

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON CASTING ADDITIONS THREE OPERA STARS ADDED TO SLATE OF ARTISTS**

**Denver, Colo.**— Opera Colorado's President and General Director, **Peter Russell**, along with **James Robinson**, the company's Artistic Director, proudly announce the addition of three cast members to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. The role of Senta in *The Flying Dutchman* will be sung by **Hasmik Papian**; Norina, in *Don Pasquale*, will be sung by **Isabel Bayrakdarian**; Chairman Mao Tse-Tung will be sung by **Joseph Kaiser** in *Nixon in China*.

#### **HASMIK PAPIAN**



Armenian soprano Hasmik Papian returns to the company after her critically acclaimed portrayal of the title role in *Norma* in 2006. Praised for her evocative performances at most major opera houses in the U.S. and Europe, Ms. Papian makes her role debut as Senta, the Dutchman's faithful love interest in the concert opera performances of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, April 18 and 20, 2008. In recent seasons, she has performed the title roles in *Norma*, *Tosca*, and *Aida*, as well as major roles in *Nabucco*, *Attila*, and *La Traviata*, at some of the most prestigious opera stages in the world, led by the industry's most respected conductors. Ms. Papian's vocal range is ideally suited for this monumental role, to be sung alongside the world's leading Wagnerian bass, **James Morris**.

#### **ISABEL BAYRAKDARIAN**



Born of Armenian heritage, and now a citizen of Canada, soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian\***, debuts with Opera Colorado to sing the role of the beguiling Norina in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, February 8-17, 2008. Known for her light, fluid voice and alluring appearance, Ms. Bayrakdarian captures the elements of this role perfectly. She is joined by internationally acclaimed bass **Samuel Ramey** and returning tenor **Norman Reinhardt**.

Highlights of recent appearances include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Blanche in

*Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Stephanie in the world premiere of *To Hell and Back*. She sings on the Grammy® Award-winning soundtrack of the blockbuster film *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*, and her voice can also be heard in the multiple award-winning Canadian film *Ararat*.

## **JOSEPH KAISER**



Making his company and role debuts, tenor **Joseph Kaiser\*** rounds out the cast for Adam's *Nixon in China* as Mao Tse-Tung, June 7-15, 2008. An emerging talent in the international opera circuit, Mr. Kaiser recently starred as Tamino in the Kenneth Branagh film adaptation of *The Magic Flute*, conducted by James Conlon. Present and future engagements include *Die Fledermaus*, *Salome*, and *Dialogues des Carmélites* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Salome* at the Metropolitan Opera, *Béatrice et Bénédicte* at Chicago Opera Theatre, and *Eugene Onegin* at the Salzburg Festival. He was a resident artist with the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists and a winner in the 2005 Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition. Mr. Kaiser joins **Robert Orth** and **Maria Kanyova** in the coming Opera Colorado production.

## **2007-2008 SEASON**

The grand opera season begins in the fall of 2007 with a remounting of Verdi's *La Traviata*, followed by Donizetti's charming comedy *Don Pasquale*, set in the wild west of the 1800's, then a special concert opera in April of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, and concluding with the company's first contemporary opera, Adams' *Nixon in China*, in June 2008.

For additional production information, visit the Press Release section of the operacolorado.org website: [Press Release: 2007-2008 Season Announcement](#).

**Tickets** – Subscriptions go on sale to the general public on May 11, 2007 and Single Tickets go on sale August 27. Call the Opera Colorado Subscriber Services line at 303-468-2030 or visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org).

Opera Colorado is proud to feature the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. 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.

## **Opera Colorado's 2007-2008 Season Sponsors**

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