



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES PREMIERE BILINGUAL FAMILY OPERA TO BE PERFORMED IN COLORADO SPRINGS Rodriguez's *La Curandera* to appear at Pikes Peak Center

DENVER, CO - Opera Colorado announces its premiere family opera, Rodriguez's *La Curandera*, will appear at **Pikes Peak Center, Studio Bee** in Colorado Springs on **Friday, May 18th at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm**. *La Curandera* is a modern day, coming-of-age comedy, sung in a combination of Spanish and English; it is performed in one act and runs approximately 45 minutes. Tickets are on sale and available by calling El Cinco de Mayo at 719-520-2363, Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation at 719-549-2563 or TicketsWest at 866-464-2626. Adult tickets are \$20, children 16 and younger are \$15. \$5 from every ticket goes to fund two \$1,000 college scholarships. Opera Colorado recently won OPERA America's 2007 diversity award for *La Curandera*.

Education Director and Stage Director **Leigh Holman** says, "*La Curandera* has been a phenomenal success, Opera Colorado is honored to have the opportunity to bring the production to new audiences and to have presenting support from the community in Colorado Springs. We're re-introducing the full orchestra for this performance, so it will no doubt be a crowd-pleaser."

Opera Colorado commissioned Texas-born composer **Robert Xavier Rodriguez** and librettist **Mary Medrick** to create a family opera based on Latin American themes. The new work debuted in Denver in 2006 and is inspired by Latin American folk traditions about mystical healers, known in Mexican culture as *las curanderas*. The story centers around a young couple traveling to Mexico who overcome obstacles and find true love through the intervention of magical forces. The opera features music reminiscent of both Latin American and Mexican themes, as well as traditional melodies inspired by Mozart.

La Curandera will be performed by the Opera Colorado Outreach Ensemble. The 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. Education Director **Leigh Holman** is the Stage Director and pianist **Christopher Thompson** is the accompanist for the touring production. Set Designs are by **Bruce Bergner** and Costume Designs are by **Janetta Turner**.

CAST

Sangeetha Appavoo, sopranoAlba
Gregory Bruce, baritoneRamón
Lianne Coble, sopranoDionisia
Christopher Job, bassGeneral Godofredo de la Barca
Chester Pidduck, tenorAlberto

(more)

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Robert Xavier Rodriguez has composed three full-length operas, including his most recent, *Frida*, based on the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, which enjoyed successful runs at the American Music Theatre Festival, The American Repertory Theatre in Boston, the Brooklyn Academy's Next Wave Festival and the Houston Grand Opera. He is also the composer of *Monkey See, Monkey Do*, a children's opera that is one of the most frequently performed operas in the U.S. with more than 2,000 performances to date. More than 27,000 children throughout Colorado have seen *Monkey See, Monkey Do* performed in their schools by Opera Colorado's Outreach Ensemble. Rodriguez has served as Composer-in-Residence for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, and the San Antonio Symphony. His works have been performed by leading opera companies and symphony orchestras across the U.S. and Mexico.

PERFORMANCE VENUE

Pikes Peak Center, Studio Bee, 190 South Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Map and Directions available at www.pikespeakcenter.org.

Opera Synopsis, cast information, and more information about the production is on www.operacolorado.org

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

Colorado Springs Sponsors:

The Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts and the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado are presenting "La Curandera." Additional participating sponsors include El Cinco de Mayo, Inc., The Gazette, Hispania News and the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation.

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Opera Colorado exists to feed the spirit.