



PRESS RELEASE

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OPERA 101: UNMASK THE MYSTERY OF VERDI

La Traviata and Un ballo in maschera

Denver, Colo. – Revel in the romance of Giuseppe Verdi during a joint Central City Opera/Opera Colorado Opera 101 event on **Tuesday, March 13 at 6:00 pm**. The evening will feature previews of two of the great composer's operas being performed this spring and summer. Central City Opera's new production of ***La Traviata***, the story of a young courtesan stricken with consumption and her tumultuous love affair with a nobleman in Paris, will be highlighted along with Opera Colorado's ***Un ballo in maschera (A Masked Ball)***, the tragic tale of a forbidden love triangle that surfaces before the famed masquerade ball. The program is **free** and takes place at **6:00 p.m. at the Denver Central Library** located at Broadway & 14th Ave. Parkway. All attendees may enter a drawing to **win two free tickets** to a performance of *La Traviata*, as well as **two free tickets** to *Un ballo in maschera*.

'Unmask the Mystery of Verdi' is the theme for this lecture, presented by **Stephen Seifert**, who will speak on behalf of both Central City Opera and Opera Colorado. Mr. Seifert will explore several aspects of the Italian operas, delving into the historical influences on the pieces, the subject matter and characters, as well as summarizing Verdi's many contributions to, and triumphs in music. In addition to the lecture, members of the Opera Colorado Outreach Ensemble, **Sangeetha Appavoo**, soprano; **Lianne Coble**, soprano; **Chester Pidduck**, tenor; **Christina Rosa**, mezzo soprano, will sing selections from each opera, accompanied by pianist **Christopher Thompson**.

Stephen Seifert is Executive Director of the Newman Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Denver. He was previously Executive Director of Opera Colorado from 1997-2001 and recently served as a consultant for the renovation of Denver's Historic Auditorium Theater, the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

The Opera 101 Series is an ongoing collaborative effort among Central City Opera, Colorado Public Radio, Denver Public Library and Opera Colorado 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. The final Opera 101 date of the season will be Wednesday, April 4 with a preview of ***Saint of Bleeker Street & Poet Li Bai***. All sessions are free and begin at 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.centralcityopera.org; www.cpr.org; www.denver.lib.co.us; and www.operacolorado.org.

Tickets are now on sale for Central City Opera's 2007 75th Anniversary Festival including Verdi's *La Traviata*, the world premiere of Guo Wenjing's *Poet Li Bai*, Massenet's *Cinderella* and Menotti's *The Saint of Bleecker Street*. Subscriptions start at just \$107 and single tickets start at \$43. To purchase tickets call **Central City Opera Box Office at 303-292-6700, 800-851-8175** or visit the company's website at www.centralcityopera.org.

Single tickets are available for Opera Colorado's *Un ballo in maschera* by Verdi, April 26 through May 8 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Tickets range from \$27 - \$157. Subscription renewals are currently available for the 2007-2008 25th Anniversary Season. For more information call 303-778-1500 or visit www.operacolorado.org; to purchase tickets call 303-357-ARTS or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

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