



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

NEWS

For Immediate Release

**Texas Band Brave Combo Plays
Seattle Opera's *Party In Red***

Seattle—The Grammy Award-winning Texas band Brave Combo will play Marion Oliver McCaw Hall on January 31, 2004, for Seattle Opera's "Party In Red." Besides dancing to Brave Combo's beat, partygoers will enjoy a host of other entertainments throughout the night. A Spanish tapas bar and special red cocktails add to the *Carmen* themes of the evening.

Seattle Opera's new production of George Bizet's *Carmen* opened on January 10, 2004, at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and has played to sold-out houses. *Carmen* continues through January 30 with the "Party in Red" in McCaw Hall on January 31 as the final celebration of the company's new production.

"Patrons are encouraged to dress in red for that true *Carmen* spirit," said Steve Phelps, co-chair for the "Party In Red" committee. The event serves as a fundraiser for Seattle Opera's Education Department programs and outreach efforts.

Money raised during the "Party in Red" helps *Opera Goes to School*, a five-day residency program that teaches approximately 3,000 grade school students every year about all aspects of opera. *Experience Opera* provides high school students with in-depth knowledge of opera as an art form and direct access to world-class opera productions. This comprehensive high school program involves more than 35 schools in six counties and reaches more than 5,000 students each year.

Brave Combo previously played at McCaw Hall's official opening on June 28, 2003, providing an evening of dancing in Café Impromptu and inspiring the "Party in Red" committee to invite them back for this event.

Brave Combo celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2004. Fans of the band include former Talking Heads front man David Byrne, who asked the band to play for his wedding, and cartoonist and *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening, who has written Brave Combo into an upcoming *Simpsons*' episode. Brave Combo's 20 albums include the Grammy Award-winning 1999 release, *Polkasonic*, and four other Grammy-nominated albums. The band's most recent release, *Box Of Ghosts* (Rounder Records), features Brave Combo's salsa twist on familiar classical pieces. Brave Combo can be heard on several filmtracks including David Byrne's *True Stories*, Clive Barker's *Lord of Illusions*, *Late Bloomers*, *Fools Rush In*, and *The Personalists*. The band has been a frequent guest on such public broadcasting shows as *The Lonesome Pine Special*, *Fresh Air*, *All Things Considered*, and *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Brave Combo's members are founder Carl Finch, who sings and plays guitar, accordion, and keyboards, and his long-time musical partners Cenobio (Bubba) Hernandez on bass, tuba and vocals, Jeffrey Barnes on reeds,

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winds, and harmonica, Danny O'Brien on trumpet and drums, and drummer Alan Emert. Joseph Cripps will join the band for this event to supplement Brave Combo's percussion section.

Tickets for "Party In Red" are \$55 per person (\$25 for Bravo Club members) and available now by calling Seattle Opera Development Department, 206-676-5535, or through Seattle Opera's Web site, www.seattleopera.org. "Party In Red" begins at 8:00 p.m. on January 31, 2004, at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. For \$250, patrons may purchase tickets for dinner onstage at McCaw Hall (cocktails and party included).

***Carmen* Performance Added For January 26**

In response to high ticket demand, Seattle Opera added an extra performance of *Carmen* for January 26, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. at McCaw Hall. Tickets for *Carmen* are priced from \$43 to \$103 and are available from Seattle Opera's ticket office, 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619, or online at 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. Seattle Opera dedicates its inaugural season in the new Marion Oliver McCaw Hall to Dorothy Priscilla "Patsy" Bullitt Collins.

Seattle Opera is grateful to the following organizations for their steadfast major institutional support: ArtsFund, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Classical KING FM 98.1, Charles E. Stuart Charitable Foundation, The James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment, King County Cultural Development Authority, Kreielsheimer Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Nesholm Family Foundation, PONCHO, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Opera Guild, Sherman Clay Pianos, and Washington State Arts Commission. Seattle Opera is a participant in the Seattle Arts Stabilization Project, a joint venture of the Seattle Arts Stabilization Committee and the National Arts Stabilization Fund.

Seattle Opera wishes to thank the following companies for their support of the "Party in Red" event: The Boeing Company, Charles Schwab, Turgeon Raine, Air France, Concorde Hotels, and Alaska Air.