



SEATTLE OPERA NEWS  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## Seattle Opera Announces 2004/05 Young Artists And Young Artists' Opera, Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro*

Seattle—Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins announced today that ten singers have been selected for the 2004/05 Young Artists Program: Maria D'Amato, Edlyn de Oliveira, Robyn Driedger-Klassen, Andrew Garland, Sarah Heltzel, Carolyn Kahl, Jeremy Alan Kelly, Maureen McKay, Joseph Rawley, and Michael Todd Simpson. The ten singers will sing in recital in Auburn, Bremerton, Edmonds, Everett, La Conner, and Wenatchee, Washington, as well as Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Their fall recital schedule will conclude with *Young Artists in Performance* on November 18 at Town Hall in Seattle, Washington. In April, the Young Artists will perform Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro* (*Marriage of Figaro*) in a fully staged production to be presented at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington.

"This year's Young Artists include four returnees – Carolyn Kahl, Maria D'Amato, Joseph Rawley, and Michael Todd Simpson – who were fabulous in our *Così fan tutte* last year," said Seattle Opera Education Director Perry Lorenzo. "Together with their excellent new colleagues, I'm anticipating a sparkling, elegant *Marriage of Figaro* this year." Kahl (The Composer in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*) and Rawley (Billy Jackrabbit in Puccini's *Fanciulla del West*) made their Seattle Opera mainstage debuts last season.

More than 600 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 seventh year and has become known for launching promising young singers on their careers in opera. Many past participants in the Young Artists program have returned to Seattle Opera's mainstage. This season, former Young Artists appearing on Seattle Opera's mainstage include Lawrence Brownlee (Ernesto in the 2003 production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*) as Arcadio in the 2005 production of Catán's *Florencia del Amazonas*, Julianne Gearhart (Helen Niles in Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra* and Zerbinetta in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* last season) as Countess Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Olympia in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*, and Heather Parker (Frasquita in the 2005 production of Bizet's *Carmen*) as Antonia in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*.

(over)

## ***Young Artists In Performance***

Tickets for all events are handled through the venue. Tickets for each event are not available through the Seattle Opera Ticket Office. See the listing below for more information.

October 29, 2004, Bank of America Performing Arts Center, Wenatchee, Washington, 7:30 p.m., Ticket Information: 509-664-2401

October 30, 2004, Historic Everett Theatre, Everett, Washington, 7:30 p.m., This concert is dedicated to the memory of John Schack, Ticket Information: Everett Symphony, 425-257-8382.

November 5, 2004, Riverside Theatre, Auburn, Washington, 7:30 p.m., Ticket Information: 253-931-3043

November 6, 2004, Maple Hall, La Conner, Washington, 8:00 p.m., Ticket Information: 360-840-9020

November 7, 2004, Kitsap Golf and Country Club, Bremerton, Washington, 2:00 p.m., Ticket Information: Nancy Larson, 360-613-2517

November 13, 2004, First Presbyterian Church, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 7:00 p.m., Ticket Information: 208-664-2827

November 18, 2004, Town Hall, Seattle, Washington, 7:30 p.m., Ticket Information: Ticketweb.com.

January 7, 2005, Edmonds Community College, Edmonds, Washington, 7:30 p.m., Ticket Information: City of Lynnwood, 425-771-4030.

## ***Mozart's Nozze di Figaro (Marriage of Figaro)***

The Young Artists will perform Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro (Marriage of Figaro)* for 6 performances in 2005: April 1, 2, 3 (matinee), 8, 9, and 10 (matinee). All evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and all matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets for the Young Artists' Opera, Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro (Marriage of Figaro)*, will go on sale to donors and subscribers on December 6, 2004. Tickets will go on sale to the general public December 13, 2004. Further information on the production is available later on Seattle Opera's Web site: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org). Previous Young Artists Operas at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington, have sold out.

Production sponsored by the Boeing Company.

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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.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, 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. Seattle Opera is a participant in the Seattle Arts Stabilization Project, a joint venture of the Seattle Arts Stabilization Committee and the National Arts Stabilization Fund.