



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **OPERA 101 SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 9, 2007 WITH OPERA COLORADO'S "THE ELIXIR OF LOVE"**

**Denver, Colo.** – The presenting partners of the popular Opera 101 series are pleased to announce the 2007 schedule of events, beginning with a preview lecture on Opera Colorado's upcoming production of *The Elixir of Love* on **January 9**. This is the sixth consecutive year of Opera 101, the informative and entertaining lecture series co-presented by Opera Colorado, Central City Opera, Denver Public Library and Colorado Public Radio. These free programs offer overviews of upcoming opera productions, previewing the plots, musical highlights and the history behind the operas themselves. The program is **free** and takes place at **6:00 p.m. at the Denver Central Library** located at Broadway & 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parkway. All attendees may enter a drawing to **win two free tickets** to a performance of *The Elixir of Love*.

#### **Tuesday, January 9: *The Elixir of Love***

Opera Colorado's President and General Director **Peter Russell** will deliver an insightful lecture on Donizetti's romantic comedy which runs for five performances February 9 through 18 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Russell will discuss Donizetti's background and the influences on the piece, one of the most frequently performed of all Donizetti's operas, as well as providing a light synopsis of the humorous plot. His lecture will also delve into production highlights for the updated staging, moving the action from Italy to middle-America at a county fair in the 1910's. Featured excerpts from *The Elixir of Love* including "*Chiedi all'aura lusinghiera*", "*Come Paride vezzoso*", and "*Una Furtiva Lagrima*" will be performed by Opera Colorado Ensemble members **Sangeetha Appavoo** as Adina, **Chester Pidduck** as Nemorino, and **Gregory Bruce** as Belcore. **Chris Thompson** will provide piano accompaniment.

#### **Upcoming OPERA 101 Dates:**

Tuesday, January 9: *The Elixir of Love*, Opera Colorado  
Tuesday, February 27: *Cinderella*, Central City Opera  
Tuesday, March 13: *La Traviata*, Central City Opera / *Un ballo in maschera*, Opera Colorado  
Wednesday, April 4: *The Saint of Bleecker Street* and *Poet Li Bai*, Central City Opera

NOTE: The final Opera 101 will be held on a Wednesday. All start times are one hour earlier than prior years, now beginning at 6:00 pm.

The Opera 101 Series is an ongoing collaborative designed to introduce the art form of opera to a larger audience, while also offering an in-depth look at some of the world's greatest operas. For more information, visit [www.cpr.org](http://www.cpr.org); [www.centralcityopera.org](http://www.centralcityopera.org); [www.denver.lib.co.us](http://www.denver.lib.co.us); and [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org).

Single tickets are available for Opera Colorado's *The Elixir of Love* by Donizetti running February 9 through 18 and *Un ballo in maschera* by Verdi, April 26 through May 8 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Tickets range from \$27-\$157. For more information call 303-778-1500 or visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org); to purchase tickets call 303-357-ARTS or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Tickets are now on sale for Central City Opera's 2007 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival including Verdi's *La Traviata*, Massenet's *Cinderella*, Menotti's *The Saint of Bleeker Street*, and Guo Wenjing's world premiere Chinese opera *Poet Li Bai*. Subscriptions start at just \$107 and single tickets start at \$43. To purchase tickets call Central City Opera Ensemble Ticketing at 303-292-6700, 800-851-8175 or visit the company's website at [www.centralcityopera.org](http://www.centralcityopera.org). For more information, visit [www.centralcityopera.org](http://www.centralcityopera.org) or call 303-292-6500.

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