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Press images: <https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/Chamber-Operas/The-Falling-the-Rising/>

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Working with military veterans, Seattle Opera brings service and sacrifice to the stage

**In partnership with Path with Art,
The Falling and the Rising features chorus of former soldiers**

**Nov. 15, 17, 20, 22, & 24, 2019
The Opera Center: 363 Mercer St.
General admission: \$45 | Military discount: \$35**

SEATTLE—When Seattle Opera opened the doors to its new facility at Seattle Center last year, the company promised that the new, highly visible location would help more people find and experience opera. This fall, the company's first chamber opera in the building is sure to do just that. *The Falling and the Rising*, a new American work, is based upon a series of interviews with returning soldiers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, The Old Guard at Fort Myer, and Fort Meade, Maryland.

"Through our chamber operas, Seattle Opera has offered powerful narratives and important moments of representation: a transgender woman's journey, one family impacted by Japanese American incarceration, a queer love story, and more," said **Alejandra Valarino Boyer, Seattle Opera Director of Programs and**

Partnerships. “This fall, we present a new chamber opera based on powerful testimonials from American soldiers whose stories often go untold.”

The Falling and the Rising was first conceived of by **Staff Sergeant Benjamin Hilgert** of the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, which then commissioned librettist **Jerre Dye** and composer **Zach Redler** to help create the opera. Thus far, the work has been performed by San Diego Opera, Arizona Opera, Opera Memphis, and Seagle Music Colony. When Seattle Opera presents the piece in November, the company will offer something unique in the composition’s history: a chorus made up of veterans recovering from homelessness and other trauma. The chorus singers are participants in a local nonprofit program, Path with Art.

“We are thrilled to embark on this partnership with the Seattle Opera as we at Path with Art focus on more avenues to better serve the veteran community, deepen cross-sector partnerships, and continue to lift the voices of all people, regardless of circumstance,” said **Holly Jacobson, Path with Art Executive Director.**

This opera tells the story of a comatose soldier’s inner journey after she has suffered a roadside attack. As her consciousness traverses a coma-induced dreamscape, the audience serves as both companion and witness to her journey. Along the way, we share encounters with fellow service members, each one on the brink of a discovery of their own. Together, they seek clarity and communal hope through their shared resilience in facing a murky and everchanging reality.

Returning Seattle Opera artists include **Tess Altiveros** (Soldier) most recently E in *O+E* ('18), **Damien Geter** (Colonel) who made his debut as the Undertaker in *Porgy and Bess* ('18), and **Jorell Williams** who made his debut as Hannah before in *As One* ('16). Making principal debuts are two singers who have previously performed with the Seattle Opera Chorus: **Elizabeth Galafa** (Toledo) and **Tim Janecke** (Jumper).

Joshua Rodriguez, a member of the Board of Directors of Seattle Opera explained that *The Falling and the Rising* is especially meaningful to him as a veteran of Kunar and Kandahar provinces in Afghanistan and a current Major in the Army Reserve.

“This is an important undertaking that has been the highpoint of my time working with Seattle Opera,” Rodriguez said. “While Hollywood has done an incredible job highlighting the heroics and actions of a small few, some of my fellow vets have felt left behind, their stories untold. This opera, however, brings forward the reality of those who left a part of themselves in the war. Opera-lover or not, everyone should see this.”

In addition to Path with Art, Seattle Opera will be partnering with several community and service organizations to better shed light on the experiences of U.S. service members. Following every performance of *The Falling and the Rising*, the audience is invited to stay for a post-show conversation spotlighting organizations that work to improve the lives of local veterans.

The Falling and the Rising

Music by Zach Redler

Libretto by Jerry Dye

In English

Premiere: Texas Christian University, April 6, 2019

Seattle Opera premiere

Tagney Jones Hall; The Opera Center

Performances: Nov. 15, 17, 20, 22, & 24, 2019

Approximate Running Time: 70 minutes with no

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

Cast:

Soldier	Tess Altiveros
Toledo	Elizabeth Galafa*
Jumper	Tim Janecke*
Colonel	Damien Geter
Homecoming	Jorell Williams
Soldier	

*Seattle Opera mainstage debut

***The Falling and the Rising* is a new American opera conceived by the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus.**

Commissioned by: The U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, San Diego Opera, Seattle Opera, Arizona Opera, Opera Memphis and Texas Christian University. Developed at the American Center for New Works Development at Seagle Music Colony.

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 98.1 Classical KING FM.

About Path with Art

Path with Art transforms the lives of people in recovery from homelessness, addiction, and other trauma by harnessing the power of creative engagement as a bridge to community and a path to stability. Path with Art is driven by its Vision: A world where arts engagement is recognized as transformative--connecting the individual with self, the self with community, and communities with society. In this world, the power of arts engagement is available for all.

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