



SEATTLE OPERA
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FOR RELEASE: June 2, 2009

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Seattle Opera Announces Finalists for “Confessions of a First-Time Operagoer” Host

Public is Invited to Vote for the Winner Voting Open Until June 5, Winner Announced June 6

Seattle—Seattle Opera is inviting the public to vote online to choose a host for “Confessions of a First-Time Operagoer,” a new reality-style video project. The company has selected five finalists, one of whom will win the opportunity to star in a documentary about his or her first *Ring* cycle experience.

The company received 49 applications over the past several weeks. Applicants either submitted videos to the company—through Facebook or by mail—or attended the live casting call held May 15. The five finalists are Cassidy Quinn Brettler, 19; Colton Michael Carothers, 24; Jeff Powell, 27; Amy Tower, 19; and Howard Wu, 30. Their audition videos can be viewed online at seattleopera.org/confessions/finalists, and voting will continue until June 5.

The five finalists have varying musical interests and experience—some are singers or musicians, others simply enjoy the arts. None of them has seen more than a few operas, and they are all relatively unfamiliar with Wagner’s *Ring des Nibelungen*. The winner will spend

some time during the summer learning about the creation of this production—meeting the artists involved, talking with die-hard *Ring* fans, and taking backstage tours, among other activities—in preparation for attending the full *Ring* cycle for the first time. The host will share his or her experiences not only through the video Seattle Opera is filming, but also through blogging, Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social networking.

The five finalists were selected by Seattle Opera and its project partner, Reel Grrls, but the ultimate selection of a host is up to the public. The finalists' videos are available for viewing on Seattle Opera's website, where people can watch each video and vote for their favorite until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5. The winner will be announced on June 6, and then his or her journey toward opening night of the *Ring* will begin.

For more information on the “Confessions” project, visit seattleopera.org/confessions. See the finalists' videos and vote for the winner at seattleopera.org/confessions/finalists.

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About Seattle Opera

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. Seattle Opera's Wagner tradition began under the leadership of the company's founding general director, Glynn Ross, and has continued since 1983 under General Director Speight Jenkins. 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, nineteen countries, and forty-nine states.