



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
February 14, 2007

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### **OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES PREMIERE BILINGUAL FAMILY OPERA TOURING THROUGHOUT COLORADO in 2007 Rodriguez's *La Curandera* Coming to a Town Near You!**

**DENVER, CO** - Opera Colorado announces its' premiere family opera, Rodriguez's *La Curandera* touring the state of Colorado (dates). Locally, the production will be performed in (city) on (date). *La Curandera* is 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 (order info).

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, as well as the opera *Bastien and Bastienna*, a short early opera by W. A. Mozart. 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. Education Director and Stage Director **Leigh Holman** says, "We are thrilled to bring *La Curandera* to communities throughout Colorado. The world premiere was a huge success with both audiences and the critical press last year, and I'm confident that the family audiences who attend this tour will find themselves happily humming along to the lively music for days following the performances."

*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**, soprano .....Alba  
**Gregory Bruce**, baritone .....Ramón  
**Lianne Coble**, soprano .....Dionisia  
**Christopher Job**, bass .....General Godofredo de la Barca  
**Chester Pidduck**, tenor .....Alberto  
**Christina Rosas**, mezzo-soprano.....La Curandera

(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.

Opera Synopses, cast information, and more information about the production is on [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org)

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

Portions of the tour are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Dinsdale.

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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.