

# SEATTLE OPERA.

**EMBARGOED AND CONFIDENTIAL  
EMBARGO UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24, 12PM PACIFIC TIME**

Contact: Alvin Henry, 206.676.5540, [alvin.henry@seattleopera.org](mailto:alvin.henry@seattleopera.org)

**DOWNLOADABLE PRESS IMAGES:** [seattleopera.smugmug.com/1516](http://seattleopera.smugmug.com/1516) (Password: "press")

## **Seattle Opera's Executive Director Named President of Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**

SEATTLE – Seattle Opera's General Director, Aidan Lang, announced today that Kelly Tweeddale, Executive Director since 2003, has been appointed President of the Vancouver Symphony Society and VSO School of Music Society, effective November 16, 2015.

Aidan Lang said, "This is a wonderful appointment for Kelly, and a perfect moment for her to be appointed President of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Over her many years at Seattle Opera, Kelly has been absolutely central to the success of the company. Great opera does not come into being without someone smoothly driving things behind the scenes; and for us, Kelly was that driver. And it is not just Seattle Opera that will miss her. She has also been deeply involved in the wider arts community throughout the city, building relationships with a host of other organizations, and making Seattle a city where the arts matter. Truly, Vancouver's gain is Seattle's loss."

Ms. Tweeddale became Seattle Opera's Director of Marketing and Communications in 2000 and Executive Director in 2003. During her tenure as executive director, she has played a key role in organizing and supervising the Opera's daily operations, in generating and overseeing the company's budgets, and in developing and implementing the Opera's long-range strategic plan. She has also played a major role in Seattle Opera's future development project, consolidating the company's operations—including administrative, rehearsal, production, educational, technical support, costume and scenic assembly spaces—into one building adjacent to its performance hall.

"Over the past 15 years, I've been the envy of my peers, due to the unique and incredible talent pool that exists at Seattle Opera, said Kelly Tweeddale, Executive Director. I have had the privilege to create, build, steward, and promote art-making at the highest level; working collaboratively with artists, staff, our many unions, board volunteers and community leaders.

Together, we have proven that creating great art not only has impact in the communities where we live, but in the larger world.

“Yet, like all strategic thinkers, I am eager and curious about what else is possible. Vancouver Symphony Orchestra presented the perfect opportunity for me to take the next step in my grand belief that music changes lives. I am thankful to Seattle Opera for the role it played in honing a set of unique skills, and I look forward to further place-making, audience-building and innovation in another vibrant community.”

Over the next month, Mr. Lang and Ms. Tweeddale will work together on an interim plan to ensure a smooth transition.

Commenting on Kelly’s appointment, Seattle Opera Board President Maryanne Tagney said, “On behalf of the board of Seattle Opera, I would like to thank Kelly for her tireless work and extraordinary devotion to this organization. Her many years of work with Speight Jenkins, in a partnership rare in the world of opera, has been a vital part of Seattle Opera's success on the national and international scene.”

### **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](#).