



SEATTLE OPERA  
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

**FOR RELEASE: March 11, 2009**

**Press Contacts:** Hilda Cullen, 206.676.5543, [hilda.cullen@seattleopera.org](mailto:hilda.cullen@seattleopera.org)

Sara Schweid, 206.676.5559, [sara.schweid@seattleopera.org](mailto:sara.schweid@seattleopera.org)

**Visuals Contact:** Monte Jacobson, 206.676.5545, [monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org](mailto:monte.jacobson@seattleopera.org)

## **Seattle Opera's Young Artists Turn Spring into Summer with Britten's Magical *Midsummer Night's Dream***

**March 27 – April 5, 2009  
Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer Center**

Seattle—Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program will brighten the season with performances of Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, opening on March 27 at Bellevue's Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, and running for six performances through April 5. This all-new, fully-staged production directed by Peter Kazaras and conducted by Brian Garman, features Seattle Opera's Young Artists along with a number of guest artists, in a unique and fresh interpretation of Benjamin Britten's adaptation of this Shakespearean classic.

Set in a British boarding school—with the lovers doubling as teachers, the feuding fairy royalty and their courts as students, and the amateur actors as school handymen—this *Midsummer* is an entertaining and intoxicating blend of mortals, mechanicals, and fairies, all thrown together on one magical night. The intimate Theatre at Meydenbauer Center allows audiences to experience the production in ways not possible in conventional opera houses.

Seattle Opera Education Director Perry Lorenzo said he is eager to witness how Kazaras and Maestro Garman bring *Midsummer* to life. "Britten set words to music with intelligence, passion, and sensitivity, and our whole Young Artists Program is based on music interpreting words—and there are no greater words than

Shakespeare's," Lorenzo said. "These Young Artists and guest artists, drawn from all over the country, promise to express magic in *Midsummer*."

More than 600 singers auditioned for the 2008/09 season of Seattle Opera's prestigious Young Artists Program. These singers, between the ages of 20 and 30 years old, recently completed their college training and are embarking on professional singing careers. Former Young Artists have gone on to perform on Seattle Opera's mainstage, as well as at companies around the world.

The Young Artists performing in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are: sopranos Megan Hart, Vira Slywotzky, and Michelle Trovato, mezzo-sopranos Margaret Gawrysiak and Elizabeth Pojanowski, tenors Alex Mansoori and Bray Wilkins, baritone Michael Krzankowski, and bass Thomas Forde. They are joined by guest artists Rose Beattie, Jeffrey Beruan, Marc-Antoine d'Aragnon, Emily Hindrichs, Jeffrey Madison, Marcus Shelton, Jonathan Silvia, and actor David S. Hogan. Anthony Roth Costanzo, a Grand Finals winner of the 2009 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, is also a guest artist in this production.

Tickets for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 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). Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$15 for students. Patron tickets, which help support the Young Artists Program and opera education, are also available for \$125. Patron tickets make up the difference between the regular ticket price and the full cost of producing the opera, and \$90 of the ticket cost is a tax-deductible contribution.

*Please note the following artists list for A Midsummer Night's Dream replaces all previously published or announced cast lists. For more information about the Young Artists Program, artist biographies, and Seattle Opera's 2008/09 season, visit [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org).*

## ***A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM***

Music by Benjamin Britten  
Libretto by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, adapted from William Shakespeare  
In English with English captions

Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue  
6 performances: March 27, 28, 29m, April 3, 4, and 5m, 2009

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours and 10 minutes, including two intermissions  
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, Aldeburgh Festival, June 11, 1960

Artists (in order of vocal appearance)

Puck:	David S. Hogan^
Tytania:	Megan Hart (3/27, 3/29, and 4/4) Emily Hindrichs^ (3/28, 4/3, and 4/5)
Oberon:	Anthony Roth Costanzo^
Lysander:	Bray Wilkins
Hermia:	Elizabeth Pojanowski
Demetrius:	Michael Krzankowski
Helena:	Vira Slywotzky (3/27, 3/29, and 4/4) Michelle Trovato (3/28, 4/3, and 4/5)
Quince:	Jonathan Silvia^
Snug:	Thomas Forde
Starveling:	Marc-Antoine d' Aragon^
Flute:	Alex Mansoori
Snout:	Marcus Shelton^
Bottom:	Jeffrey Madison^
Theseus:	Jeffrey Beruan^
Hippolyta:	Margaret Gawrysiak (3/27, 3/28, and 3/29) Rose Beattie^ (4/3, 4/4, and 4/5)
Fairy Chorus:	Kevin Beall (Cobweb), Staffan Hellman (Peaseblossom), Bronwyn James, Cecilia Lewis, Elijah Ostrow (Moth), Brandon Root, Jack Sbragia, and Aaron Smith (Mustardseed)
Conductor:	Brian Garman
Director:	Peter Kazaras
Set Designer:	Donald Eastman
Costume Designer:	Heidi Ganser
Lighting Designer:	Connie Yun
Hair & Makeup Designer:	Danyale Cook
Diction Coach:	Lynn Baker
Titlist:	Emmy Ulmer

^ Rose Beattie, Jeffrey Beruan, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Marc-Antoine d' Aragon, Emily Hindrichs, Jeffrey Madison, Marcus Shelton, and Jonathan Silvia are Guest Artists with the Young Artists Program. David S. Hogan is an actor in this production. Brayden Daher is a supernumerary.

###

**About Seattle Opera**

SEATTLE OPERA'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEDICATES THE 2008/09 SEASON TO SPEIGHT JENKINS IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25TH 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.