

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2021 Contact: Gabrielle Gainor (**206) 295-0998**, <u>gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org</u> Press images: <u>https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/Events/WelcomeBack/</u> Password: "press"

Seattle Opera welcomes back audiences with outdoor *Die Walküre* concert

7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021 Tickets are \$40; children 6 and under are free seattleopera.org/welcomeback

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., July 12

SEATTLE—Come delight in the return of live music at Seattle Opera's **Welcome Back Concert:** *Die Walküre*. Before returning to McCaw Hall this fall, the company will offer an outdoor concert featuring highlights of the *Ring*'s most popular opera. This famous music includes Brünnhilde's battle cry "Hojotoho!" Wotan's poignant farewell "Leb' wohl," and the incomparable "Ride of the Valkyries," used in movies such as *Apocalypse Now* and *The Blues Brothers*. Richard Wagner's larger-than-life masterpiece is brought to life by an acclaimed group of artists, the **Seattle Symphony Orchestra**, and **Maestro Ludovic Morlot**—known for his major contributions as the symphony's former leader.

"Our Welcome Back Concert marks the big comeback of live music at Seattle Opera and at Seattle Center," said **General Director Christina Scheppelmann**. "We're so grateful for the support we received from our audiences during the pandemic and are thrilled to present Wagner's great music for our community."

The star-studded cast includes Washington native and internationally in-demand soprano **Angela Meade** as Sieglinde; Meade is the previous winner of both The Metropolitan Opera's Beverly Sills Artist Award and a Richard Tucker Award. Returning artists included lauded bass **Raymond Aceto** as Hunding, and the "dramatically fearless" (*The New York Times*) **Brandon Jovanovich** as Siegmund. Now starring in Seattle Opera's hit streaming production of *Tosca*, **Alexandra LoBianco** returns as Brünnhilde. **Eric Owens**, a two-time Grammy Award winner

and "an American marvel" (Chicago Sun Times) makes his Seattle Opera debut as Wotan.

The performance will be held outdoors on Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion lawn, with state-of-the art amplification. Large LED TV screens will provide a close-up look of the singers and orchestra. The audience will be seated on the lawn—with room to spread out and distance from other viewers (tickets are \$40; children 6 and under are free). For those unable to sit on the lawn, a limited number of chairs will be available for purchase.

Masks will be required in order to protect the youngest community members, as well as those who are unable to be vaccinated.

In addition to offering ticketed seating, Seattle Opera invites all opera lovers—as well as the opera-curious—to stop by and enjoy the music, which will be heard throughout the campus-green.

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 80,000 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 98.1 Classical KING FM.