



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

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Seattle Opera Announces 2003/04 Young Artists Opera Mozart's *Così fan tutte*

Seattle—Seattle Opera Education Director Perry Lorenzo announced today that this season's Young Artists opera will be Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. The performances will be presented at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington. There will be two casts, each singing in alternate performances. The opera will be given for six performances: April 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 (a matinee and evening performance will occur on April 10). Tickets, priced \$28 for adults and \$15 for students, will go sale on December 8, 2003. Last season's opera, Puccini's *Bohème*, sold out.

"*Così fan tutte* was the first opera presented by the Young Artists Program in 1998. We're delighted to explore it again in a new production directed by Josemaria Condemi," said Lorenzo. A former Adler Fellow in Direction at San Francisco Opera, Condemi has directed Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *La bohème* for San Francisco Opera Center. He has directed productions for Bay Shore Lyric Opera, Festival Opera, Canadian Opera Company, San José Opera, and Western Opera Theater's national tours. This season, Condemi will be assistant stage director for Seattle Opera's productions of Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra*, R. Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Puccini's *Fanciulla del West*.

Conductor Dean Williamson will return to the Young Artists Program to conduct *Così fan tutte*. In the 2002/03 season, Williamson conducted *La bohème* for the Young Artists Program and Washington East Opera, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Opera Colorado and Spokane Opera, Mozart's *Finta giardiniera* at the University of Ohio (Athens), and Bizet's *Carmen* at Rimrock Opera. Williamson conducted the Young Artists Program's inaugural production of *Così* in 1998 and led all subsequent Young Artists productions, including Mozart's *Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Rossini's *Cenerentola*.

In October, the Young Artists Program begins its sixth season. Returning to the program are singers Carolyn Kahl (2002/03) and Keith Harris (2001/02). New to the program are Kristen Barrett, Kimwana Doner, Jessica Tivens, N'Kenge Simpson-Hoffman, Melissa Collom, Leodigario "Gary" del Rosario, Ted Schmitz, Michael Todd Simpson, Joseph Rawley, and Stefan Fehr.

Besides performing a staged opera in Bellevue, the Young Artists will sing a full schedule of concerts and recitals throughout the Northwest, including performances in Auburn, Everett, La Conner, Moses Lake, and Wenatchee, Washington and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The Young Artists will finish their season in April 2004 with *Così fan tutte* in concert with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra in Yakima, Washington.

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The singers in this program are well-trained artists at the beginning of their opera careers and bring a wide range of musical experience and education to the stage. Chosen through national auditions, the twelve singers receive comprehensive training at Seattle Opera for six months. The Young Artists also participate in Seattle Opera Education Department programs for schools, including *Opera Goes to School* and *Experience Opera*.

Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program

Così fan tutte

6 Performances: April 2, 3, 4 (matinee), 9, 10 (matinee), 10 (evening), 2004

Evening Performances: 7:00 p.m.

Matinees: 2:00 p.m.

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Librettist: Lorenzo da Ponte

Italian with English Captions

Performed at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington

Total Running Time (including one intermission): 3 hours, 15 minutes

Conductor: Dean Williamson

Director: Josemaria Condemi

Designer: TBA

English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Principal Singers: Seattle Opera's Young Artists

Ticket Information: 206-389-7676

Tickets On Sale: December 8, 2003

Ticket Prices: \$28 for adults, \$15 for students

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Seattle Opera's 2002/03 Young Artists' Accomplishments

Singers from last year's Seattle Opera Young Artists Program are appearing on opera stages across the United States. Some will return to Seattle Opera to make their mainstage debut this season.

Sebastian Catana made his debut at Florentine Opera this summer in the role of Moralès in Bizet's *Carmen*. At the Metropolitan Opera this season, he will sing Schaunard in Puccini's *Bohème* (opening night cast), Fiorello in Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia*, and Marullo in Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

Julianne Gearhart will make her Seattle Opera mainstage debut in Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra* in the role of Helen Niles. She will return to Seattle Opera in 2004 to sing Zerbinetta in R. Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Joseph Muir won the first Seattle Opera Young Artists Competition in May 2003. Muir is currently a resident artist at Opera San José, where his roles will include Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Alfred in J. Strauss, Jr.'s *Fledermaus*.

Heather Parker will return to Seattle Opera in 2004 for her mainstage debut as Frasquita in *Carmen*. Parker, Melissa Brezinsky, and Russell Thomas sang in *Don Giovanni* at Spokane Opera in May 2003.

Russell Lamar Thomas is a 2003/04 member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Program and will sing at the MCMA Debut Recitalist Award performance in Miami.

Matthew Curran has been invited to join the Zurich Opera Studio for the coming season. He sang with the Seattle Opera Chorus this summer for Wagner's *Parsifal* and sang Sparafucile and Monterone in a concert performance of Verdi's *Rigoletto* at Opera Company of Brooklyn.

David Crawford has moved to Miami to spend a year with the Florida Grand Opera Young Artist Program. He will appear as Marquis D'Obigny in Verdi's *Traviata* and Frere Jean in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

Sarah Kleeman will make her debut at Pittsburgh Opera as Mercédès in Bizet's *Carmen*. Eve Gigliotti sang in Murphy's *Rich Grandeur of Boxing* in Portland, Oregon, in the Northwest New Works festival in September. Corey McKern appeared at Central City Opera in July and August, singing Silvio in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*.

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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 dedicates its inaugural season in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall to Dorothy Priscilla "Patsy" Bullitt Collins.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Beethoven/Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, King County Cultural Development Authority, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, The Wallace Foundation, 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. 9/19/03