



## NEWS RELEASE

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### OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES SEASON OPENING PRODUCTION OF MOZART'S "THE MAGIC FLUTE"

*Featuring scenery and costumes by Maurice Sendak*

\* = Opera Colorado Debut

**Denver, Colo.**— Opera Colorado opens the 2006-2007 season with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's classic adventure, *The Magic Flute*, running for eight performances, **November 10\*, 11, 12m, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19m**. 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 matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. \*The opening night performance begins at 8:15pm. For details visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org) or call **303-357-2787**. This production will be sung in German with subtitles provided on every seat back in English or Spanish. *The Magic Flute* will be performed in two acts with one intermission.

The production brings to life the fairy tale world of Mozart's popular classic as envisioned by world-renowned children's book author and illustrator **Maurice Sendak** (*Where the Wild Things Are*). Originally conceived for Houston Grand Opera in 1981, the lauded production has traveled virtually non-stop for the past 25 years to opera companies throughout the United States. President and General Director **Peter Russell** remarks, "This staging of *The Magic Flute* in particular reaches out to audiences of all ages. It is very accessible and well-loved by opera connoisseurs and novices alike. The artists selected to revive this production combine the perfect blend of established and emerging talents that coincide well with the vibrant sets and costumes."

Two principal casts will alternate performances to accommodate the back-to-back dates. **Norman Reinhardt\***, tenor, (Houston Grand Opera, Aspen Music Festival) alternates the role of the hero Tamino with **Frédéric Antoun\***, tenor (Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Ottawa's National Arts Centre). Chinese soprano **Ying Huang\*** (Frédéric Mitterrand's film *Madame Butterfly*) and **Heidi Stober\*** (Houston Grand Opera), both debut with the company to share the role of the courageous Pamina. Three artists will be featured in all eight performances: **Mel Ulrich**, baritone, (*La Bohème*, 2004) sings as the birdcatcher Papageno; **Amanda Pabyan**, soprano, (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006) will sing the scheming coloratura Queen of the Night, and bass **Vitalij Kowaljow\*** sings the role of Sarastro.

Supporting roles include soprano **Mary Ellen Assue\*** as Papagena, soprano **Kristin Clayton** as First Lady, mezzo-soprano **Jennifer DeDominici** as Second Lady, mezzo-soprano

**Judith Christin** as Third Lady, tenor **Daniel Fosha** as Monastatos, and bass **Christopher Job** as Speaker and Second Armed Man.

**Kevin Newbury** (Portland Opera) has assistant directed at Opera Colorado in previous years, and makes his Opera Colorado directorial debut with the company's staging of *The Magic Flute*. Maestro **Dean Williamson** (*Don Giovanni*, 2003) will conduct. The original production was created by **Maurice Sendak** and **Frank Corsaro** for Houston Grand Opera. Other production artists include **John Baril** as Chorus Master and **D.M. Wood** as Lighting Designer.

***The Magic Flute* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, November 10, 8:15 pm  
Saturday, November 11, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, November 12, 2:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 pm  
Thursday, November 16, 7:30 pm  
Friday, November 17, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, November 18, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, November 19, 2:00 pm  
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**Tickets – Single Tickets** for the 2006-2007 season, which includes Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* and Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* are on sale now. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster via [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org), by phone at **303-357-ARTS**, or at a variety of locations posted on the Opera Colorado website. Season subscriptions are also available for the full opera series by calling the Opera Colorado Subscriber Services line at **303-468-2030** or [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org).

All 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.

***The Magic Flute* is sponsored by:** Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, CIBER, Inc., Dave and Pam Duke, Chris and Joy Dinsdale, and Hilja K. Herfurth.

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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.