

SEATTLE OPERA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 12, 2016

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DOWNLOADABLE PRESS IMAGES: <https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/Count-Ory>
[Password: "press"]

Monty Python meets opera in Seattle Opera's *Count Ory*

Barry Banks & Lawrence Brownlee star in brand-new production

**August 6-20, 2016
McCaw Hall**

SEATTLE – Seattleites, you’ve been warned: There’s a cheeky bad boy causing a ruckus this summer, and he’s headed straight for McCaw Hall! Seattle Opera presents *The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory*—a brand-new production that packs the punch of a Broadway musical with a nod to the humor and visual style of *Monty Python*. This Rossini comedy takes place in a medieval French village—while the men are off fighting the Crusades, the ladies are easily enticed by the notoriously naughty Count Ory. Australian Stage Director Lindy Hume and Production Designer Dan Potra have let their imaginations run wild, creating a mashup of medieval France and psychedelic '70s flower power.

“It’s the perfect summer opera; let your hair down and have some fun,” said **Seattle Opera General Director Aidan Lang**. “While the composer was Italian, *Le Comte Ory* was written in French—which seems like a natural fit given the delightful and risqué humor.”

Conducted by **Maestro Giacomo Sagripanti** (*La Cenerentola*, 2013), the show is complete with whimsical animation, vivid colors, and fun choreography. The *Ory* experience begins with walking through the doors of McCaw Hall, where patrons can enjoy a mashup of live jazz and opera. Dressed as nuns, members of "The Bad Habits" band will offer Rossini-inspired tunes to set the mood for the wildly silly romp.

In the onstage tale, there's no end to the schemes Ory and his merry-making minions will try when it comes to earning a lady's affection. First, the Count attempts to encourage relaxed morals by disguising himself as the village love guru. But when that fails, he and his men pass themselves off as nuns and inveigle themselves into the home (and later, bedroom!) of the beautiful Countess Adèle. In the truly ridiculous love trio that concludes the opera, Ory's androgynous page, Isolier, comes between his master and his lady love.

Through the stylings of **Barry Banks** and **Lawrence Brownlee**, Seattle Opera brings the title character to life. Brownlee, a GRAMMY-Award nominee whose voice has been an "instrument of great beauty and expression" (*NPR*), was celebrated for ushering in "a new golden age in high male voices" (*The New York Times*). Making his company debut is Banks, a British artist at the top of the opera world who possesses the "same combination of tonal sweetness and pinging clarity that made Pavarotti famous" (*The Telegraph*).

Viewers will be treated to two Seattle Opera favorites when **Sarah Coburn**, most recently seen at McCaw Hall as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (2014), sings Countess Adèle opposite Brownlee. Singing opposite Banks is **Lauren Snouffer**, a rising star who makes her company debut as the Countess in what will be the first of two engagements at Seattle Opera this season. Other singers making debuts at McCaw Hall include **Hannah Hipp** and **Stephanie Lauricella** in the trouser role of the teenage Isolier, as well as **Rodion Pogossoff** and **Will Liverman** as Raimbaud.

Ory also sees the return of **Patrick Carfizzi** (The Tutor), **Maria Zifchak** (Ragonde), **Jennifer Bromagen** (Alice), and **Eric Neuville** (Young Nobleman).

The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory premieres Saturday, August 6, and runs through Saturday, August 20. 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-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.

In July, Seattle Opera offers free public-preview talks on *Count Ory* at libraries throughout the Puget Sound. For a full list, go to seattleopera.org/calendar.

The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory (Le comte Ory)

Music by Gioachino Rossini

Libretto by Eugène Scribe & Charles Gaspard Delestre-Poirson

In French with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: August 6, 7m, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 2016

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 35 minutes with 1 intermission

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

Premiere: August 20, 1828 at the Paris Opéra

Seattle Opera Premiere

Cast:

Count Ory	Lawrence Brownlee (Aug. 6, 13, 17 & 20) Barry Banks* (Aug. 7m, 10 & 19)
Countess Adele	Sarah Coburn (Aug. 6, 13, 17 & 20) Lauren Snouffer* (Aug. 7m, 10 & 19)
Isolier	Hanna Hipp* (Aug. 6, 13, 17 & 20) Stephanie Lauricella* (Aug. 7m, 10 & 19)
Raimbaud	Rodon Pogossoff* (Aug. 6, 13, 17 & 20) Will Liverman* (Aug. 7m, 10 & 19)
Tutor	Patrick Carfizzi
Ragonde	Maria Zifchak
Conductor	Giacomo Sagripanti
Director	Lindy Hume*
Set & Costumes	Dan Potra*
Lighting Design	Duane Schuler
Choreographer	Daniel Pelzig
Hair & Makeup Design	Joyce Degenfelder

* Company Debut

**Production Sponsor:
Marks Family Foundation**

**Dan Potra sponsored by:
Eric Hawley and Gwen Lowery**

**2016/17 Season Sponsor:
Seattle Opera Guild
In memory of Marian E. Lackovich and Captain Louis J. Lackovich**

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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.](#)