

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 5, 2016 Contact: Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, 206.676.5559, <u>gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org</u>

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# Come play at Seattle Opera's Summer Fest

Bring the whole family to an open house at McCaw Hall

## Presented with KING-FM, PNB School & Seattle Sounders marching band

### Noon – 3 p.m. Saturday, July 23, 2016

SEATTLE – Come one, come all: Bring the whole family and spend the afternoon at McCaw Hall for Seattle Opera's free <u>Summer Fest</u> on July 23. Attendees will get a sneak peek of the 2016/17 season with a variety of activities for all ages: view dazzling and detailed costumes up close, watch a hilarious troupe of improvisers bring opera plots to life, enjoy live music and dance performances, and even hear an opera artist sing out tweets in real-time. Youth and kids-at-heart can stuff their faces with sweets, enjoy an "instrument petting zoo," and compete in a quick-change costume challenge.

"Seattle Opera is excited to open its doors for its annual Summer Fest—a day designed to both pull back the curtain on the work of an opera company, in addition

to offering fun for all Seattle families," said **General Director Aidan Lang**. "Whether you love this art form, or are new to it, July 23 will have a little something for everyone."

Summer Fest will highlight the five upcoming operas: company premieres of **The Wicked Adventures of County Ory** (Rossini) and **Katya Kabanova** (Janáček); two new-to-Seattle productions: **Hansel & Gretel** (Humperdinck) and **La traviata** (Verdi); and the return of audience favorite **The Magic Flute** (Mozart).

In addition to singers, performers will include Sound Wave—the official marching band of the Seattle Sounders FC—as well as Professional Division students from Pacific Northwest Ballet School. The excitement begins right when attendees walk through the door, where they'll be greeted by Seattle Opera's beloved remotecontrolled swan—a token from the company's production of *Lohengrin*, which now delights our youngest opera patrons.

The day will also include enter-to-win opportunities for Seattle Opera swag and tickets to performances in the 2016/17 season. Doors open to the general public at noon.

#### **Generously Sponsored by:**

2016/17 Season Sponsor: Seattle Opera Guild In memory of Marian E. Lackovich and Captain Louis J. Lackovich

*The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory* Production Sponsor: Marks Family Foundation

Hansel & Gretel Production Sponsor: Microsoft

*La traviata* Production Sponsors: Ann P. Wyckoff, Lenore Hanauer, Barbara and Paul Stephanus Katya Kabanova Production Sponsors: Seattle Opera Foundation City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture Kreielsheimer Endowment Fund

The Magic Flute Production Sponsors: Tagney Jones Family Fund at Seattle Foundation ArtsFund

Summer Fest Sponsor: NBBJ

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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 <u>Seattle Opera channel on Classical King FM</u>. <u>98.1</u>.