

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 25, 2020 Contact: Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura Gainor, (206) 295-0998, gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org Press images: https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/Events/Ring/ Password: "press"

Enjoy Seattle Opera's internationally beloved *Ring* cycle on KING FM

10 a.m., Feb. 6 (<u>Das Rheingold</u>) 7 p.m., Feb. 9 (<u>Die Walküre</u>) 7 p.m., Feb. 11 (<u>Siegfried</u>) 10 a.m., Feb. 13 (<u>Götterdämmerung</u>)

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SEATTLE—Seattle Opera will offer a broadcast of its most popular production of all time—**Richard Wagner's** *Ring* cycle this February. Tune in to Classical KING FM 98.1 or king.org to enjoy a 2005 recording of the four-day opera. This "cycle" includes: *Das Rheingold* on Feb. 6, *Die Walküre* on Feb. 9, *Siegfried* on Feb. 11, and *Götterdämmerung* on Feb. 13.

From 1973 to 2013, Seattle Opera built a reputation for its grand presentations of Wagner's *Ring*. Bringing in fans from all over the world, Seattle's production received acclaim from *The New York* Times, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Opera News*. Now, diehard Wagnerians, as well as newcomers to opera, can give their pandemic listening an epic upgrade with this exclusive radio broadcast.

"We've had many memorable *Rings* in Seattle, but this 2005 production was special and one to remember," said **General Director Christina Scheppelmann**. "It includes some of the greatest singers you could wish for in a *Ring* cycle and some of the best this company has ever known. These artists are singing at their peaks and recorded at a high-quality level. I hope you tune in this February and enjoy!"

The 2005 recording stars Jane Eaglen (Brünnhilde), Greer Grimsley (in his debut performance as Wotan), Alan Woodrow (Siegfried), Richard Paul Fink (Alberich), Margaret Jane Wray (Sieglinde/Third Norn), Richard Berkeley-Steele (Siegmund), Stephanie Blythe (Fricka/Second Norn), Ewa Podleś (Erda/First Norn), Peter Kazaras (Loge) and Gordon Hawkins (Donner/Gunther), among others. The performance was conducted by Robert Spano, music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and directed by Stephen Wadsworth, Head of Operatic Studies at The Juilliard School and a Staff Director of the Metropolitan Opera. Matthew Sutton, audio engineer, helped to create the recording.

Speight Jenkins, **Seattle Opera General Director from 1983–2014** singled out Jane Eaglen's Brünnhilde for praise: "Ms. Eaglen brought to the part a marvelous voice, complete dedication to the *Ring*, good diction, and a desire to do exactly what the director and conductor wanted," Jenkins said. "She was an anchor to the whole cast: a great artist with a superb voice and a real feeling for the personality of Brünnhilde. We were more than fortunate to have her in that role."

Seattle Opera is not only continuing to produce streaming operas for subscribers and single-ticket buyers. The company is prioritizing free content such as the *Ring* broadcast on KING FM, radio broadcasts of other operas, and recitals that can be enjoyed on social media. During the pandemic, more than 240,000 listeners have enjoyed a Seattle Opera/KING FM broadcast, and the company has presented 18 free recitals featuring popular company singers.

"All of us at KING FM have been thrilled to work in close partnership with Seattle Opera to ensure our opera fans can hear performances by the organization they love," said **Brenda Barnes, KING FM CEO**. "We are grateful to the Opera and the unions for making it possible for us to broadcast The *Ring* in its entirety."

Learn more about Seattle Opera's upcoming offerings at seattleopera.org.

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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 on 98.1 Classical KING FM.