

SEATTLE OPERA.

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DOWNLOADABLE PRESS IMAGES: <https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/Events/As-One-/n-xXhJBB/>
[Password: "press"]

**Please note: Due to limited seating capacity, press comps are not available for As One.*

A transgender story told through opera at Washington Hall

***As One* offers music, story, and dialogue
Nov. 11 – 19, 2016**

SEATTLE – This fall, Seattleites can hear opera in a Central-District venue that once housed performances by Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. But the location isn't the only new thing about Seattle Opera's [*As One*](#), which will be presented in the historic [Washington Hall](#). *As One*, a chamber opera with only two singers, tells the story of Hannah, a transwoman, and her journey to self-understanding. The opera is meant to be both an experience, and a vehicle for meaningful conversation.

Based in part on true events, *As One* offers a narrative that's both specific, as well as universal.

"This beautiful, brave opera is about becoming whole – becoming true to one's self," said **stage director L. Zane Jones, Artistic Director of Seattle's [Civic Rep](#)**. "It is one woman's journey to becoming her authentic self; a love story—an adventure—and finally, a celebration."

Seattle has never experienced opera in quite this way before. In *As One*, the grandeur of the company's mainstage performances are stripped away in favor of a vulnerable, immediate approach. With a string quartet and singers performing in-the-round, the production puts the audience right in the heart of the action.

Award winning filmmaker and librettist **Kimberly Reed** ([Prodigal Sons](#)), and award winning librettist **Mark Campbell** ([Silent Night](#)) created the powerful story for *As One*. **Laura Kaminsky**, a former chair of the music department at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts, composed the piece, which premiered in 2014 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In this 90-minute opera, the single protagonist, Hannah, is portrayed by two singers—a baritone and a mezzo-soprano. Hannah before is sung by **Jorell Williams**, praised by *The New York Times* as "magnificent" and "rich toned." Hannah after will be sung by **Taylor Raven**, a rising star currently in residency with Pittsburgh Opera.

Throughout the course of 15 songs, the audience will experience Hannah's challenges growing up in a small town on the West coast, her quest for knowledge and understanding, and her discovery of the trans community. The opera embraces humor and heartbreaking realities within this personal narrative. While Hannah before is faced with violence, Hannah after names those who did not survive similar attacks. At the end of the opera, the protagonist finds peace, as well as her own self-acceptance and love, in rural Norway.

Prior to the performance, attendees can grab a drink from the in-house bar to enjoy during the performance. Afterward, audience members are invited to participate in a discussion on topics affecting the LGBTQ community.

Supported in part by The Wallace Foundation and Pride Foundation, *As One* reflects Seattle Opera's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming space within the arts. Moving forward, the company's work will reflect the diverse communities of the Pacific Northwest in terms of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and cultural/multicultural background. Seattle

Opera is working to reduce barriers that have historically made the art form inaccessible to certain groups.

As One premieres Friday, Nov. 11, and runs through Saturday, Nov. 19. 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 are \$25 and \$40. Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619.

As One

Music by Laura Kaminsky
Libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed

Presented in English

Washington Hall
Performances: November 11, 13m, 17, 18, 19, 2016

Approximate Running Time: 90 minutes
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), matinee at 4:00 p.m. (doors open at 3:00 p.m.)
Premiere: September 4, 2014 in Brooklyn, New York
Seattle Opera Premiere

Cast:

Hannah before	Jorell Williams*
Hannah after	Taylor Raven*
Conductor	John Keene*
Director	L. Zane Jones*
Set Design	G.W. (Skip) Mercier
Costume Design	Melanie Taylor Burgess

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: The Wallace Foundation & Pride Foundation

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

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.](#)