



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

**Fireworks at Seattle Opera!
Jane Eaglen to Sing *Ariadne***

Seattle—English soprano Jane Eaglen has come to the rescue of Seattle Opera and will sing the role of the Prima Donna (Ariadne) in the company's new production of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Eaglen replaces American soprano Margaret Jane Wray, who is indisposed.

Eaglen, a quick study, has a week to prepare for the opening on Saturday, February 28. Her previous experience as Strauss's Prima Donna includes a staged performance sung in English at English National Opera and a concert performance (in German) in Minnesota. Eaglen is well known to Seattle—and international—audiences for her roles with the company. Among the standouts are her Norma in 1994, her Isolde in 1998, and her Brünnhilde in 2000 and 2001. This summer she will sing her first Ortrud when Seattle Opera presents Wagner's *Lohengrin*.

Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, contacted Eaglen Saturday, February 21, to see if she were available. She was on vacation, yet agreed to do the part. "We are extremely fortunate," he states, "that an extremely busy international singer, Jane Eaglen, would give up her valuable vacation time to take on a major role for Seattle Opera. That she is doing this *Ariadne* is a measure both of her speed in learning and her dedication to saving an important production for Seattle Opera."

The fireworks at Seattle Opera are real. The company's new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* concludes with a fireworks display. Director Chris Alexander thinks that this will be the first time real fireworks have been used in a performance of Strauss's opera. It might be the first time for *Ariadne*, but it won't be the first time for a Seattle Opera production. Seattle Opera has used fireworks in its performances of Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas* and in Wagner's *Siegfried* (for the anvil sparks). The pyrotechnics designer for the show is Charles T. Buck, who designed the pyrotechnics for Seattle Opera's *Ring*. With nearly 100 fireworks in the finale, this is the largest fireworks display ever presented on stage by Seattle Opera.

Ariadne auf Naxos

Music by Richard Strauss

Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

In German with English captions

Premiere: Vienna, Hofoper, October 4, 1916

Seattle Opera Premiere: January 19, 1991

Nine Performances: February 28, 29m, March 3, 5, 6, 7m, 10, 12, 13, 2004

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 20 minutes, including 1 intermission

All Performances in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Tickets: \$37–\$118

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

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

(over)

Ariadne auf Naxos cast (**please discard all previous cast lists**):

Prima Donna (Ariadne): Jane Eaglen/Monique McDonald†*
The Tenor (Bacchus): John Horton Murray†/Michael Hendrick†*
The Composer: Kimberly Barber/Carolyn Kahl†*
Zerbinetta: Jane Giering-De Haan/Julianne Gearhart*
Harlequin: Philip Cutlip
Scaramuccio: Steven Goldstein
Truffaldino: Seth Malkin
Brighella: William Saetre
The Music Teacher: Richard Stilwell
The Dancing-Master: Doug Jones
Wigmaker: Bryon Ellis
Naiad: Terri Richter
Dryad: Molly Fillmore
Echo: Priti Gandhi
The Officer: Stephen Wall
The Butler: Georg Martin Bode
The Butler's Assistant: Archie Drake

Conductor: Gerard Schwarz
Director: Chris Alexander
Set Designer: Robert Dahlstrom
Costume Designers: Cynthia Savage
Lighting Designer: Robert Wierzel
Pyrotechnics Designer: Charles T. Buck
Hair and Makeup Designer: Joyce Degenfelder
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Scenery: Built by Seattle Opera Scenic Studios
Costumes: Built by Seattle Opera Costume Shop
Production Sponsor: Corporate Council for the Arts

Jane Eaglen's performances are made possible by generous financial support from the James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment.

† Seattle Opera debut

*February 29, March 5, 7, 12

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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.

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