



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **Online Pre-sale for Seattle Opera's Eagerly Anticipated 2009 *Ring des Nibelungen* Begins November 12**

### **Phone and In-Person Sales begin November 15**

Seattle—Tickets for Seattle Opera's 2009 *Ring* cycles will go on sale to the general public in an online pre-sale beginning at 10:00 a.m. PST on November 12, and by phone and in person beginning Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m. PST. Cycle tickets range from \$302 to \$1,508 for the four-opera package, and are already on sale to Seattle Opera subscribers and donors of \$100 or more to the *Ring* fund.

Tickets for this highly anticipated event are likely to sell quickly—for the 2005 cycle, tickets were sold out several months in advance, drawing operagoers from 49 states and 19 countries. Seattle Opera will present three full cycles of Wagner's four-opera saga from August 9, 2009, through August 30, 2009.

Seattle Opera has long been heralded as "America's Bayreuth" for its productions of the major works in the Wagner canon, especially the *Ring* cycle's four operas: *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*. In August the company will remount its stunning 2005 production, with the award-winning team of director Stephen Wadsworth, set designer Thomas Lynch, costumes by Martin

Pakledinaz, and lighting design from Peter Kaczorowski. Maestro Robert Spano, the distinguished music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra who conducted the 2005 *Ring*, also returns in 2009.

New to the 2009 *Ring* are American soprano Janice Baird as Brünnhilde, who recently made her Seattle Opera debut as Richard Strauss's Elektra, Danish tenor Stig Andersen as Siegfried, and Australian tenor Stuart Skelton as Siegmund. Returning artists include Greer Grimsley as Wotan/The Wanderer, a role he first sang in Seattle's 2005 *Ring*, and for which he won a Seattle Opera Artist of the Year award. Also returning are baritone Richard Paul Fink as Alberich, and soprano Margaret Jane Wray as Sieglinde and the Third Norn. Mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, who has sung Fricka and the Second Norn in all Seattle *Ring* performances since 2000, continues to sing Fricka this year, but will add Waltraute (*Götterdämmerung*), and switch to the First Norn.

In addition to performances of the *Ring*, Seattle Opera is hosting numerous activities in and around McCaw Hall in August. Offerings include symposia with Wagner scholars, pre- and post-performance lectures and conversations, and Tech Talks with the company's technical director. For unique theatrical perspectives on the *Ring*, there will be performances of hour-long *Ring* adaptations presented by professional young singers alongside children participating in the *Children's Ring* program, as well as a revival of the musical spoof *Das Barbecü* presented by ACT – A Contemporary Theater. For more information, visit [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org).

***Der Ring des Nibelungen***  
**By Richard Wagner**  
**In German with English Captions**

All performances take place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle, WA  
Tickets: Cycle prices start at \$302 through \$1,508 (includes all four operas)  
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> (7:00 p.m.)	(Sun) August 9	(Mon) August 17	(Tues) August 25
<i>Die Walküre</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Mon) August 10	(Tues) August 18	(Wed) August 26
<i>Siegfried</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Wed) August 12	(Thurs) August 20	(Fri) August 28
<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Fri) August 14	(Sat) August 22	(Sun) August 30

## The Artists

Conductor: Robert Spano  
Director: Stephen Wadsworth  
Set Designer: Thomas Lynch  
Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz  
Lighting Designer: Peter Kaczorowski  
Hair and Makeup Designer: Denise O'Brien  
Fire Designer and Flight Technical Director: Charles T. Buck  
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Role	Artist
Brünnhilde	Janice Baird
Wotan/The Wanderer	Greer Grimsley
Siegfried	Stig Andersen†
Alberich	Richard Paul Fink
Sieglinde/Third Norn	Margaret Jane Wray
Siegmund	Stuart Skelton†
Fafner /Hagen	Daniel Sumegi
Fricka/First Norn/ Waltraute ( <i>Götterdämmerung</i> )	Stephanie Blythe
Waltraute ( <i>Walküre</i> )/Second Norn	Luretta Bybee
Erda/Rossweisse	Maria Streijffert†
Loge	Kobie van Rensburg†
Fasolt/Hunding	Andrea Silvestrelli†
Froh	Jason Collins
Donner/Gunther	Gordon Hawkins
Mime	Dennis Petersen†
Freia/Ortlinde/Gutrune	Marie Plette
Woglinde/Forest Bird	Julianne Gearhart
Wellgunde/Grimgerde	Michele Losier
Flosshilde/Schwertleite	Jennifer Hines
Helmwige	Sally Wolf
Gerhilde	Miriam Murphy†
Siegrune	Sarah Heltzel
Bear	Joseph Hu

† Seattle Opera Debut

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### About Seattle Opera

SEATTLE OPERA'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEDICATES THE 2008/09 SEASON TO SPEIGHT JENKINS IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS GENERAL DIRECTOR.

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 35 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 fifty states.