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Seattle Opera closes 60th-anniversary season with a lively, colorful *The Barber of Seville*

**May 4–19, 2024
McCaw Hall**

**Plus, youth events at The Opera Center
offer opportunities for fun and learning**

SEATTLE—One of the most popular operas in history, Gioachino Rossini's exuberant comedy [*The Barber of Seville*](#) returns to the Seattle Opera stage in a colorful, effervescent production to close out the company's 60th-anniversary season. With zany antics, eye-catching costumes, and singing that will knock your socks off, *The Barber of Seville* features the best of everything opera has to offer.

"*The Barber of Seville* offers a perfect balance of delights," said **General Director Christina Scheppelmann**. "It's funny without making you roll your eyes, it has some of the catchiest tunes you've ever heard, and it has a cute story that reminds us that opera isn't always tragic and serious. There's a reason this opera has been in continuous production since its premiere in 1816—it's simply a delightful opera that appeals to everyone."

Audiences will recognize many of the opera's famous tunes, from the fantastic overture immortalized by Bugs Bunny to the iconic, tongue-twisting aria "Largo al factotum" and its lightning-quick cries of "Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!"

Singing these tunes is an exciting cast of up-and-coming singers, including several Seattle Opera debuts. Sharing the role of Rosina are mezzo-sopranos **Megan Moore**, in her Seattle Opera debut, and **Taylor Raven**, who returns to Seattle Opera for the first time since her appearance as Hannah After in *As One* ('16). Alternating as Count Almaviva are Korean tenor **Duke Kim**, back in Seattle following his triumphant debut as Alfredo in *La traviata* ('23), and Colombian tenor **César Cortés**, making his Seattle Opera debut. Baritones **Sean Michael Plumb** and **Luke Sutliff** both make their Seattle Opera debuts as Figaro, while the two basses singing the role of Doctor Bartolo, **Kevin Burdette** (Doctor Bartolo, *The Marriage of Figaro* '22) and **Ashraf Sewailam** (Hakim/Driver, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* '23), are both returning mainstays. The rest of the singing cast are making their Seattle Opera debuts, including bass **William Guanbo Su** as Don Basilio, mezzo-soprano **Deanne Meek** as Berta, baritone **Zachary Martin** as the Officer, and baritone and 2023/24 Resident Artist **Michael J. Hawk** as Fiorello.

Seattle-based burlesque performer **Waxie Moon (Marc Kenison)** also returns to Seattle Opera in the non-singing role of Ambrogio, following up on his 2017 debut in the same role.

The colorful production is directed by Australian director **Lindy Hume**, whose past productions at Seattle Opera (*Cinderella* '19, *Rigoletto* '19, and *Count Ory* '16) have garnered her a reputation for incisive commentary and "uproarious" (*The Seattle Times*) comedy.

"*The Barber of Seville* might be the greatest sitcom ever," said Hume, whose popular productions of *Barber* have run all around the world. "Show me another sitcom that has maintained its global popularity for more than a few decades and we can compare. So much about the world has changed—our sense of comedy has changed—and yet when the orchestra strikes up with that famous tune, 200 years after it was written, it's still guaranteed to send a shot of adrenaline from stage to audience and back again."

On the podium is Italian conductor **Valentina Peleggi**, distinguished protégée of Marin Alsop and current music director of the Richmond Symphony, who makes her Seattle Opera debut. The rest of the creative team all return to Seattle Opera: Associate Director & Choreographer **Daniel Pelzig** (*Cinderella* '19); Production Designer **Tracy Grant Lord** (*Cinderella* '19); Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall** (*Cinderella* '19); Wigs, Hair, & Makeup Designer **Ashlee Naegle** (*X: The Life & Times of Malcolm X* '24); and Chorus Master **Michaela Calzaretta** (*La traviata* '23).

Events for *The Barber of Seville*

Beyond the main stage, spring at Seattle Opera features multiple ways to engage with the art form, including a recital by stars from *The Barber of Seville*, an opera talk from leading voices in the industry, and engaging events for even the youngest opera fans.

- **Taylor Raven and Duke Kim in Recital**

Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 PM, The Opera Center

Enjoy this recital from two stars from *The Barber of Seville*, accompanied by David McDade on piano. Featuring works by Margaret Bonds, Richard Strauss, Giuseppe Verdi, and Henri Duparc. Tickets and info at seattleopera.org/recital.

- **Teen Vocal Studio Recital**

Saturday, April 20, at 2:00 PM, The Opera Center

Join the talented singers from Seattle Opera's 2023/24 Teen Vocal Studio for an afternoon of solos, songs, and scenes from opera and musical theatre. Tickets and info at seattleopera.org/tvs-recital.

- **Opera Time**

Saturdays: April 27, May 18, and June 29 at 10 AM, The Opera Center

Wednesdays: April 24 and May 29 at 3 PM, Seattle Children's Museum

Children ages 2–5 can read and sing together at this interactive musical story time supporting language, literacy, and socio-emotional development. Pay-what-you-wish tickets and info at seattleopera.org/operatime.

- **Opera Talk: Ambassadors for Opera**

Thursday, May 9, at 7 PM, The Opera Center

Join outgoing scholar-in-residence Naomi André and incoming Artistic Ambassador Kenneth Kellogg for a conversation looking back at Dr. André's five years sharing her knowledge and love of opera in Seattle and looking ahead to how opera can continue to welcome new audiences. Info and RSVP at seattleopera.org/ambassadors-for-opera.

- **60th Anniversary Concert & Gala**

Saturday, May 11, at 4 PM

Celebrate 60 years of Seattle Opera with this special late-afternoon concert featuring the Seattle Opera Chorus, Seattle Symphony, and a stellar lineup of favorite singers, all conducted by Maestro Kazem Abdullah (*X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X '24*). Tickets and info at seattleopera.org/60years. A separate press release with further information is forthcoming next week.

- **Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers**

Four performances: June 8 & 9, The Opera Center

Don't miss this chance to see public performances of the 2024 school touring production, *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers*. This 45-minute opera for youth audiences fuses folktales from India, China, and West Africa to tell

a story of cooperation and resilience. Tickets and info at seattleopera.org/monkey.

About Seattle Opera

Established in 1963, Seattle Opera is committed to serving the people of the Pacific Northwest through music, storytelling, and programs for people of all ages. Each year, more than 50,000 people attend the company's performances, and more than 100,000 people are served through school performances, radio broadcasts, and more. The organization brings opera to life in a number of different ways, offering artistic excellence through national and international collaborations. Seattle Opera strives to create an environment where artists, staff, behind-the-scenes workers, and members of the community feel a strong connection to the company, and to the art of opera. Follow Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, and on Classical KING.

Performance Information

- Music by Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Cesare Sterbini
- Sung in Italian with English subtitles
- Run time approx. 2 hours 50 minutes with one intermission
- Tickets \$35–399

McCaw Hall (321 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109)

Saturday, May 4, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 PM

Friday, May 10, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 PM

Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30 PM

Friday, May 17, at 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 18, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 PM

Conductor: Valentina Peleggi†

Director: Lindy Hume

Associate Director

& Choreographer: Daniel Pelzig

Production Designer: Tracy Grant Lord

Lighting Designer: Matthew Marshall

Wigs, Hair,

& Makeup Designer: Ashlee Naegle

Chorus Master: Michaela Calzaretta

Rosina: Megan Moore† (May 4, 10, 17, & 19)

Count Almaviva:	Taylor Raven (May 5, 12, 15, & 18) Duke Kim (May 4, 10, 17, & 19) César Cortés† (May 5, 12, 15, & 18)
Figaro:	Sean Michael Plumb† (May 4, 10, 17, & 19) Luke Sutliff† (May 5, 12, 15, & 18)
Doctor Bartolo:	Kevin Burdette (May 4, 10, 17, & 19) Ashraf Sewailam (May 5, 12, 15, & 18)
Don Basilio:	William Guanbo Su†
Berta:	Deanne Meek†
Fiorello:	Michael J. Hawk†
Officer (Sergeant):	Zachary Martin†
Ambrogio:	Marc Kenison/Waxie Moon†

†=Seattle Opera debut

Tickets and information at seattleopera.org/barber.

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