



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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2007/08 Young Artists Fall Performances in Seattle

**Free Lunch Concert at City Hall
November 8, 2007**

**Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*
And Donizetti's *Rita*
At Capitol Hill Arts Center
November 16 and 17, 2007**

Seattle—Seattle Opera's Young Artists are beginning their state-wide tour, performing two one-act operas, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Donizetti's *Rita*, in Friday Harbor, Eastsound, Mount Vernon, Wenatchee, Edmonds, Kirkland, and Seattle. Performances start on October 26 at the San Juan Community Theater (Friday Harbor, WA), and the Young Artists conclude their fall tour with performances at the Capitol Hill Arts Center in Seattle on November 16 and 17. This season marks the tenth anniversary of Seattle Opera's innovative Young Artists Program.

"This year the Young Artists perform Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*—a fabulous, funny, sad, moving one-act opera about marriage," said Seattle Opera's Director of Education, Perry Lorenzo. "Bernstein's music is ever young---even if fifty years old. And hearing and watching our Young Artists perform the music of America's greatest

composer really enlivens my own sense of life, youth, and love. Bernstein's music throbs with the feelings of America, love, and youth!"

Downtown workers and residents can catch a free lunchtime concert performance at City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, at noon on November 8.

On November 16 and 17, the Young Artists Program will present two complete one-act operas performed in English and accompanied by piano at Capitol Hill Arts Center, 1621 12th Avenue, Seattle. All roles are sung by members of Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program: exciting young opera singers who are embarking on their professional careers. It's a great opportunity for Seattle audiences to experience opera in an intimate setting, at a cost of only \$20 per ticket.

Composer Leonard Bernstein mixed popular and classical music to create a truly American opera about marriage: *Trouble in Tahiti*. Composed in 1953, it's as relevant and powerful today. Donizetti's *Rita* is a rarely performed comic opera, composed in the 19th century but with a startling modern take on marriage.

Young Artists in Performance

Fall 2007

Trouble in Tahiti and *Rita*

November 16 and 17, 8:00 p.m.

Address: Capitol Hill Arts Center, 1621 12th Avenue, Seattle

Ticket Price: \$20.00

Ticket Information: 206.389.7676 or www.seattleopera.org

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About the Young Artists Program

Seattle Opera launched the Young Artists Program in 1998 under the leadership of General Director Speight Jenkins, Education Director Perry Lorenzo, and conductor Dean Williamson. The twelve Seattle Opera's Young Artists for the 2007/08 season were chosen from nearly 600 national applicants. The singers will perform in venues throughout Washington as well as receive top-rate vocal coaching and instruction in diction, acting, movement, dance, stage combat, makeup, and how to function effectively in the opera industry. The Program has helped to launch the careers of many singers: former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage as well as at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and many others.

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 35 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 opera-goers from four continents and fifty states.