



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

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**Kirchschlager Withdraws
Barber and Kahl to Sing the Role of the Composer
In Seattle Opera's *Ariadne auf Naxos***

Seattle—Austrian mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschlager, suffering from exhaustion, has withdrawn from Seattle Opera's new production of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. She was scheduled to sing the Composer in the Saturday and Wednesday performances.

Canadian mezzo-soprano Kimberly Barber, who was scheduled to sing in the other cast, will now sing the Saturday and Wednesday performances (February 28, March 3, 6, 10, and 13); American mezzo-soprano Carolyn Kahl will sing the Sunday and Friday performances (February 29, March 5, 7, and 12). Seattle Opera audiences are familiar with Barber, who has sung several roles with the company including Suzuki in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Erika in Barber's *Vanessa*, and the title role in Handel's *Xerxes*. Carolyn Kahl, who had been understudying the role of the Composer, is one of Seattle Opera's Young Artists. The 25-year-old will make her Seattle Opera mainstage debut with these performances. She also will sing the role of Dorabella in the Young Artists performances of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in April 2004

Seattle Opera's general director, Speight Jenkins, commented on the cast changes: "I am very sad not to have Angelika with us but delighted that we have two such strong mezzo-sopranos. Kimberly Barber, who has often sung in Seattle, has performed the role often in Germany, and Carolyn Kahl has sung it brilliantly here in rehearsal."

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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. Seattle Opera dedicates its inaugural season in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall to Dorothy Priscilla "Patsy" Bullitt Collins.

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