

SEATTLE OPERA.

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Seattle Opera unveils 2016/17 Season:

More than 40 artists debut in enchanting classics and gripping new works

SEATTLE – Thrilling theater and unforgettable music—that’s what audiences can expect from Seattle Opera’s 2016/17 Season. The company today announced the operas next up at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. They include: ***The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory, Hansel & Gretel, La traviata, Katya Kabanova*** and ***The Magic Flute***.

This upcoming season will allow audiences to experience the full scope of **General Director Aidan Lang’s** vision for Seattle Opera. It’s the first year planned entirely by Lang since the 2014 leadership transition and departure of Speight Jenkins.

“I’m thrilled to present five operas this season—including four experiences never before seen at McCaw Hall, ranging from high comedy to intense drama,” Lang said. “Great opera is great theater, and I’ve chosen directors and designers who can speak to 21st century audiences, while maintaining the beauty, integrity and truth that we all love about these works.”

Lang will also bring more than 40 artists, including singers, conductors and creative teams, to Seattle for the first time. This season, Seattle Opera unveils a new approach to casting. Introduced in the 1980s, the previous “Gold and Silver” casting system divided singers into teams based on experience and popularity. Going forward, casting will be equitable at all performances. No matter which performance you attend, Seattle Opera will provide a caliber of casting consistent with any of the world’s greatest opera houses.

In August 2016, the season kicks off with a raucous bang—***The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory*** (original title: *Le comte Ory*) to be precise. Gioachino Rossini’s story of a notorious skirt-chaser and his merry-making minions comes to Seattle Opera for the first time with the grandeur of opera and the pop of a Broadway musical. Australian stage director **Lindy Hume** has envisioned an outrageous mashup: the opera’s medieval setting is getting a cheeky twist with a nod to Monty Python and Austin Powers, complete with psychedelic sets and costumes! **Lawrence Brownlee** and **Sarah Coburn** return to McCaw Hall following *The Daughter of the Regiment* (2013) to sing Count Ory and Countess Adèle. **Barry Banks**, a longtime Metropolitan Opera and English National Opera star, as well as **Lauren Snouffer**, one of the most highly sought-after sopranos on the international stage, will make company debuts in the same roles. Italian conductor **Giacomo Sagripanti**, a rising star who was profiled by KING5 TV during *Cinderella* in 2013, returns.

As summer turns to fall in 2016, audiences will be treated to Engelbert Humperdinck’s ***Hansel & Gretel***, an atmospheric fable not seen at Seattle Opera for more than 20 years. This particular production by **Laurent Pelly** “speaks to the kid in all of us” (*Gramophone*) with refreshing humor and Wagnerian orchestration, and the hauntingly relevant story explores universal themes of poverty, consumerism, and the need for taking care of a shared Earth. In the end, there’s happiness for all—save for one very bad witch. **Ashley Emerson** (Young Amelia in the 2010 world premiere of *Amelia*) and **Anya Matanovic** (*Fidelio*, *Falstaff*, *The Magic Flute*, former Young Artist) share the role of Gretel opposite Grammy Award-

winner **Sasha Cooke** and **Sarah Larsen** rotating as Hansel. **Sebastian Lang-Lessing** (who conducts *The Flying Dutchman* in May 2016) will take the podium.

Seattle Opera will ring in the New Year, 2017, with a production of Giuseppe Verdi's ***La traviata***, a tale of moral hypocrisy, selfless sacrifice, and a worldly Parisian courtesan who must give up the man she loves. Said to have one of the most perfect scores in all of opera, *La traviata* comes to McCaw Hall in a gripping production directed by **Peter Konwitschny** that gets right to the heart of the story. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "an outstanding actress, as well as a singer of extraordinary grace and finesse," **Corinne Winters** sings Violetta opposite **Stefano Secco** as Alfredo. **Angel Blue**, a former titleholder in the Miss America Organization described by Plácido Domingo as "the next Leontyne Price," sings Violetta opposite **Zach Borichevsky**. Italian conductor **Stefano Ranzani**, a regular at La Scala, Vienna Staatsoper, and the Metropolitan Opera, makes his company debut.

February 2017 brings another Seattle Opera premiere to McCaw Hall. Leoš Janáček's ***Katya Kabanova*** weaves a visceral story of sheltered Katya, who longs to be free of her dull arranged marriage and dreary home life. Recently awakened to true love, she remains dominated by a monstrous mother-in-law. Can Katya's fragile world survive when her pent-up passions finally burst forth? Acclaimed Australian director **Patrick Nolan's** all-new production set in post-war Pacific Northwest dives deep into the emotional turbulence lurking beneath the surface of small town respectability. In the role of Katya, American soprano **Melody Moore** makes her Seattle Opera debut, sharing the role with **Corinne Winters**. **Joseph Dennis** and **Scott Quinn** will sing the role of Boris. **Victoria Livengood** returns as Kabanicha, and Slovak conductor **Oliver von Dohnányi** makes his Seattle Opera debut.

The season concludes with an all-time audience favorite: ***The Magic Flute*** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Fashion designer to the stars **Zandra Rhodes** has created the costumes for this colorful fantasy, which celebrates the power of love

and music. A handsome prince and his comical sidekick are given enchanted musical instruments and are tasked with rescuing the Queen of the Night's daughter from a mysterious group of priests. Undergoing trials of virtue, discretion and charity, they realize all may not be as it seems in this magical land. **Chris Alexander** returns to direct. Making their company debuts are Maestra **Julia Jones**, **Elliot Madore** and **Craig Verm** as Papageno, and **Christina Poulitsi** as Queen of the Night.

The 2016/17 Season Sponsor: Seattle Opera Guild

In Memory of Marian E. Lackovich and Captain Louis J. Lackovich

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 Pogossov* (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

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: Marks Family Foundation

#SOCountOry

Hansel & Gretel

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck
Libretto by Adelheid Wette

In German with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
Performances: October 15, 16m, 19, 22, 26, 28, 29, 2016

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 15 minutes with 1 intermission
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinee at 2:00 p.m.
Premiere: December 23, 1893 in Weimar, Germany
Previous Seattle Opera Performance: 1994

Cast:

Gretel	Ashley Emerson (Oct. 15, 22, 26, & 29) Anya Matanovic† (Oct. 16m, 19 & 29)
Hansel	Sasha Cooke† (Oct. 15, 22, 26 & 29) Sarah Larsen† (Oct. 16m, 19 & 28)
Witch	John Easterlin (Oct. 15, 22, 26 & 29) Peter Marsh* (Oct. 16m, 19 & 28)
Gertrude	Marcy Stonikas†
Peter	Mark Walters
Sandman/Dew Fairy	Amanda Opuszynski†

Conductor	Sebastian Lang-Lessing
Director	Laurent Pelly*
Set Design	Barbara de Limburg*
Costume Design	Laurent Pelly*
Lighting Design	Joël Adam

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

Production Sponsor: Microsoft

#SOHanselGretel

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, 25, 27, 28, 2017

Approximate Running Time: 1 hour and 50 minutes with no intermission
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinee at 2:00 p.m.
Premiere: March 6, 1853 at Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Italy
Previous Seattle Opera Performance: 1973, 1996, 1980, 1988, 2009

Cast:

Violetta	Corrine Winters* (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Angel Blue (Jan. 15m, 18 & 27)
Alfredo	Stefano Secco (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Zach Borichevsky* (Jan. 15m, 18 & 27)
Germont	Weston Hurt (Jan. 14, 21, 25 & 28) Stephen Powell*(Jan. 15m, 18 & 27)
Flora	Maya Lahyani†
Conductor	Stefano Ranzani*
Director	Peter Konwitschny*
Sets & Costumes	Johannes Leiacker*
Lighting Design	Joachim Klein*

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

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

#Sotraviata

Katya Kabanova

Music by Leoš Janáček

Libretto by Vincenc Cervinka

In Czech with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: February 25 & 26; March 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 2017

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours with 1 intermission

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

Premiere: November 23, 1921 at the National Theater in Brno, Moravia

Seattle Opera Premiere

Cast:

Katya Kabanova	Melody Moore* (Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 8, & 11) Corrine Winters (Feb. 26m, Mr. 1 & 10)
Kabanicha	Victoria Livengood
Boris	Joseph Dennis* (Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 8, & 11) Scott Quinn*(Feb. 26m, Mar. 1 & 10)
Dikoj	Stefan Szafarowsky*
Varvara	Maya Lahyani†
Vanya Kudrjas	Joshua Kohl
Tichon	Nicky Spence*
Conductor	Oliver von Dohnányi
Director	Patrick Nolan*
Set & Costumes	Genevieve Blanchett*
Lighting Design	Mark Howett*

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors: Seattle Opera Foundation, Office of Arts & Culture | Seattle, and Kreielsheimer Endowment Fund

#SOKatya

The Magic Flute

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

In German with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: May 6, 7m, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 2017

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours with 1 intermission

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

Premiere: September 30, 1791 at the Theater auf der Wieden in Vienna, Austria

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1978, 1987, 1999 and 2011

Cast:

Tamino	Paul Appleby* (May 6, 13, 17 & 20) Randall Bills (May 7m, 10 & 19)
Pamina	Lauren Snouffer (May 6, 13, 17 & 20) Amanda Forsythe (May 7m, 10 & 19)
Papageno	Elliot Madore* (May 6, 13, 17 & 20) Craig Verm* (May 7m, 10 & 19)
Queen of the Night	Christina Poulitsi*
Sarastro	Ante Jerkunica*
Monostatos	Rodell Rosel
Papagena	Amanda Opuszynski†
First Lady	Jacqueline Piccolino*
Second Lady	Nian Wang*
Third Lady	Jenni Bank*
Speaker	Adam Lau
Conductor	Julia Jones*
Director	Chris Alexander
Set Design	Robert Dalstrom with Robert Schaub
Costume Design	Zandra Rhodes
Lighting Design	Duane Schuler

† Former Seattle Opera Young Artist

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors: Tagney Jones Family Fund at Seattle Foundation and ArtsFund

#SOFlute

Seattle Opera Ticket Information

Subscriptions on Sale Now. Five-opera renewal and new subscription ticket prices: \$225 to 3,915.* Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619 Online orders: seattleopera.org/subscribe2016. All performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with matinees at 2:00 p.m. *Prices include a \$3-per-ticket facility fee and (in some locations) a preferred seating donation. Young professionals ages 21-40 Save 50% with BRAVO! membership.

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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](#).