



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES WESTERN SLOPE TOUR MARCH 18 – 23, 2007

Denver, Colo.— Opera Colorado announces the **2007 Outreach Ensemble's Western Slope Tour**. Beginning **March 18 and ending March 23**, the Western Slope Tour will bring opera to eight cities throughout western Colorado. The Outreach Ensemble will travel with portable scenery and costumes to perform entertaining musical offerings that are typically presented in the Denver Metro community to both youth and adult audiences. **Leigh Holman**, Director of Education and Outreach, says: "We want to introduce Coloradoans to opera in an engaging and memorable way that will increase their understanding and appreciation of opera."

The Western Slope Tour includes:

Arias & Ensembles: A recital program featuring some of opera's greatest hits. Including highlights from all three of Opera Colorado's main-stage operas plus other popular works from the operatic repertoire. Arias and Ensembles concerts are interspersed with background information and interesting facts about the music. concerts

La Curandera: The Opera Colorado-commissioned bilingual opera by Robert Xavier Rodriguez. The one-act family opera follows a young couple traveling to present-day Tepoztlán, Mexico to visit a beloved relative. When misunderstandings erupt, the only person who can help is a mysterious woman, La Curandera, revered by all in the village. The opera is full of melodic Mexican rhythms and catchy lyrics that audiences of all ages will enjoy.

Master Classes: Hands-on workshops taught by various guest artists fashioned around specific needs of music students, concentrating on auditioning, stage fright, diction, acting, movement, or other important performance elements.

Western Slope Tour locations:

Valley Fellowship Church, Buena Vista, March 18, 2007, 3pm
Salida High School, Salida
Salida Middle School, Salida
Western State College Quigley Hall, Gunnison
Western State College, Gunnison, March 20, 7:30pm
Delta Middle School, Delta
Blue Sage Arts Center, Paonia, March 21, 7:30pm
Central High School, Grand Junction
Avalon Theatre, Grand Junction, March 22, 6:00pm
Rifle High School, Rifle
Glenwood Springs High School, Glenwood Springs

The Opera Colorado Outreach Ensemble is comprised of a select group of professional opera performers who are auditioned nationally to partake in a residency with Opera Colorado's Education department, performing in schools and other venues throughout the state of Colorado. This year's Outreach Ensemble is comprised of: **Sangeetha Appavoo**, soprano; **Gregory Bruce**, baritone; **Lianne Coble**, soprano; **Christopher Job**, bass; **Chester Pidduck**, tenor; **Christina Rosa**, mezzo soprano; **Christopher Thompson**, accompanist.

Each year, Opera Colorado's education and outreach programs bring opera to nearly **20,000** people in communities across Colorado. The Western Slope Tour is supported in part by Bank of Colorado and Joy and Chris Dinsdale. Additional funding for Education and Outreach Programs is provided by Boettcher Foundation, Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, The Pioneer Fund, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

The production of *La Curandera* received Funding from OPERA America's ***Opera Fund***.

For more information on booking a performance or tour, contact Leigh Holman or Karissa Bullis in the Education and Outreach office at 303-778-1500 or visit www.operacolorado.org.

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Opera Colorado's mission is to entertain our audience by creating the passion, excitement and art of grand opera and to promote opera to the widest possible audience through educational and cultural activities. Opera Colorado is committed to presenting the highest quality live performances of grand operas in their original languages.
Opera Colorado exists to feed the spirit.