

SEATTLE OPERA

SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

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“Make Some Noise!” Open House Kicks Off Seattle Opera’s 50th Anniversary Season

Free Family Open House at McCaw Hall August 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Seattle—On Saturday August 3, join Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall and “**Make Some Noise**” at our free, family-friendly open house, featuring performances of Seattle Opera’s newly commissioned *Our Earth* opera trilogy. This special event, taking place the day before opening night of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, kicks off a year-long celebration of Seattle Opera’s 50th Anniversary.

As guests approach McCaw Hall on August 3, they’ll encounter three-dimensional *Ring*-inspired sidewalk art by **Marlin Peterson**. The public can view this outdoor art installation, located on Kreielsheimer Promenade near McCaw Hall’s serpentine glass wall, throughout the month of August. In the morning, guests can explore KING FM’s **Instrument Petting Zoo**, participate in a “**Make Your Own Instrument**” activity, and enjoy a photo retrospective of **Seattle Opera’s 50 years** and imaginative original performance art by **Lelavision**. This Seattle-based group, whose mission is to delight people using creativity, will play several of their kinetic musical sculptures, including “Violcano,” “Longwave,” “Metalphor,” and “Orbacles.” Open house guests will also have an exclusive opportunity to subscribe to the four operas of Seattle Opera’s 50th Anniversary season for only \$50.

In the afternoon, musicians from Seattle Opera’s Youth Chorus and the Seattle Youth Symphony, together with Seattle Opera’s professional singers, will present Seattle Opera’s **complete *Our Earth* opera trilogy**, with music by Eric Banks and libretti by Irene Keliher, conducted by Stephen Rogers Radcliffe. These operas, perfect for children of all ages, follow a quest for missing salmon from the marine environment of Puget Sound all the way upstream to a mountain watershed. In the first opera, *Heron and the Salmon Girl*, animals such as Heron, Orca, Turtle, and the fisherman Tayil travel from the open water of the Sound to an estuary in search of the missing fish. Meanwhile Alitsa, a young woman who is also a salmon, searches for

her brother, Parr, who has left their small fishing village only to fall ill in the big city. In *Rushing Upriver*, the second opera of the series, the journey continues. Salmon siblings Parr and Alitsa head upstream, searching for a unique white flower with healing properties, closely pursued by a hungry coyote, a mischievous raccoon, and a wise raven. An eagle, frog, and owl from east of the Cascade mountains help Alitsa, Parr, and Tayil solve the mystery of the missing salmon in the final opera of the trilogy, *Every River Has Its People*. Each of these English-language operas is approximately 30 minutes long. On August 3, *Heron and the Salmon Girl* will be performed at noon, *Rushing Upriver* at 1:15 p.m., and *Every River Has Its People* at 2:30 p.m. Lelavision will share more instruments during the first break, and guests can learn about the finer points of kazoo virtuosity during the second!

“Make Some Noise!” Open House

August 3, 2013

McCaw Hall

Admission: Free

10:00 a.m.: Doors open; hands-on activities explore music-making and sound production, featuring the incredible music, sculpture, and performances of Lelavision

12:00-12:30 p.m.: *OUR EARTH Part 1: Heron and the Salmon Girl*

12:30-1:15 p.m.: More performances by Lelavision

1:15-1:45 p.m.: *OUR EARTH Part 2: Rushing Upriver*

1:45-2:30 p.m.: “The Finer Points of Kazoo Virtuosity and Other Musical Noise”

2:30-3:00 p.m.: *OUR EARTH Part 3: Every River Has Its People* (Seattle premiere)

Coming This Season! More Seattle Opera 50th Anniversary Celebration Events

Saturday, October 26, 2013: Family-Friendly Open House and Sing-Along

Saturday, October 19, 2013: Opening Night of *The Daughter of the Regiment* champagne reception with artists

Saturday, January 4, 2014: Family-Friendly Open House

Saturday, January 11, 2014: Opening Night of *Rigoletto* dinner, “The Jester’s Ball”

Saturday, May 10, 2014: Seattle Symphony’s Discover Music Series: *Our Earth*

Thursday, May 22, 2014: Sing Along with Seattle Opera

Thursday August 7, 2014: International Wagner Competition

Saturday, August 9, 2014: 50th Anniversary Concert and Speight Celebration

Our Earth Performances sponsored by NBBJ

2013/14 Season Sponsor: Gladys Rubinstein, in memory of Sam Rubinstein

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About Seattle Opera

Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera is 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. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 38 cycles of the *Ring* (three different productions), in addition to acclaimed productions of all the other major operas in the Wagner canon. Seattle Opera has achieved the highest per capita attendance of any major opera company in the United States, and draws operagoers from four continents and 50 states.