

# SEATTLE OPERA.

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## ***The Marriage of Figaro* gleams with love, chaos and hilarity**

**Aidan Lang makes his company directorial debut**

**Seattle Opera presents 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Opera Ball**

**Jan. 16 – 30, 2016**

SEATTLE – Seattle Opera is ringing in the new year with wedding bells! Mozart's most popular opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, comes to McCaw Hall Jan. 16-30, 2016. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Opera Ball will take place after the opening-night performance.

With beloved Maestro **Gary Thor Wedow** at the podium, **General Director Aidan Lang** brings his acclaimed production to Seattle in his company directorial debut. When Lang premiered this *Figaro* at New Zealand Opera, it was lauded as "engrossing, astute, and unmissable" (*The New Zealand Herald*).

"*The Marriage of Figaro* has something for everyone," Lang said. "This is the story of one madcap day; a day where people's follies are exposed for all to see and laugh at, but one which concludes with one of opera's greatest scenes of

forgiveness and reconciliation. While these characters are highly flawed, they're also drawn with a warm humanity we can all relate to."

It's the night before Figaro and Susanna's marriage when the curtain rises, and Count Almaviva's wandering eye has landed on the bride-to-be. Servant and master must go head-to-head on a day of chaos, planning and missed chances that will result in a wedding—or two! Thankfully, with a little unintentional help from the page Cherubino, three very different couples will ultimately walk away a little wiser and with true love in hand. From its toe-tapping overture to joyous ending, *The Marriage of Figaro* offers fun for opera goers of all ages—as well as newcomers to opera, too.

With the purchase of an additional ticket, patrons will be able to dance the night away as if they were attending Figaro and Susanna's wedding reception! [Seattle Opera's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Opera Ball](#) following the Jan. 16 performance benefits the company's learning and engagement programs, and includes live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails and the opportunity to meet members of the cast.

Making his Seattle Opera debut as Figaro is Chinese bass-baritone **Shenyang**—an internationally celebrated singer who's been profiled on National Public Radio. **Aubrey Allicock**, who recently made headlines playing boxer Emilie Griffith in an all-jazz opera, shares the title role.

Sicilian soprano **Nuccia Focile** returns in the role of Figaro's beautiful bride, Susanna. Focile, a regular star on the McCaw Hall stage, has previously been praised in various leading roles at Seattle Opera, including *La Voix humaine* (2013), a one-woman show. Focile shares the role of Figaro's beloved with American soprano **Talise Trevigne**, who makes both her role and company debut.

**Morgan Smith** returns to Seattle Opera after this summer's *An American Dream* (2015) to play the philandering Count Almaviva, opposite **Bernarda Bobro** as the

Countess in her company debut. **John Moore** will also sing Count Almaviva in his company debut opposite **Caitlin Lynch**.

American mezzo-soprano **Karin Mushegain** will don trousers to sing the “pants role” of Cherubino, the cheeky adolescent page boy. **Elizabeth Pojanowski** will make her company debut in *Figaro*, also singing Cherubino.

Additionally, this performance sees the return of **Margaret Gawrysiak** (Marcellina), **Arthur Woodley** (Dr. Bartolo), **Steven Cole** (Don Basilio), **Alasdair Elliot** (Don Curzio), **Amanda Opuszynski** (Barbarina) and the debut performance of **Charles Robert Austin** (Antonio).

Along with General Director Aidan Lang, **Robin Rawstone** (Sets) and **Elizabeth Williams** (Costumes) make their company debuts bringing this sleek production—which includes period costumes fashioned out of denim—to life.

*The Marriage of Figaro* premieres Saturday, Jan. 16, and runs through Saturday, Jan. 30. Tickets are available online at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org) or by calling 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619. Tickets may also be purchased at the Box Office by visiting 1020 John Street (two blocks west of Fairview), Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$25. Groups save 15 percent: 206.676.5588 or [groups@seattleopera.org](mailto:groups@seattleopera.org). Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619. Online orders: [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org).

Follow #SOFigaro and #SeattleOpera on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and listen to excerpts from *The Marriage of Figaro* on [SoundCloud](#).

### ***THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO***

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: January 16 - 30, 2016

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 20 minutes  
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: May 1, 1786 at the Burgtheater, Vienna  
Previous Seattle Opera Productions: 1971, 1983, 1989, 1997, 2009

**Cast:**

Figaro	Shenyang † Aubrey Allicock *
Susanna	Nuccia Focile Talise Trevigne † *
Countess Almaviva	Bernarda Bobro † Caitlin Lynch *
Count Almaviva	Morgan Smith John Moore † *
Cherubino	Karin Mushegain Elizabeth Pojanowski † *
Marcellina	Margaret Gawrysiak
Dr. Bartolo	Arthur Woodley
Don Basilio	Steven Cole

Conductor	Gary Thor Wedow
Director	Aidan Lang †
Set Design	Robin Rawstorne †
Costume Design	Elizabeth Whiting †
Lighting Design	Duane Schuler
Hair & Makeup Design	Joyce Degenfelder
English Captions	Jonathan Dean
Sets and Costumes	New Zealand Opera

† Seattle Opera Debut

\* On January 17, 24 & 29

**Production Sponsors: Ann P. Wyckoff and Microsoft**

*Caitlin Lynch, Morgan Smith, Elizabeth Pojanowski, and Margaret Gawrysiak are former Seattle Opera Young Artists.*

*Nuccia Focile won a Seattle Opera Artist of the Year Award.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL OPERA BALL**

**Dance the night away with fellow opera goers following opening night of *The Marriage of Figaro!***

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016

Post-performance

Backstage | McCaw Hall

Individual tickets: \$125 and \$250  
Performance tickets sold separately.

Enjoy all the delights of Figaro and Susanna's wedding reception, including live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails and other enticements.

Don't miss the excitement at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Opera Ball.

Proceeds benefit Seattle Opera and its learning and engagement programs.

Cocktail attire.

For more information, visit [seattleopera.org/events](http://seattleopera.org/events).

### ***The Marriage of Figaro***

#### **Free Public Previews**

12/9/2015, 7 p.m., University Place Library  
12/12/2015, 7 p.m., Bothell Library  
12/13/2015, 2 p.m., Green Lake Library  
12/14/2015, 7 p.m., Woodinville Library  
12/17/2015, 7 p.m., Federal Way Library  
12/19/2015, 2:15 p.m., Sylvan Library Bremerton  
12/20/2015, 2 p.m., West Seattle Library  
12/27/2015, 2 p.m., Lynnwood Library  
12/28/2015, 7 p.m., Kirkland Library  
12/29/2015, 7 p.m., Auburn Library  
1/2/2016, 1 p.m., Kingston Library at Little Boston  
1/3/2016, 2 p.m., Vashon Island Library  
1/4/2016, 7 p.m. Redmond Library  
1/5/2016, Noon, Freeland Library  
1/5/2016, 2 p.m., Coupeville Library  
1/5/2016, 7 p.m., Issaquah Library  
1/6/2016, 7 p.m., Burien Library  
1/7/2016, 7 p.m., Shoreline Library  
1/8/2016, 2 p.m., Everett Library  
1/9/2016, 2 p.m., Bainbridge Island Library  
1/10/2016, 2 p.m., Frye Museum  
1/11/2016, 5:30 p.m., Sunset Club  
1/11/2016, 7 p.m., Bellevue Library  
1/12/2016, 2 p.m., Queen Anne Library  
1/12/2016, 7 p.m., Third Place Books  
1/13/2016, 2 p.m., Ballard Library  
1/13/2016, 6:30 p.m., Edmonds Library  
1/13/2016, 7 p.m., Mercer Island Library  
1/14/2016, 10:30 a.m., Newport Way Library  
1/14/2016, noon, Seattle Central Library

**About Seattle Opera**

Seattle Opera is a leading opera company, recognized both in the United States and around the world. The company is committed to advancing the cultural life in the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber, and through innovative education and community programs that take opera far beyond the McCaw Hall stage. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances and the company's programs serve more than 400,000 people of all ages (including school performances, radio broadcasts and community engagement initiatives). Seattle Opera is especially known for its acclaimed works in the Richard Wagner canon, and has created an "international attraction" in its presentation of Wagner's epic *Ring*, according to *The New York Times*. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud and through the [Seattle Opera channel on Classical King FM. 98.1.](#)