



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Tickets for All Seattle Opera Performances of Wagner's *Parsifal* on Sale June 9

—*Parsifal* Dedicated to General Director Speight Jenkins—

Seattle—Single tickets for all subscription performances of Seattle Opera's new production of **Richard Wagner's *Parsifal*** go on sale June 9, 2003. Single tickets for the performances of *Parsifal*—August 2, 5, 8, 13, 16, 19, 21, and 24—are priced from \$47 to \$125. (Tickets for the non-subscription **August 10** matinee performance of *Parsifal* previously went on sale April 14, 2003.) *Parsifal* is Seattle Opera's first production in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

The Seattle Opera Board of Trustees has dedicated *Parsifal* to Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins in honor of "his twenty years of extraordinary leadership."

Speight's 20th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday evening (8:00 p.m.), **August 9, 2003**, at McCaw Hall, Seattle Opera will host "**Speight's 20th Anniversary Celebration**." The Anniversary Celebration will feature special artists and surprise guests paying tribute to Jenkins. Tickets for the Anniversary Celebration, dessert, and champagne toast are \$30 per person and go on sale June 9, 2003. Tickets are available by calling Seattle Opera's Ticket Office, at 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619.

Special Events

Many ticket buyers are already planning a "*Parsifal* weekend" of activities surrounding the opera and tickets for these special events are selling quickly. The Saturday, August 9, 2003, symposium is sold out. Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins will host a second symposium on **Sunday, August 17**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall in McCaw Hall. Among those scheduled to participate in the second symposium are **Jonathan Dean** (Seattle Opera's English captions writer for *Parsifal*), **Joseph Horowitz** (Wagner scholar and author of *Wagner Nights: An American History*), and **Simon Williams** (professor of dramatic art at the University of California, Santa Barbara). Tickets are \$35 for the second symposium.

Other special events include an Opera Unabridged (\$30, including refreshments) discussion led by **Jenkins** on July 26; Exploring *Parsifal* (\$12 each) lectures by **Seattle Opera Education Director Perry Lorenzo** on July 28, August 2, August 4, August 8, August 12, August 16, and August 18; and *Parsifal* Tech Talks (\$20 each) by **Seattle Opera Technical Director Robert Schaub**, August 8 and August 16, on the state-of-the-art stage technology used in the production. All events take place in the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. For start times and length of events, visit www.seattleopera.org. Tickets are available through the Seattle Opera Web site or by calling Seattle

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Opera's Ticket Office at 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619.

The Seattle Opera Education Department will also host a variety of free *Parsifal* events around the city in late July and August. Further details are available through on the Web site: www.seattleopera.org.

***Parsifal* Production Information**

The new *Parsifal* production is a milestone for Seattle Opera and for General Director Speight Jenkins. This is the first-ever *Parsifal* at Seattle Opera, and with its presentation, Jenkins will achieve his goal of producing all ten of Wagner's major operas. Adding to the significance of the *Parsifal* opening is the fact that this production is the first in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle Opera's new performance home.

For this new production of Wagner's *Parsifal*, Jenkins has reunited Swiss director **François Rochaix** and American designer **Robert Israel**. Rochaix and Israel are best known in the opera world for their collaboration on Seattle Opera's second *Ring* production (1986-1995). The lighting will be designed by **Michael Chybowksi**, who won an Obie Award in 1999 for his work on *Wit*. Projection designs are by **Bob Bonniol** and **Colleen Bonniol** of Seattle's MODE Studios, whose recent work includes designing projections for an Asian tour of *Wedding Banquet* and a permanent lighting installation for the Pacific Science Center.

Englishman **Christopher Ventris** will make his Seattle Opera debut in the title role, which he recently performed for San Francisco Opera. Californian **Linda Watson**, making her West Coast opera debut, will sing Kundry, a role she has performed at Bayreuth and the Metropolitan Opera. Danish bass **Stephen Milling** will sing Gurnemanz, a role he has sung in Copenhagen. Milling sang Hunding and Fasolt in Seattle Opera's most recent *Ring*. Baritone **Greer Grimsley**, who has sung in many Seattle Opera productions, will sing Amfortas. Baritone **Richard Paul Fink** and bass **Kevin Langan** will sing the roles of Klingsor and Titurel. Conductor **Asher Fisch**, from Israel, will make his Seattle Opera debut. He has conducted *Parsifal* in Vienna, Berlin, and Dresden. Further information on the production is available at www.seattleopera.org.

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. Seattle Opera's summer presentations, particularly of Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen*, have been acclaimed often and widely as the Pacific Northwest's premier cultural events.

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