



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Joseph Muir Wins Seattle Opera's Young Artists Spring Competition

Seattle—Tenor Joseph Muir received the grand prize for the first Young Artists Spring Competition. This May 18, 2003, public event featured singers from Seattle Opera's 2002/03 Young Artists Program. Muir sang "Il mio tesoro" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and "Spirito gentil" from Donizetti's *Favorita*.

Earlier this spring, Muir sang the role of Rodolfo in the Young Artists production of Puccini's *Bohème*. He also sang the role of Jeník in Smetana's *Bartered Bride* at the University of Washington in May. A finalist in the Dallas Opera Career Grant Competition, Muir has sung extensively in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. His work in Texas includes several productions with Fort Worth Opera and Fort Worth Children's Opera Tours. Next season, he will be a resident artist at Opera San José.

For the Young Artists Spring Competition, all twelve singers from the 2002/03 Young Artists Program performed two arias each and were judged on the basis of their style, interpretation, and technical merit by a panel of opera experts. The judges were soprano Jane Eaglen, soprano Sheri Greenawald, and Vancouver Opera Director of Resource Development David Schefsick.

Seattle Opera's 2002/03 Young Artists Program

Participating in the 2002/03 Young Artists Program were twelve young singers beginning their professional careers in opera: Melissa Brezinsky, David Crawford, Matthew Curran, Julianne Gearhart, Eve Gigliotti, Carolyn Kahl, Sarah Kleeman, Corey McKern, Joseph Muir, Heather Parker, Russell Lamar Thomas, and Sebastian Catana. During their stay with Seattle Opera, the Young Artists sing a full schedule of concerts and recitals throughout the Northwest. They also participate in Seattle Opera Education Department programs for schools, including *Opera Goes to School* and *Experience Opera*, as well as sing in the Young Artists opera staged at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, WA.

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 among the Pacific Northwest's premier cultural events.

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