



**For Release: July 28, 2006**

**Julianne Gearhart to Sing Sophie  
In  
*Der Rosenkavalier* at Seattle Opera  
August 5-26**

Seattle—American soprano Julianne Gearhart will sing the role of Sophie in Seattle Opera's production of Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier*, which opens August 5. Gearhart replaces Irish soprano Frances Lucey, who is indisposed.

Gearhart made her Seattle Opera debut as Helen Niles in Marvin David Levy's *Mourning Becomes Electra* in 2003 and since returned to the company as Zerbinetta in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Countess Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Olympia in Offenbach's *Contes d'Hoffmann*. While a member of Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program, she sang Musetta in the 2003 production of Puccini's *Bohème*.

Just prior to coming to Seattle this summer, Gearhart appeared at New Israeli Opera as Oscar in Verdi's *Ballo in maschera*. Gearhart has been in Seattle since rehearsals for *Der Rosenkavalier* began, as she was scheduled to sing the Milliner as well as to cover the role of Sophie. She will sing both roles in August.

***DER ROSENKAVALIER***

Music by Richard Strauss  
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal  
In German with English Captions

**Marion Oliver McCaw Hall**

**8 Performances: August 5, 9, 12, 15, 18, 20m, 23, and 26, 2006**

Approximate Running Time: 4 hours including two intermissions

Evening performances begin at 7:00 p.m., August 20 matinee begins at 2:00 p.m.

**Tickets: \$49 to \$135**

**Student and senior rush tickets available on day of show**

**Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206-389-7676/800-426-1619**

**Online Orders: [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org)**

**Artists [this cast list replaces all previous cast lists]**

Marschallin: Carol Vaness

Octavian: Alice Coote†

Baron Ochs: Peter Rose

Sophie von Faninal: Julianne Gearhart

Herr von Faninal: Wolfgang Holzmaier†

Italian Tenor: Vinson Cole

Annina: Graciela Araya

Valzacchi: Doug Jones

Police Commissioner: Andrew Greenan

Marianne: Mary McLaughlin

Marschallin's Majordomo/Innkeeper: William Saetre

Faninal's Majordomo: Simeon Esper†

Notary: Barry Johnson

Orphan Daughters: Dana Johnson, Emily Clubb, Gail Neil†

Milliner: Julianne Gearhart

Vendor of Pets: Noah Baetge†

Waiters: Wesley Rogers, Barry Johnson, Leodigario del Rosario, Brian Box

Footmen: Wesley Rogers, Michael Monnikendam†, Leodigario del Rosario, Brian Box

Leopold: Scott Webster†

Hair Dresser: John Gardner†

Mohammed: Mahogani Watson†

Conductor: Asher Fisch

Stage Director: Dieter Kaegi

Scenery & Costume Designer: Bruno Schwengl

Lighting Designer: Paul Palazzo

Sets & Costumes: Seattle Opera

English Captions: Christopher Bergen, courtesy of San Francisco Opera

†Company Debut

Julianne Gearhart, Wesley Rogers, and Leodigario del Rosario are former Seattle Opera Young Artists.

**International Wagner Competition**

**August 19, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$42 to \$52**

Also in August, Seattle Opera will hold the finals for its first International Wagner Competition, features eight singers from the United States, Europe, and New Zealand competing for two \$15,000 prizes. Details of the competition can be found at [www.seattleopera.org](http://www.seattleopera.org).

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Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera has developed into 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. In 2006, Seattle Opera presents its first International Wagner Competition, made possible by the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences.

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7/28/07 rj