FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2015
Contact: Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, 206.676.5559, gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org

DOWNLOADABLE PRESS IMAGES: seattleopera.smugmug.com/1516 (Password: "press")

The Marriage of Figaro gleams with love, chaos and hilarity

Aidan Lang makes his company directorial debut

Seattle Opera presents 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 humanie (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 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. Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619. Online orders: seattleopera.org.

Follow #SOFigaro and #SeattleOpera on [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Facebook](https://facebook.com), and [Instagram](https://instagram.com) and listen to excerpts from *The Marriage of Figaro* on [SoundCloud](https://soundcloud.com).

**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

**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.*

**3rd 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
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 3rd Annual Opera Ball.

Proceeds benefit Seattle Opera and its learning and engagement programs.

Cocktail attire.

For more information, visit 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.