera's young artists, said Lorenzo.

Dean Williamson will return to the program to conduct *Falstaff*. Williamson has led all previous performances of the Young Artists opera productions as well as Seattle Opera's mainstage production of Offenbach's *Contes des Hoffmann* in 2005.

Tickets for *Falstaff* go on sale September 25 and will 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).

Following performances in Bellevue, the Young Artists will perform *Falstaff* with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra on April 14 in Yakima, Washington.

## **Young Artists in Performance Ticket Information**

### ***The Tragedy of Carmen and The Maid Becomes the Mrs!***

Tickets for the November 17 performance of *The Tragedy of Carmen* at the Capitol Hill Arts Center in Seattle, Washington, go on sale September 25 and will be available through the Seattle Opera Ticket Office, 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619, [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org). Tickets for this performance only will be **\$20**.

Please contact individual performance venues for tickets to public performances **NOT** taking place at the Capitol Hill Arts Center. Tickets for the performance will **NOT** be available through Seattle Opera's Ticket Office. Further information about the venues and ordering can be found in the calendar section of Seattle Opera's Web site, [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

### ***Tragedy of Carmen***

#### **By Peter Brooks**

Kitsap Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, WA, October 27, 7:00 p.m.

Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA, October 29, 1:30 p.m.

Auburn/Riverside Theatre, Auburn, WA, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Bank of America Performing Arts Center, Wenatchee, WA, November 4, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah, WA, November 5, 3:00p.m.

Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland, WA, November 11, 8:00 p.m.

Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds, WA, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Arts Center, Seattle, WA, November 17, 8:00 p.m.

### ***Maid Becomes the Mrs!***

#### **By Giovanni Pergolesi**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia, WA, November 5, 3:00 p.m.

## **Young Artists Opera in the Spring**

### ***Falstaff***

#### **By Giuseppe Verdi**

The Young Artists will perform Verdi's *Falstaff* for four performances: March 30, and April 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m. and April 1 at 2:00 p.m. All performances will take place at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA

Tickets for *Falstaff* go on sale to donors and subscribers on September 18. Tickets will go on sale to the general public September 25. Further information on the production is available at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

### ***Falstaff* Ticket Information**

March 30, April 1 (matinee), 4, 6, and 7

The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington

**Ticket Prices: \$35 (Adult) \$15 (Student) \$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)

### **March 31 Seattle Opera Gala**

A sixth performance of *Falstaff* will be part of the Seattle Opera Gala on March 31. This full-evening event will include a pre-performance reception, *Falstaff*, and a dinner with the Young Artists. For more information, please contact Jennifer Johnson, Seattle Opera Special Events Manager, [jennifer.johnson@seattleopera.org](mailto:jennifer.johnson@seattleopera.org) or 206-676-5535.

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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. In 2006, Seattle Opera presented its first International Wagner Competition, made possible by the Charles Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences.

Seattle Opera is sponsored in part by 4Culture, 98.1 Classical KING FM, ArtsFund, C.E. Stuart Charitable Trust, The James and Sherry RAIsbeck Singers' Endowment, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs (City of Seattle), National Endowment for the Arts, PONCHO, Nesholm Family Foundation, Kreielsheimer Foundation, and Washington State Arts Commission.

JK/RJ