

SEATTLE OPERA.

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Surrender to passion, heartbreak in Seattle Opera's *La traviata*

**Verdi's immortal music returns to McCaw Hall
Jan. 14-28, 2017**

SEATTLE—Seattle Opera rings in the New Year with some of the most glorious music in all of opera: Verdi's [*La traviata*](#), the original *Moulin Rouge*. German Stage Director **Peter Konwitschny** has created an "excitingly rebellious" (*A Younger Theater*) production that takes an uncompromising look at moral hypocrisy. In this story, practically all of Paris rushes in as voyeurs to watch the demise of the town's dying "It Girl"—a modern-day courtesan named Violetta. The crowd, with more concern for their entertainment than her health, foists a new admirer on her: a young, socially awkward bookworm named Alfredo. While love seems like it could be a distraction, there's ultimately no denying the darkness that descends on Verdi's heroine. Presented without intermission, the "non-stop music keeps the audience riveted throughout" (*Express, UK*).

"This *La traviata* is one of the most truthful productions of Verdi's masterpiece that I've seen," said **Seattle Opera General Director Aidan Lang**. "Nothing distracts

from the music and the emotional urgency of the story, and the full power of this piece is unleashed to the ears and to the heart.”

Two stunning voices share performances as Verdi’s heroine. **Corinne Winters**, an “outstanding actress,” and a “singer of extraordinary grace and finesse,” (*The New York Times*) reprises her signature role of Violetta in the same production that landed her on the cover of *Opera* magazine. Winters will also return later in the season to sing the title character in Janáček’s ***Katya Kabanova*** (Feb. 25-March 11). **Angel Blue** who also sings Violetta, returns to McCaw Hall after winning fans with her rendition of “Summertime” as Clara in *Porgy & Bess* (2011). The rising opera star has sung with Plácido Domingo, the late Donna Summer, and Chaka Khan, among others.

Acclaimed lyric tenors **Joshua Dennis** and **Zach Borichevsky** share the part of Alfredo—the young man who pledges his heart to the sophisticated Parisian; and in the role of Alfredo’s father, Germont, are **Weston Hurt** (the title character in *Nabucco*, 2015; Talbot in *Mary Stuart*, 2016) and **Stephen Powell** in his company debut. *La traviata* also sees the return of **Maya Lahyani** (Flora), **Eric Neuville** (Gastone), **Barry Johnson** (Baron Douphol), **Charles Robert Austin** (Dr. Grenvil), **Jonathan Silvia** (Marchese D’Obigny), and **Karen Early Evans** (Annina).

All members of the creative team make their Seattle Opera debuts. They include **Peter Konwitschny**, stage director; **Mika Blauensteiner**, revival director; maestro **Stefano Ranzani**; and **Johannes Leiacker**, production designer.

La traviata premieres Saturday, Jan. 14 and runs through Saturday, Jan. 28. **An [audio-described](#) version of the performance will be offered to the visually-impaired on Sunday, Jan. 15.** 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 at least 20 percent: 206.676.5588 or groups@seattleopera.org. Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619. Online orders: seattleopera.org.

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

La traviata

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: January 14, 15m, 18, 21, 22m, 25, 27, 28, 2017

Approximate Running Time: 1 hour and 50 minutes with no intermission

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

Premiere: March 6, 1853, at Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Italy

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1967, 1973, 1996, 1980, 1988, 1996, 2009

Cast:

Violetta	Corrine Winters* (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Angel Blue (Jan. 15m, 18, 22m & 27)
Alfredo	Joshua Dennis* (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Zach Borichevsky* (Jan. 15m, 18, 22m & 27)
Germont	Weston Hurt (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Stephen Powell*(Jan. 15m, 18, 22m & 27)
Flora	Maya Lahyani†
Baron Douphol	Barry Johnson
Gastone	Eric Neville
Marchese d'Obigny	Jonathan Silvia
Dr. Grenvil	Charles Robert Austin
Annina	Karen Early Evans
Giuseppe	John Marzano
Messenger	Kwangsuk Ku
Conductor	Stefano Ranzani*
Director	Peter Konwitschny*
Revival Director	Mika Blauensteiner*
Sets & Costumes	Johannes Leiacker*
Lighting Design	Martin Doone

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors: Ann P. Wyckoff and Lenore M. Hanauer

#SOtraviata

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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.](#)