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Seattle Opera unveils 2019/20 Season:

*Rigoletto, Cinderella, Eugene Onegin,
Charlie Parker's Yardbird, and La bohème*

McCaw Hall

SEATTLE—With a mix of new and traditional takes on opera, Seattle Opera unveils a [2019/20 Season](#) that offers something for everyone. Audiences will experience new-to-Seattle productions of *Rigoletto*, *Cinderella*, and *Eugene Onegin*; the company premiere of *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*; and the return of a beloved classic, *La bohème*.

"Seattle Opera is committed to work that resonates with people in the Pacific Northwest," said **General Director Aidan Lang**. "In addition to creating transcendent music and theater, we're excited to have conversations with our community about abuse of power, misogyny, representation in art and entertainment, and more themes illuminated in our upcoming works."

The 2019/20 Season will also include People of Color in a number of prominent principal roles. The company is being more intentional in seeking a racially diverse talent pool. Racial equity aside, Seattle Opera has earned a reputation for its casting, and its ability to identify some of the industry's next big stars.

One such rising-star is **Angel Blue**, who returns in 2020 to sing Mimì in *La bohème*. Seattleites may recognize the American soprano from last summer's *Porgy and Bess*, a performance (as Bess) which earned her a feature in *The Stranger's* "Best Performances of 2018" article. Blue, a former Miss America Organization titleholder, also starred in a viral social-media video called "[Kids Meet An Opera Singer.](#)" To date, the six-minute video produced by *The Cut* has garnered more than 11 million views on Facebook.

Lester Lynch, another star of *Porgy and Bess* and *Il trovatore*, helps kick off the company's 2019/20 Season as the title character in Verdi's action-packed melodrama, *Rigoletto* (August 10-28, 2019). Even people who have never attended an opera have likely heard *Rigoletto's* most popular aria "La donna è mobile" from playing Grand Theft Auto, watching Alvin and the Chipmunks, or that Doritos Super Bowl ad where a baby is slingshotted to steal his brother's chips. Since its 1851 debut, *Rigoletto* has been reimagined over and over again. And now, through the vision of Director **Lindy Hume**, the violence against women in *Rigoletto* will offer unflinching comparisons to newsmakers of today.

Hume has created thoughtful and entertaining productions for Seattle audiences in the past, including *The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory* and *The Barber of Seville*. Following *Rigoletto*, she'll return to Seattle yet again to direct Rossini's *Cinderella*, Oct. 19–Nov. 1, 2019. With costumes and dances reminiscent of a Tim Burton film, multi-level sets, and a dash of stage magic, this fairy-tale opera includes performances by famous singing siblings **Ginger Costa-Jackson** (*Cinderella*) and **Miriam Costa-Jackson** (*Clorinda*).

A third sister, **Marina Costa-Jackson** (*Fiordiligi*, *Così fan tutte*) joins her kin for a special, one-night-only **Three Singing Sisters** concert on Nov. 2 after *Cinderella* closes. The mixed-genre program will include opera arias, Broadway melodies, popular music, and Neapolitan songs, the sisters' specialty.

Fast-forward to the New Year: Seattle Opera will present Tchaikovsky's **Eugene Onegin** (Jan. 11–25, 2020) for the first time in nearly 20 years. The legendary *Nutcracker* composer returns to McCaw Hall with an elegant Russian romance based on Alexander Pushkin's novel. Starring **John Moore** (Steve Jobs, *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*) and **Michael Adams** (Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte*) alternating in the title role, Seattle Opera's traditional production brings opulent nineteenth-century Russia to life.

From a story about 1820s St. Petersburg, Seattle Opera moves to 1950s New York with the company premiere of **Charlie Parker's Yardbird** Feb. 22–March, 2020. Still a work of classical music, the opera pulses with jazz-infused melodies created by saxophonist/composer **Daniel Schnyder**, who tells the story of the legendary tormented jazz and bebop innovator. Finding himself in a sort of purgatory, the ghost of Charlie "Yardbird" Parker (sung by alternating tenors **Joshua Stewart** and **Frederick Ballentine**) struggles to complete one last masterpiece. In a series of freeform flashbacks, he revisits the demons, inspirations, and women who have fueled and hindered his creative genius. This intimate portrait of the legendary saxophonist was hailed by audiences and critics alike at its 2015 East Coast premieres.

Finally, the 2019/20 Season concludes with opera's quintessential love story, *La bohème*, on May 2–16, 2020. When Rodolfo, a penniless poet, meets Mimì, a seamstress, they fall instantly in love. But their happiness is threatened when Rodolfo learns that Mimì is gravely ill. Puccini's romantic depiction of bohemian Paris, with wonderful music and a love story drawn from everyday life, has captivated audiences around the world. *La bohème* includes the return of **Will Liverman** (Figaro, *The Barber of Seville*), **Brandie Sutton** (Clara, *Porgy and Bess*) and **Ginger Costa-Jackson** (following her performance as the title character in *Cinderella*).

Seattle Opera Ticket Information: Subscriptions on sale now. Subscription ticket prices start at \$215. Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619. Online

orders: seattleopera.org/subscribe2019 or in person at the box office located at the Opera Center, 363 Mercer Street. Mainstage performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. *Prices include a \$3-per-ticket facility fee and (in some locations) a preferred seating donation. Young professionals ages 21–39 who join BRAVO! and students under 18 save 50 percent on tickets.

2019/20 Season Sponsor: In Memory of Karyl Winn

Rigoletto

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

In Italian with English captions

Premiere: Venice, Teatro La Fenice, March 11, 1851

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1965, 1973, 1982, 1988, 1995, 2004, 2013

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: Aug. 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, & 28, 2019

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes including one intermission

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Cast:

Rigoletto	Lester Lynch (Aug. 10, 17, 23, 25, & 28) Giuseppe Altomare* (Aug. 11, 14, 18, & 24)
Gilda	Madison Leonard (Aug. 10, 17, 23, 25, & 28) Soraya Mafi (Aug. 11, 14, 18, & 24)
Duke of Mantua	Liparit Avetisyan* (Aug. 10, 17, 23, 25, & 28) Yongzhao Yu* (Aug. 11, 14, 18, & 24)
Maddalena	Maya Lahyani
Sparafucile	Ante Jerkunica
Count Monterone	Clayton Brainerd
Conductor	Carlo Montanaro
Director	Lindy Hume
Production Designer	Richard Roberts*

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: Kreielsheimer Remainder Foundation

Cinderella

Music by Gioacchino Rossini

Libretto by Jacopo Ferretti

In Italian with English captions

Premiere: Teatro Valle, Rome, Italy, January 25, 1817

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1977, 1996, 2013

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: Oct. 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30 & Nov. 1, 2019

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 55 minutes including one intermission
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m

Cast:

Cinderella	Ginger Costa-Jackson (Oct. 19, 25, 27, & Nov. 1) Wallis Giunta* (Oct. 20, 23, 26, & 30)
Don Ramiro	Michele Angelini* (Oct. 19, 25, 27, & Nov. 1) Matthew Grills (Oct. 20, 23, 26, & 30)
Dandini	Joo Won Kang (Oct. 19, 25, 27, & Nov. 1) Jonathan Michie* (Oct. 20, 23, 26, & 30)
Don Magnifico	Peter Kalman* (Oct. 19, 25, 27, & Nov. 1)
Clorinda	Miriam Costa-Jackson*
Tisbe	Maya Gour*
Alidoro	Adam Lau
Conductor	Gary Thor Wedow
Director	Lindy Hume
Production Designer	Dan Potra

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: Marks Family Foundation

Three Singing Sisters

A special one-night-only concert featuring Ginger Costa-Jackson, Marina Costa-Jackson, and Miriam Costa-Jackson.

Performance Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes with no intermission

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performance: 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2, 2019

Eugene Onegin

Music by Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky

Libretto by Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky and Konstantin S. Shilovsky

In Russian with English captions

Premiere: Teatro Valle, Rome, Italy, January 25, 1817

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1975, 1986, 2002

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: Jan. 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, & 25, 2020

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours, 10 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m

Cast:

Eugene Onegin	John Moore (Jan. 11, 15, 19, & 25) Michael Adams (Jan. 12, 18, 22, & 24)
Tatyana	Marjukka Tepponen (Jan. 11, 15, 19, & 25) Marina Costa-Jackson (Jan. 12, 18, 22, & 24)
Lenski	Colin Ainsworth
Olga	Melody Wilson*
Madame Larina	Margaret Gawrysiak
Prince Gremin	David Leigh*
Monsieur Triquet	Martin Bakari
Conductor	Aleksandar Marković*
Original Production	Tomer Zvulun
Designer	
Scenic Designer	Erhard Rom
Costume Designer	Isabella Bywater

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: Seattle Opera Foundation

Charlie Parker's Yardbird

Music by Daniel Schnyder

Libretto by Bridgette A. Wimberly

In English with English captions

Premiere: Perelman Theater, Philadelphia, June 5, 2015

Seattle Opera premiere

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: Feb. 22, 23, 26, 29; Mar. 1, 4, 6, & 7, 2020

Approximate Running Time: 90 minutes with no intermission

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m

Cast:

Charlie Parker	Joshua Stewart* (Feb. 22 & 26 Mar. 1 & 6) Frederick Ballentine (Feb. 23 & 29 Mar. 4 & 7)
Addie Parker	Angela Brown*
Doris Parker	Jennifer Cross
Rebecca Parker	Chrystal E. Williams*
Dizzie Gillespie	Jorell Williams*
Conductor	Kelly Kuo*
Original Production	Ron Daniels*
Director	
Scenic Designer	Riccardo Hernandez*
Costume Designer	Emily Rebholz

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors:

Tagney Jones Family Fund at Seattle Foundation

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La bohème

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

In Italian with English captions

Premiere: Feb. 1, 1896, Turin, Italy

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1965, 1971, 1979, 1985, 1991, 1998, 2007, 2013

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: May 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, & 19, 2020

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 36 minutes including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m

Cast:

Rodolfo	Jonathan Tetelman* (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19) Yosep Kang* (May 3, 6, 9, & 15)
Mimi	Angel Blue (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19) Vanessa Vasquez* (May 3, 6, 9, & 15)
Marcello	Will Liverman (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19) Adrian Timpau* (May 3, 6, 9, & 15)
Musetta	Ginger Costa-Jackson (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19) Brandie Sutton (May 3, 6, 9, & 15)
Colline	Ashraf Sewailam (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19)
Schaunard	Eugene Villanueva* (May 2, 8, 10, 13, 16, & 19) Theo Hoffmann* (May 3, 6, 9, & 15)
Conductor	Joseph Colaneri*
Set Designer	Erhard Rom
Costume Designer	Martin Pakledinaz

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors;

Ann P. Wyckoff

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About Seattle Opera

Established in 1963, Seattle Opera is committed to serving the people of the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber and through innovative educational and engagement programs for all. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances, and more than 400,000 people of all ages are served through school performances, radio broadcasts, and more. By drawing our communities together, and by offering opera's unique fusion of music and drama, we create life-enhancing experiences that speak deeply to people's hearts and minds. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, and on Classical King FM. 98.1.

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