



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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Press Contacts: Jonathan Dean, 206.676.5543, jonathan.dean@seattleopera.org
Sara Sorden, 206.676.5559, sara.sorden@seattleopera.org

Visuals Contact: Monte Jacobson, 206.676.5545, monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org

Seattle Opera's Young Artists Present Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*

**Just 4 Chances to Catch This Exciting Young Ensemble at
Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer Center:
April 1, 3, 9, and 11, 2010**

Seattle—Seattle Opera's 2009/10 Young Artists Program returns to Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in April with Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Featuring nine Seattle Opera Young Artists and seven Guest Artists, this all-new, fully staged production is directed by Young Artists Program Artistic Director Peter Kazaras and conducted by Music Director Brian Garman. *Ariadne* runs for four performances: April 1, 3, 9, and 11, 2010.

In *Ariadne auf Naxos*, high art and lowbrow antics collide when a rich patron—who has scheduled a fireworks display at promptly 9:00 p.m.—asks for the impossible: for a capering troupe of comedians to combine their performance with an opera company's meditation on the mythical love and loss of the ancient Greek princess Ariadne. Stage director Peter Kazaras pits Zerbinetta's hipster theater students against a company of young opera singers, led by the gifted Composer. As the diverse groups struggle to integrate their art into one production, they also discover some surprising revelations about the nature of music. The intimate nature of the 400-seat Theatre at Meydenbauer Center allows audiences to experience this opera—and its exciting young cast—in a way not possible in conventional opera houses.

Ariadne offers unique challenges for a Young Artists program. Zerbinetta's famous aria, "Grossmächtige Prinzessin," is considered one of the most challenging and show-stopping arias ever written for the coloratura voice. Soprano Megan Hart, who sang Tytania in Britten's *Midsummer Night's*

Dream with last season's Young Artists Program, stars as Zerbinetta in this production. Soprano Vira Slywotzky, Helena in last year's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Inez in Seattle Opera's recent mainstage production of *Il Trovatore*, takes on the role of the idealistic young Composer and sings the great hymn to music that closes *Ariadne's* first half. The roles of Ariadne and Bacchus, on the other hand, require voices of near-Wagnerian heroism. Young Artist Marcy Stonikas and Guest Artist Gregory Carroll will perform these roles. Michael Devlin, a bass-baritone who has performed at the Metropolitan Opera for the past 25 years, makes an appearance as the Major-Domo, a role he recently performed with that company. Because one of the subjects of this opera is the art of music itself, Maestro Garman and the orchestra—composed of members of the Auburn Symphony—will be visible onstage throughout the performance.

More than 600 singers applied for the 2009/10 season of Seattle Opera's prestigious Young Artists Program. The program is geared toward singers who have recently completed their college training and are embarking on professional singing careers. Former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage and at companies around the world.

The Young Artists performing in *Ariadne auf Naxos* are bass Erik Anstine, mezzo-soprano Jenni Bank, soprano Megan Hart, baritone Michael Krzankowski, tenor Alex Mansoori, baritone Eric Neuville, soprano Vira Slywotzky, soprano Marcy Stonikas, and tenor Bray Wilkins. They are joined by Guest Artists Gregory Carroll, Michael Devlin, Michael Dunlap, Jennifer Edwards, Joanna Foote, Glenn Guhr, and Stephanos Tsirakoglou.

Tickets for *Ariadne auf Naxos* are \$35 for adults and \$15 for students, and can be purchased online at seattleopera.org/ariadne, by calling the box office at 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619, or by mobile phone at mobile.seattleopera.org. For more information about the Young Artists Program visit seattleopera.org/yap.

Ariadne auf Naxos

Music by Richard Strauss
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal
In German with English captions

Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue
4 performances: April 1, 3, 9, and 11m, 2010

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 30 minutes with 1 intermission
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere of the Second Version: Vienna, Hofoper, October 4, 1916

Artists

Prima Donna (Ariadne):	Marcy Stonikas
Zerbinetta:	Megan Hart
Composer:	Vira Slywotzky
Tenor (Bacchus):	Gregory Carroll
Dancing Master/Brighella:	Alex Mansoori
Harlequin:	Michael Krzankowski (4/1 and 4/9) Eric Neuville (4/3 and 4/11)
Scaramuccio:	Bray Wilkins
Truffaldino:	Erik Anstine
Music Teacher:	Stephanos Tsirakoglou
Wigmaker:	Michael Dunlap
Naiad:	Joanna Foote
Dryad:	Jenni Bank
Echo:	Jennifer Edwards
Servant:	Glenn Guhr
Officer:	Eric Neuville (4/1 and 4/9) Michael Krzankowski (4/3 and 4/11)
Major-Domo:	Michael Devlin
Conductor:	Brian Garman
Director:	Peter Kazaras
Set Designer:	Donald Eastman
Costume Designer:	Melanie Taylor Burgess
Lighting Designer:	Connie Yun
Hair and Makeup Designer:	Joyce Degenfelder
English Captions:	Jonathan Dean

Gregory Carroll, Michael Devlin, Michael Dunlap, Jennifer Edwards, Joanna Foote, Glenn Guhr, and Stephanos Tsirakoglou are Guest Artists.

Seattle Opera's 2009/10 season is sponsored by Microsoft.

This production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* is sponsored by Quality Business Systems—A Xerox Company. Seattle Opera's 2009/10 Young Artists Program is underwritten in part by Bellevue Arts Commission, The Foster Foundation, Wyman Youth Trust, and The Peg and Rick Young Foundation.

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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 38 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.