



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERA COLORADO NAMES LEIGH HOLMAN AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

DENVER - Opera Colorado has named **Leigh Holman** as its Director of Education and Outreach. Holman recently served as Adjunct Teacher and Stage Director for the University of Colorado College of Music, Boulder. She currently has a production open through the end of July, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*, which she directed for Colorado Light Opera (formerly CU Opera in the Summer). Prior to moving to Colorado in 2005, she successfully founded the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Opera Theatre Workshop and Opera Theatre Singers programs.

Holman will be responsible for representing Opera Colorado in schools, developing a variety of curriculum for educators, and interfacing with the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and other community organizations and clubs. The position entails creating educational programming each year that will support Opera Colorado's mainstage productions. Ms. Holman will also manage Opera Colorado's Outreach Ensemble, an artist-in-residence program for professional young singers, performing from February through May throughout the state of Colorado and the region.

President and General Director **Peter Russell** comments, "I'm very happy to have Leigh Holman join Opera Colorado as a senior member of our staff. Her expertise in directing and performing opera and her success in founding the Opera Theatre program in Arkansas are going to provide her with the skills necessary to take our education programs to the next level. She brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the position."

Ms. Holman has extensive experience in the performing arts and music, specializing in opera performance and education. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Colorado in Voice Performance and Pedagogy. She has more than 16 years of academic and private vocal teaching experience and has been both a Stage Director and Music Director for more than 25 productions of opera and musical theater at various universities and professional companies. As a performer, Holman has worked with the National Opera Company, Portland Opera, Nashville Opera Company, Eastman Opera Theater, and Opera Theatre of Rochester among many others.

"Opera Colorado is definitely a company on the move; I'm honored to be joining such a reputable organization," said Leigh Holman, "and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Peter Russell and James Robinson and the rest of the team that will lead this institution into an exciting new era."

Contact Information:

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Season Tickets are on sale for Opera Colorado's 2006-2007 season featuring Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, and Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. Performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.operacolorado.org or call 303-357-ARTS.

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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.