



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

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**For More Information:  
Call Tina Ryker, 206-676-5543**

**Grand Lobby Overlook at McCaw Hall  
Named in Honor of  
Seattle Opera's Founding General Director: Glynn Ross**

Seattle—The Grand Lobby overlook at the new opera house, Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, will be named in honor of Seattle Opera's founding general director, Glynn Ross.

The dedication ceremony is Wednesday, August 20, 2003, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at McCaw Hall. McCaw Hall campaign donors and members of Seattle Opera's Board of Trustees and staff will be in attendance to honor the founding director, who will be at the event accompanied by his wife, Gio, and their four children: Stephanie Rogers, Claudia Kuhn, Melanie Ross, and Tony Ross. During the celebration, Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, will pay tribute to his predecessor.

Ross was the general director of Seattle Opera from 1964 to 1983. During his tenure, he introduced Northwesterners to such internationally acclaimed singers as Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Franco Corelli, and Birgit Nilsson. Ross is best known for bringing Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen* to Seattle. In 1975 Seattle Opera became the first U.S. company outside of the Metropolitan Opera to produce the *Ring* the way the composer intended: all four operas in sequence within a week.

Ross has made many other contributions to the arts. He was responsible for the founding of Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 1970 he was the key person responsible for launching OPERA America, the professional service organization for North American and Western European opera companies. From 1983 to 1998 he was the general director of Arizona Opera.

A plaque will be installed at the overlook. It reads: In honor of Glynn W. Ross, Founding General director, whose vision forever links Seattle Opera with Wagner's *Ring*.

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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 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, The Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Seattle 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. 8/19/03