



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

Seattle Opera Young Artists Andrew Garland and Maureen McKay Sing the National Anthem for Mariners' Opening Day

Seattle—For the second year in a row, two members of Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program will sing the National Anthem for the Mariners' Opening Day game. This time, soprano Maureen McKay and baritone Andrew Garland will join the pre-game festivities for the Opening Day, April 4, game against the Minnesota Twins.

McKay and Garland will also appear this month in Seattle Opera's Young Artists' production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* (*Le nozze di Figaro*) at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue. McKay sings the maid Susanna (who is engaged to Figaro) and Garland sings the philandering Count Almaviva (who is trying to seduce Susanna). The opera opens April 1 and runs for six performances through April 10, 2005. The opening weekend of this popular Eastside cultural event is already sold-out.

Seattle Opera's long run at SAFECO Field began in 1999, when soprano Deborah Voigt and tenor Gary Lakes opened the ballpark with the National Anthem. Since then, Seattle Opera singers have often sung the National Anthem for the season opener as well as for games throughout the season. Steve Kelley of the *Seattle Times* rated a rendition of the National Anthem by Seattle Opera singers as the "best" at the ballpark in 2004. Many famous artists appearing with Seattle Opera, such as soprano Jane Eaglen and tenor Vinson Cole, enjoy visiting the ballpark whenever they are in town and have performed the National Anthem multiple times for the Mariners.

Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins will accompany Garland and McKay to SAFECO Field. Jenkins, an enthusiastic Mariners fan and season ticketholder, attends as many home games as his schedule allows.

Garland and McKay are two of ten singers selected for this season's Young Artists Program (more than 500 singers applied to enter Seattle Opera's 2004/05 Young Artists Program); they began their work here last September.

Garland makes his permanent home in Boston, where his favorite team, the Red Sox, celebrated a World Series victory in 2004. He joined the Young Artists Program after completing both his Artist Diploma in Opera and his masters in music at University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). One of his favorite experiences this year has been performing in *The Theft of the Gold*, Seattle Opera's adaptation of Wagner's *Rheingold* created for the Opera Goes to School program and performed in local elementary schools. "I'm amazed at how youth in 2005 can be so engaged by opera," said Garland. A finalist in the 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council regional auditions, Garland has appeared with Dayton Opera as Schaunard in Puccini's *Bohème* and with Cincinnati Opera as the Motorcycle Cop in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

McKay is a Mercer Island resident who graduated from Ohio State University with a masters in music. "The training I have received in Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program has been extremely beneficial in cultivating my awareness of what it means to be a professional singing actor," she said. "We have learned things that cannot be taught in schools. First-hand exposure to great mainstage artists, directors, conductors, and the production staff is invaluable." McKay has performed with College Light Opera Company in Cape Cod and with the International Lyric Academy in Rome. This summer, she will sing Johanna in Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* with Wolf Trap Opera Company.

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The Mariners' home opener against the Minnesota Twins begins at 2:05 p.m. at SAFECO Field, April 4, 2005. The National Anthem will be sung at approximately 1:55 p.m., with pre-game festivities beginning approximately one half-hour before the opening.

Seattle Opera's Young Artists Opera: Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* (*Le nozze di Figaro*)

Six Performances:

April 1, 2, 8, and 9, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.

April 3 and 10, 2005, at 2:00 p.m.

All performances in The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

In Italian with English captions

Ticket Information

Tickets: \$15 student, \$30 adult, \$125 patron*

Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619

Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, VISA, MasterCard

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

*Young Artists Patron Tickets cover the true cost of producing the opera (\$95 is the contributed portion of each ticket).

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: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, 4Culture, 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.