



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

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## **Seattle Opera Presents *The Marriage of Figaro* At McCaw Hall May 2 through May 16, 2009**

**International Cast Features Singers from  
the United States, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France,  
Germany, New Zealand & Poland**

**Family Day Matinee with \$15 Student Tickets  
on Sunday, May 10**

Seattle—Seattle Opera’s production of one of Mozart’s most successful works, *The Marriage of Figaro*, opens at McCaw Hall on May 2, and runs for nine performances through May 16. This sparkling comedy features the innovative staging of director Peter Kazaras, who leads an international cast of singers in an opera considered by many to be “the perfect opera.”

*The Marriage of Figaro* is an entertaining romp based on the Beaumarchais comedy that was once banned in eighteenth-century Vienna. A perpetual motion machine brimming with memorable music, *The Marriage of Figaro* is a brilliant comedy of manners where music and drama—and two pairs of lovers—wed. This timeless tale features vivid characters, mistaken identities, and carefully constructed intrigues as a lascivious Count and his servants match wits in a series of encounters as touching as they are funny.

Opera fans recommend *Figaro* as one of the top ten operas to see in a lifetime. The accessibility and appeal of *Figaro* also make it a perfect choice for first-timers, and Seattle Opera has chosen it for this

year's Family Day matinee. For the Sunday, May 10 performance, Seattle Opera is offering \$15 student tickets with the purchase of one full-priced adult ticket (up to four \$15 tickets may be purchased with each full-priced ticket; students must be 18 years of age or younger, and all family members must be ticketed). Operagoers of all ages can enjoy special Family Day treats, including a chance to try on costumes from the company's costume shop and a visit from cast members during intermission. A special Mother's Day brunch will also be available at Prelude Café.

Stage director Peter Kazaras reunites with conductor Dean Williamson for this exciting production. On opening night, Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien, an Artist of the Year recipient for his portrayal of Mozart's seductive Don Giovanni, sings the role of Count Almaviva, and soprano Twyla Robinson makes her Seattle Opera debut as the Countess. American bass Oren Gradus makes his company debut in the title role of Figaro, and soprano Christine Brandes (most recently seen here as Cleopatra in Handel's *Julius Caesar*) sings the role of Susanna. German mezzo-soprano Daniela Sindram makes her U.S. debut as the hapless page, Cherubino.

The Friday/Sunday cast features Danish baritone Johannes Mannov as the Count in his Seattle debut, and soprano Jessica Jones, who was last seen here as Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, returns to the company as the Countess. French bass-baritone Nicolas Cavallier sings Figaro in his U.S. debut, and Cuban-born soprano Elizabeth Caballero sings Susanna. Mezzo-soprano Sarah Castle, a native of New Zealand, sings Cherubino.

Mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle and bass Arthur Woodley, two Seattle favorites, sing Marcellina and Dr. Bartolo in all performances. Former Young Artists Leena Chopra and Ted Schmitz perform as Barbarina and Don Basilio/Don Curzio, respectively, with both casts.

Featuring new costume designs from Seattle native Deborah Trout and exquisite sets designed by Susan Benson and originally executed for the Banff Centre, this *Figaro* also features Connie Yun's lighting design and Wade Madsen's lively choreography.

*The Marriage of Figaro* opens on May 2 and runs until May 16. Single tickets start at \$25 and are available online at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org), by calling 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619, or by mobile phone at [mobile.seattleopera.org](http://mobile.seattleopera.org).

*Please note: the following artists list for The Marriage of Figaro replaces all previously published or announced cast lists. Further information on the 2008/09 season can be found at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org).*

## **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (*Le nozze di Figaro*)**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

In Italian with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

9 Performances: May 2, 3m, 6, 8, 9, 10m, 13, 15, and 16, 2009

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 15 minutes including one intermission

Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Vienna, Burg Theater, May 1, 1786

Previous Seattle Opera Productions: 1971, 1983, 1989, and 1997

### Artists

Figaro:	Oren Gradus†/Nicolas Cavallier†*
Count Almaviva:	Mariusz Kwiecien/Johannes Mannov†*
Countess Almaviva:	Twyla Robinson†/Jessica Jones*
Susanna:	Christine Brandes/Elizabeth Caballero†*
Cherubino:	Daniela Sindram†/Sarah Castle†*
Marcellina:	Joyce Castle
Dr. Bartolo:	Arthur Woodley
Don Basilio/Don Curzio:	Ted Schmitz†
Antonio:	Barry Johnson
Barbarina:	Leena Chopra

Conductor:	Dean Williamson
Stage Director:	Peter Kazaras
Set Designer:	Susan Benson
Costume Designer:	Deborah Trout
Lighting Designer:	Connie Yun
Choreographer:	Wade Madsen
English Captions:	Jonathan Dean

Sets: Banff Centre

Costumes: Seattle Opera

\* On May 3, 8, 10, and 15, 2009 only

† Company Debut

Ted Schmitz and Leena Chopra are former Seattle Opera Young Artists

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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. 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.