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Seattle Opera premieres bilingual children's opera

Youth see *Cinderella en España* for free Feb. 4, March 19

SEATTLE—Bring the whole family to see *Cinderella en España*—a universal rags-to-riches tale that explores the beauty of kindness and the ugliness of mistreating others. Seattle Opera will offer its new Spanish/English performance at both its annual [Frost Fest](#) on Feb. 4 at Cornish Playhouse, and on March 19 at Kirkland Performance Center; ultimately, the production will tour more than 40 elementary schools statewide.

Twenty-two percent of Washington State students are Hispanic or Latinx (the largest group after white students—56.1 percent—according to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction). Thus, it's imperative that Seattle Opera speaks to a diverse and multicultural audience—especially to young people, said **Seattle Opera General Director Aidan Lang**.

"We hope that *Cinderella* will capture the imaginations of all children, in addition to welcoming Spanish speakers of all races and backgrounds; they are a significant

and important group in our community,” Lang said. “The opera will include a mix of the two languages in a way that’s easy for all to understand, and may even help English speakers learn a word or two *en español*.”

Far from the Disney version of the story, the performance is set in vibrant, contemporary Barcelona. Sopranos **Jessica Robins Milanese** and **Serena Eduljee** share the role of the strong protagonist, whose heart remains open and generous despite the loss of her parents—and being picked on by her superficial step-family. Ultimately, Cinderella meets her prince after receiving the gift of compassion from a stranger. With characters who drink espresso and use social media on their cell phones, *Cinderella* offers a positive message of family, forgiveness, and the importance of kindness in a time period young audiences will recognize.

This new bilingual production is just one example of how the company is working to reduce historic structural barriers that have made opera inaccessible. In keeping with the mission to serve the community, another example is the company’s musical storytelling program **Opera Time**, which fosters literacy in and through the arts. More than half the schools that Seattle Opera serves are Title I, where the majority of students receive free or reduced lunch. Educational performances and programs are offered to these schools free of charge.

Want Seattle Opera to come to your school? There’s still time to sign up (financial assistance available)! More information [here](#).

Frost Fest

Featuring the public premiere of Cinderella en España

12:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017

Cornish Playhouse

201 Mercer St, Seattle

Free admission for youth under 18; \$5 for adults. Tickets are required for both children and adults. Arrive at 12:30 p.m. for activities in the lobby, plus a pre-show

performance featuring the company's Youth Opera Choruses, followed by *Cinderella en España* (approximate running time: 50 minutes) at 2 p.m.

***Cinderella en España* in Kirkland**

12:30 p.m., Sunday, March 19, 2017

Kirkland Performance Center

350 Kirkland Ave., Kirkland

Free admission for youth under 18; \$5 for adults. Tickets are required for both children and adults. Approximate running time: 50 minutes.

Cinderella en España libretto by **Kate Pogue**, Music by **Mary Carol Warwick**, Stage Direction by **Kelly Kitchens**, Costumes by **Melanie Burgess**, commissioned by **Houston Grand Opera**.

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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 through the [Seattle Opera channel on Classical King FM. 98.1.](#)