



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OPERA COLORADO 2006-2007 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT** *Featuring exciting new productions, artists and increased performance dates*

**THE MAGIC FLUTE** *Mozart*  
**THE ELIXIR OF LOVE** *Donizetti*  
**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA** *Verdi*

\* = Opera Colorado Debut

**Denver, Colo.**— President and General Director **Peter Russell** is pleased to announce Opera Colorado's 24<sup>th</sup> season and select artists from the slated roster. The season begins in the fall of 2006 with the fairy tale world of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* as envisioned by world-renowned children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak; followed by Donizetti's lively, whimsical comedy *The Elixir of Love* taking the stage in February of 2007; and Verdi's rich drama *Un ballo in maschera* rounding out the season in the spring. New this year, are increased performances for the winter and spring productions, both of which will run for five dates. **Russell** comments, "I am pleased that in response to strong ticket sales and increased contributions during our first season in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, we will once again increase the expansion of Opera Colorado's season by adding fifth performances to our winter and spring productions. I feel that the combination of a classic production of Mozart's masterpiece *The Magic Flute* to celebrate his anniversary year, a new production of Donizetti's beloved romantic comedy to coincide with Valentine's Day, and a new production of Verdi's intensely dramatic *Un ballo in maschera* makes for a well-balanced season. Our casts, just like our productions, blend the familiar and popular with new and exciting artists".

**The Magic Flute** From a red-eyed dragon to fanciful pyramids and temple ruins, Sendak's imagination will transport you on a fantastic voyage to an exotic landscape filled with laughter and mysterious trials. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute* opens November 10, 2006 with a special opening night gala. Continuing the year-long celebration of the composer's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mozart's masterpiece will play for eight performances through the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Two principal casts will alternate performances to accommodate the back-to-back dates.

**Norman Reinhardt\***, tenor, (Houston Grand Opera, Aspen Music Festival) alternates the role of the hero Tamino with **Frédéric Antoun\***, tenor (Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Ottawa's National Arts Centre). Chinese

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soprano **Ying Huang\*** (Frédéric Mitterrand's film *Madame Butterfly*) and **Heidi Stober\*** (Houston Grand Opera), both debut with the company to share the role of the courageous Pamina. Rounding out the cast are three returning artists who will be featured in all eight performances: **Mel Ulrich**, baritone, (*La Bohème*, 2004) sings as the birdseller Papageno; **Amanda Pabyan**, soprano, (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006) will sing the scheming coloratura Queen of the Night, and bass **Vitalij Kowaljow\*** sings the role of Sarastro.

**Kevin Newbury** (Portland Opera) has assistant directed at Opera Colorado in previous years, and makes his Opera Colorado directorial debut with the company's staging of *The Magic Flute*. **Dean Williamson** (*Don Giovanni*, 2003) will conduct. The original production was created by Mr. Sendak and Frank Corsaro for Houston Grand Opera.

***The Magic Flute* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, November 10, 8:15 pm  
Saturday, November 11, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, November 12, 2:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 pm  
Thursday, November 16, 7:30 pm  
Friday, November 17, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, November 18, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, November 19, 2:00 pm

**Sponsored by:** Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, CIBER, Inc., Dave and Pam Duke, Chris and Joy Dinsdale, and Hilja K. Herfurth.

**The Elixir of Love** In Gaetano Donizetti's colorful comedy, shy Nemorino pines hopelessly for the beautiful Adina. Dr. Dulcamara's magic elixir promises the power to win her heart—but the true magic might just be Adina's potent charms and Nemorino's boundless devotion.

**Maria Kanyova** (*The Marriage of Figaro*, 2005) returns to sing the role of the carefree beauty, Adina. English tenor **Barry Banks\*** (Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden) debuts as her love struck farmer, Nemorino. **Timothy Mix**, baritone, (*Carmen*, 2005) returns as the dashing Sergeant Belcore. **Simone Alberghini\***, bass-baritone, (Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera) makes his company debut as the potion prescribing Dr. Dulcamara.

*The Elixir of Love* plays for five performances beginning February 9, 2007. Maestro **Carlo Montanaro\*** makes his American debut as conductor. The new production directed by Artistic Director **James Robinson** with sets designed by **Allen Moyer** (*Carmen*, 2005) and costumes by Tony Award winner **Martin Pakledinaz\*** (Broadway; Metropolitan Opera). This production is being created in cooperation with Boston Lyric Opera and Fort Worth Opera; the production debuts in Denver.

***The Elixir of Love* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, February 9, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, February 11, 2:00 pm  
Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 pm  
Friday, February 16, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, February 18, 2:00 pm

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**Sponsored by:** Robert and Kalleen Malone.

**Un ballo in maschera** Giuseppe Verdi's burning tale of guilty passion and murderous jealousy, concludes the 06-07 season with five riveting performances playing April 26 through May 8, 2007. Artistic Director **James Robinson** will direct the new production being created in cooperation with Boston Lyric Opera and Minnesota Opera. Maestro **David Agler** (*The Marriage of Figaro*, 2004) returns to conduct. **Allen Moyer** will design sets with **James Schuette** (*Carmen*, 2005) designing costumes.

*Un ballo in maschera* will feature an all-star cast. Tenor **Frank Lopardo\*** (Vienna State Opera, Metropolitan Opera) debuts as King Gustav, joined by Romanian soprano **Doina Dimitriu\*** (Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro alla Scala) as the conflicted Amelia and soprano **Heidi Stober\*** singing the role of the young page Oscar (Houston Grand Opera). **Nancy Maultsby** (*Julius Caesar*, 2005) returns as the fortune-teller Ulrica and baritone **Charles Taylor** (2001 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions finalist) returns to Denver to sing the role of the scorned Anckarström. This production is being created in cooperation with Boston Lyric Opera and Minnesota Opera.

***Un ballo in maschera* Performance Schedule:**

Thursday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 29, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 pm

**Sponsored by:** Frontier Airlines and Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado.

**Tickets – Subscriptions** go on sale to the general public March 6, 2006. Call the Opera Colorado Subscriber Services line at **303-468-2030** or visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org).

All performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14<sup>th</sup> and Curtis Streets in downtown Denver.

**Opera Colorado's 2006-2007 Season Sponsors**

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Opera Colorado exists to feed the spirit.