



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES VERDI'S "UN BALLO IN MASCHERA / A MASKED BALL," ANOTHER NEW PRODUCTION FOR THE COMPANY THIS SEASON**

\* = Opera Colorado Debut

**Denver, Colo.**— Opera Colorado concludes the 2006-2007 grand opera season with one of Giuseppe Verdi's finest works, *Un ballo in maschera (A Masked Ball)*, running for five performances, **April 26 through May 8, 2007**, with tickets available now. *Un ballo in maschera* is an opera about a love triangle with political intrigue. A controversial story at its inception, the opera is now one of Verdi's most oft-performed operas and features spectacular arias and choral ensembles. As fortunes unfold, Gustavus' and Anckarström's friendship is put to the test when a love triangle surfaces before the famed masquerade ball. The action takes place in the opulence of 18<sup>th</sup> century Sweden, in another NEW production being presented this season.

*Un ballo in maschera* will feature highly anticipated debuts and welcome returns for many talented artists. The role of Gustavus III will be sung by tenor **Frank Lopardo\*** (Vienna State Opera, Metropolitan Opera), who makes his Opera Colorado debut. Amelia, the object of Gustavus' affection, will be sung by American soprano **Erin Wood\*** (Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera). Ms. Wood is joined by baritone **Charles Taylor** (*Tosca*, 2002) singing the role of Gustavus' scorned confidant, Anckarström. Rounding out the cast are bass-baritone **David Cushing\*** (Boston Lyric Opera, Baltimore Opera) as Count Ribbing, along with returning artists mezzo-soprano **Nancy Maultsby** (*Julius Caesar*, 2005) as the fortuneteller Mam'zelle Arvidson, and soprano **Heidi Stober** (*The Magic Flute*, 2006) singing the trouser role of the young page Oscar.

Opera Colorado's Artistic Director **James Robinson** (*The Elixir of Love*, 2007; *Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006) will direct the new production being created in cooperation with Boston Lyric Opera and Minnesota Opera. Maestro **David Agler** (*The Marriage of Figaro*, 2004) returns to conduct. The production marks the tenth Opera Colorado production with scenery conceived by **Allen Moyer** (*The Elixir of Love*, 2007; *Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006). **James Schuette** (*Carmen*, 2005) is designing the 18<sup>th</sup> century period costumes. Opera Colorado is proud to feature the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Colorado Chorus.

All performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex in downtown Denver, 14th and Curtis Streets. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. For ticketing details, visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org)

or call **303-357-2787**. This production will be sung in Italian with subtitles provided on every seatback in English or Spanish. *Un ballo in maschera* will be performed in three acts with one intermission.

***Un ballo in maschera* Performance Schedule:**

Thursday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 29, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 pm

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***Un ballo in maschera* is sponsored by:**

Frontier Airlines, the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, and James Robinson.

**Tickets** – Tickets are on sale now and are available through Ticketmaster via [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org), by phone at **303-357-ARTS**, or at a variety of walk-up locations posted on the Opera Colorado website. Ticket prices range from \$27 - \$157. Discount rates are available to groups of 10 or more.

Opera Colorado performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14<sup>th</sup> and Curtis Streets in downtown Denver.

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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.