

# SEATTLE OPERA

SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Projected Economic Impact of Wagner's *Ring* Estimated at \$39 million**

#### **Thousands of Opera Lovers from 50 States and 22 Countries Come to Seattle**

Seattle—the *Ring* is almost here!

Seattle Opera's award-winning production of Wagner's *Ring* returns for three complete cycles in this Wagner bicentennial year, August 4 through August 25. A forecast prepared by Professor William B. Beyers of the University of Washington estimated that Seattle Opera's 2013 *Ring* will have a total economic impact of \$39 million, supporting 755 jobs and labor income of \$17.5 million. These estimates are based on ticket sales data and estimates of patron expenditures, including travel, food and beverage, accommodations, entertainment, and other costs. Opera lovers from all 50 states and 22 foreign countries are coming to Seattle for an unforgettable experience of story, music, spectacle, and community. Single ticket prices (for performances) begin at \$175. Tickets are still available for all *Ring* events except the August 14 Symposium.

Principal Guest Conductor **Asher Fisch**, named "among the finest *Ring* conductors of our time" by *Opus Magazine*, leads his first complete cycle in North America. British soprano **Alwyn Mellor** makes her Seattle Opera debut as Brünnhilde, as does German tenor **Stefan Vinke** as Siegfried. Bass-baritone **Greer Grimsley** returns as Wotan, the role for which he won the Seattle Opera Artist of the Year Award in 2005. Also returning are **Richard Paul Fink** as Alberich, **Margaret Jane Wray** as Sieglinde and the Third Norn, **Stuart Skelton** as Siegmund, **Dennis Petersen** as Mime, **Daniel Sumegi** as Fafner and Hagen, **Andrea Silvestrelli** as Fasolt and Hunding, **Luretta Bybee** as Schwertleite and the First Norn, and **Stephanie Blythe** as Fricka, the Second Norn, and Waltraute (*Götterdämmerung*). Also making their debuts in this production are **Markus Brück** as Donner and Gunther, **Wendy Bryn Harmer** as Freia, Gerhilde, and Guttrune, **Mark Schowalter** as Loge, and **Lucille Beer** as Erda. The Rhine Daughters and other roles will be sung by **Jennifer Zetlan**, **Cecelia Hall** (debut), and **Renée Tatum** (debut). **Stephen Wadsworth** returns to direct this beloved production, which has

become known as the “Green” *Ring* because of its focus on nature; sets are designed by **Thomas Lynch**, costumes by the late **Martin Pakledinaz**, and lighting by **Peter Kaczorowski**.

## *Der Ring des Nibelungen*

By **Richard Wagner**

In German with English Captions

All performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle, WA

Tickets: Single tickets start at \$175

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676, 800.426.1619, [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)

<b>OPERA</b>	<b>CYCLE I</b>	<b>CYCLE II</b>	<b>CYCLE III</b>
<i>Das Rheingold</i>	Sunday, August 4	Monday, August 12	Tuesday, August 20
<i>Die Walküre</i>	Monday, August 5	Tuesday, August 13	Wednesday, August 21
<i>Siegfried</i>	Wednesday, August 7	Thursday, August 15	Friday, August 23
<i>Götterdämmerung</i>	Friday, August 9	Saturday, August 17	Sunday, August 25

### **The Artists**

Conductor:	Asher Fisch
Director:	Stephen Wadsworth
Set Designer:	Thomas Lynch
Costume Designer:	Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting Designer:	Peter Kaczorowski
Fire Designer, Flight Technical Director:	Charles Tim Buck
Hair and Makeup Designer:	Joyce Degenfelder
English Captions:	Jonathan Dean
Brünnhilde:	Alwyn Mellor †
Siegfried:	Stefan Vinke †
Wotan/The Wanderer:	Greer Grimsley
Fricka/2nd Norn/Waltraute:	Stephanie Blythe
Siegmund:	Stuart Skelton
Sieglinde/3rd Norn:	Margaret Jane Wray
Alberich:	Richard Paul Fink
Mime:	Dennis Petersen
Fafner/Hagen:	Daniel Sumegi
Fasolt/Hunding:	Andrea Silvestrelli
Loge:	Mark Schowalter †
Donner/Gunther:	Markus Brück †
Freia/Gerhilde/Gutrune:	Wendy Bryn Harmer †
Erda:	Lucille Beer †

Woglinde/Forest Bird:	Jennifer Zetlan
Wellgunde/Rosswaise:	Cecelia Hall †
Flosshilde/Grimgerde:	Renee Tatum †
Froh:	Ric Furman
Helmwige:	Jessica Klein †
Waltraute in <i>Die Walküre</i> :	Suzanne Hendrix †
Schwertleite/1st Norn:	Luretta Bybee
Ortlinde:	Tamara Mancini †
Siegrune:	Sarah Heltzel

† Seattle Opera debut

*Sarah Heltzel is a former Seattle Opera Young Artist.*

### Wagner Bicentennial Events Schedule

#### **“Make Some Noise!” Open House**

August 3, 2013; 10 am – 4 pm

McCaw Hall

Admission: Free

Bring the whole family for *Ring* kickoff fun, including hands-on activities exploring music-making and sound production; the incredible music, sculpture, and performances of *Lelavision*; the Seattle premiere of Seattle Opera’s final *Our Earth* opera, *Every River Has Its People*, with Seattle Youth Symphony; and more.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash**

August 3, 2013; 7:00 PM

McCaw Hall

Admission: \$250 or \$500.

Kick off Seattle Opera’s *Ring* Festival and 50th Anniversary Season with a celebratory dinner hosted by General Director Speight Jenkins.

#### **Inside the *Ring* with Sue Elliott**

10 am – 1 pm each performance day

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: \$100 for each cycle; \$30 for individual talks

Seattle Opera Education Director Sue Elliott offers her insights into the themes, music, and historical context of all four operas in the *Ring* cycle.

#### **Pre-Performance Talks with Rob McClung\***

5:30 – 6:30 pm before *Das Rheingold* performances; 4:30 – 5:30 pm before performances of *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: \$35 for each cycle

Community Programs Manager Rob McClung sets the stage with an informative and entertaining multimedia introduction before each performance.

### **Rheingold Revelry Opening Night Celebration\***

McCaw Hall

Admission:

\$325—Champagne reception and late supper with a *Ring* artist at your table.

\$225—Champagne reception and late supper.

Special post-performance celebration marking the opening of each *Ring* cycle. Champagne reception followed by a late supper hosted by General Director Speight Jenkins and attended by *Ring* artists.

### **Q&A with Speight Jenkins\***

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: free for ticketholders

Join General Director Speight Jenkins for a post-performance discussion immediately following the conclusion of *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*.

### **August 2013 Ring Symposia**

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: \$70 per symposium, lunch available for additional fee

Cycle I Symposium: Tuesday, August 6; 10 am – 3 pm

Theme: “Why and how does Wagner’s *Ring* evoke extreme devotion and aversion?”

Guest Speakers: Lydia Goehr, Roger Parker, Kenneth Rheinhard, Stephen Wadsworth, Asher Fisch

Cycle II Symposium: Wednesday, August 14; 10 am – 3 pm – SOLD OUT

Theme: “What aspects of Wagner’s alchemy contribute to the *Ring*’s infinite breadth and depth?”

Guest Speakers: Michael Hackett, Mark Berry, François Rochaix, Asher Fisch

Cycle III Symposium: Thursday, August 22; 10 am – 3 pm

Theme: “How do the spatial and temporal dimensions of Wagner’s *Ring* influence its performance, its legacy, and the audience’s experience?”

Guest Speakers: Pamela Rosenberg, Arthur Groos, Peter Kazaras, Asher Fisch

### **Speight’s Retrospective**

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: \$50

Join Speight Jenkins for an enthralling exploration of his life and the *Ring*, from his youthful discovery of Wagner’s epic music drama to reflections on being at the helm of Seattle Opera’s productions of the Wagner operas.

Cycle I Tuesday, August 6; 6 – 7:30 pm

Cycle II Wednesday, August 14; 6 – 7:30 pm

Cycle III Thursday, August 22; 6 – 7:30 pm

### **Tech Talks with Robert Schaub**

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall, McCaw Hall

Admission: \$15

Technical Director Robert Schaub discusses the technical challenges in bringing Wagner’s story to life.

Cycle I Thursday, August 8; 10 – 11:30 am

Cycle II Friday, August 16; 10 – 11:30 am

Cycle III Saturday, August 24; 10 – 11:30 am

### **Wagner Sketches**

Leo K. Theatre at Seattle Repertory Theatre

Admission: \$30

Prepare for the End of the World with some Serious Fun! Seattle Repertory Theatre and Seattle Opera present an evening showcasing the best-of-the-best new comedic shorts: think Second City meets Bayreuth.

Cycle I Thursday, August 8; 7:30 pm

Cycle II Friday, August 16; 7:30 pm

Cycle III Saturday, August 24; 7:30 pm

### **KING FM *Ring* Broadcasts**

August 10, 17, 24, and 31. Beginning at 7 pm each night on Classic KING FM, 98.1 and [www.king.org](http://www.king.org).

### **BRAVO! Club's Laser *Ring***

Pacific Science Center's Laser Dome (200 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N)

August 11, 2013, 6:30 & 8:30 pm (Second showing 21+ only)

Admission: \$10

Back by popular demand! Join Seattle Opera's BRAVO! Club, the nation's largest organization for opera-goers in their 20s and 30s, for a night of *Ring* music set to lasers, à la Led Zeppelin or Pink Floyd. Casual attire is encouraged, as are pillows and blankets if you want to get even cozier inside the Laser Dome. Movie theater-style snacks, beer, and wine available for purchase.

\* Denotes events for performance ticket holders only

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*Our Earth* Performances Sponsored by NBBJ

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### **About Seattle Opera**

Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. The company is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances, especially the Opera's interpretations of the works of Richard Wagner. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 38 cycles of the *Ring* (three different productions), in addition to acclaimed productions of all the other major operas in the Wagner canon. Seattle Opera has achieved the highest per capita attendance of any major opera company in the United States, and draws operagoers from four continents and 50 states.