

SEATTLE OPERA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 27, 2017

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Singing sisters star in Mozart masterpiece

**Seattle Opera presents Mozart's *Così fan tutte*
Jan. 13 - 27, 2018
McCaw Hall**

SEATTLE – Seattle Opera steams up McCaw Hall this winter with a comedy about sex: Mozart's [*Così fan tutte*](#)! In this story, two sisters, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, are adored by their respective fiancés Ferrando and Guglielmo. But, when the two buddies decide to test the sisters' fidelity, the plot takes an unexpected turn: each man disguises himself and begins to woo the other's lover. Soon it becomes clear that everyone's feelings are much more complicated than any of them had thought.

Così is not only the third and final opera created by Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte—the two created *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* together. It's also their most thought-provoking piece, according to **General Director Aidan Lang**.

"With some of the most stirring music Mozart ever wrote, the composer communicates to us about our own human vulnerability; how fragile and tenuous relationships can be," Lang said. "*Così* indeed takes a cynical swipe at men and women, but it's this truth about human relationships that makes it such a pointed work of genius."

When this acclaimed production by Jonathan Miller premiered at McCaw Hall in 2006, it was written up as a performance that “may be the funniest and most dramatically successful show that Seattle Opera has ever staged” (*The Seattle Times*). This time around, the production will include debut performances by two of “opera’s singing sisters”—**Marina and Ginger Costa-Jackson**: rising-star singers, real-life siblings, and performers who portray sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella in *Così*.

“Music is not only our career choice; it’s who we are as a family,” **Marina Costa-Jackson** said. “Our passion for opera is strongly connected to our mother, to our first language (Italian), and to our Italian-American heritage.”

Singing opposite the Costa-Jacksons are internationally acclaimed Finnish soprano **Marjukka Tepponen** in her company debut as Fiordiligi, and Polish mezzo-soprano **Hanna Hipp** as Dorabella (Isolier in *Count Ory*, '16). *Così* also includes the debut performances of tenors **Tuomas Katajala** and **Ben Bliss**, who star as Ferrando, and baritone **Michael Adams**, who alternates as Guglielmo with **Craig Verm** (Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, '17). **Laura Tatulescu** (Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, '16) returns as Despina, and **Kevin Burdette** (Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, '07) returns as Don Alfonso.

Finally, two British artists make their company debuts: **Harry Fehr**, Stage Director of Jonathan Miller’s original production, and **Maestro Paul Daniel**. Bearing a long and impressive history with Seattle Opera, Associate Costume Designer **Cynthia Savage**, returns; along with lighting designer **Neil Peter Jampolis**.

Così fan tutte opens Saturday, Jan. 13, and runs through Saturday, Jan. 27. Tickets are available online at seattleopera.org, by calling 206-389-7676, or in-person at the box office located at 1020 John Street (two blocks west of Fairview). Box office hours are Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Groups save at least 20 percent: 206.676.5588 or groups@seattleopera.org.

Così fan tutte

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

Performances: January 13, 14, 17, 20, 24, 26, 27, 2018

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours, 15 minutes with one intermission

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Jan. 26, 1790 in Vienna

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1974, 1992, 1986, 2006

Cast:

Fiordiligi	Marina Costa-Jackson* (Jan. 13, 17, 24, & 27) Marjukka Tepponen* (Jan. 14, 20, & 26)
Ferrando	Tuomas Katajala* (Jan. 13, 17, 24, & 27) Ben Bliss* (Jan. 14, 20, & 26)
Dorabella	Ginger Costa-Jackson* (Jan. 13, 17, 24, & 27) Hanna Hipp (Jan. 14, 20, & 26)
Guglielmo	Craig Verm (Jan. 13, 17, 24, & 27) Michael Adams* (Jan. 14, 20, & 26)
Despina	Laura Tatulescu (All dates)
Don Alfonso	Kevin Burdette (All dates)
Original Stage Director and Production Design	Jonathan Miller
Stage Director	Harry Fehr*
Conductor	Paul Daniel*
Associate Costume Designer	Cynthia Savage
Lighting Designer	Neil Peter Jampolis

* Company Debut

Production Sponsors: Seattle Opera Foundation, Ann P. Wyckoff, ArtsFund

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About Seattle Opera

Seattle Opera is a leading opera company, recognized both in the United States and around the world. The company is committed to advancing the cultural life in the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber, and through innovative education and community programs that take opera far beyond the McCaw Hall stage. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances and the company's programs serve more than 400,000 people of all ages (including school performances, radio broadcasts and community engagement initiatives). Seattle Opera is especially known for its acclaimed works in the Richard Wagner canon, and has created an "international attraction" in its presentation of

Wagner's epic *Ring*, according to *The New York Times*. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud and through Saturday-night broadcasts on Classical KING FM.