



NEWS RELEASE

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2007-2008, 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT Featuring four grand opera presentations, including one all-star concert opera and the company's first contemporary opera

LA TRAVIATA *Verdi*
DON PASQUALE *Donizetti*
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN *Wagner*
NIXON IN CHINA *Adams*

* = Opera Colorado Debut

Denver, Colo.— Executive Director **Greg Carpenter** is pleased to announce Opera Colorado's 25th Anniversary season, where the company will once again expand its offerings to celebrate a milestone year. The grand opera season begins in the fall of 2007 with a remounting of Verdi's *La Traviata* in the beautiful staging that was a box office hit with Denver audiences in 2004. Donizetti's charming comedy *Don Pasquale*, set in the wild west of the 1800's, takes the stage in February of 2008, followed by a special concert opera in April celebrating the return of Wagner, with his masterpiece about a cursed sea captain, *The Flying Dutchman*. The final offering of the season is brimming with excitement, as Opera Colorado presents its first contemporary opera, the highly praised production of John Adams' *Nixon in China*, in June 2008.

New this season is the addition of the concert opera, which the company feels will make for a strong transition as they position themselves to grow towards an expanded number of productions per season. **Carpenter** comments, "I think this is the perfect combination of programming for a 25th anniversary season. We get to honor the success of a past production, bring back some of our favorite artists, and present a new mixture of offerings by adding a concert opera and a contemporary work. There is a lot to look forward to in the casts and stagings which bring a high level of vitality to each work."

La Traviata The beauty and grandeur of Giuseppe Verdi's tragic love story returns to Opera Colorado in a revival of the production that brought Denver audiences to their feet during the 2004 production. *La Traviata* opens November 9, 2007 and plays for five performances through the 18th.

Pamela Armstrong, soprano, (*La Bohème*, 2004; *Carmen* 2005) sings the lead role of Violetta. Tenor **Garrett Sorenson*** (Metropolitan Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis) debuts with the

(more)

company in the role of her love interest, the young bourgeois Alfredo. Baritone **Scott Hendricks** (*La Traviata*, 2004; *Lucia di Lammermoor*, 2003) reprises his role as the elder Germont.

Opera Colorado Artistic Director **James Robinson** will direct this popular production which he originally conceived with Scenic Designer **Bruno Schwengl**. Maestro **Stephen Lord** (*Norma*, 2006; *Carmen*, 2005), who was recently named one of the top 25 opera artists by *Opera News*, will conduct. Sung in Italian with English and Spanish subtitles.

***La Traviata* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, November 9, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 11, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 18, 2:00 pm

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Sponsored by: Mike and Julie Bock, CIBER, Inc., Hilja K. Herfurth, The Colorado Trust –

Dr. and Mrs. William Maniatis.

Co-production with Boston Lyric Opera.

Don Pasquale Gaetano Donizetti's amusing tale of deception and disguise is transported to the wild west of America in the 1800's. This rousing version, which has toured to rave reviews across the US and Canada, hits Denver in perfect time to keep the theme of the National Western Stock Show momentum going strong!

Internationally acclaimed bass **Samuel Ramey*** (Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Vienna Staatsoper, Opéra de Paris, Deutsche Oper Berlin) makes his long overdue debut in an Opera Colorado mainstage production with his first appearance as the elder bachelor, Don Pasquale. In addition to performing with nearly all of the world's opera houses and all of the major conductors, Mr. Ramey also holds the title of being the most recorded bass in history. Armenian-Canadian soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian***, a mainstay at the world's leading opera houses, will debut with the company as Norina. Tenor **Norman Reinhardt** (*The Magic Flute*, 2006) sings the role of Pasquale's clever nephew, Ernesto.

Don Pasquale plays for five performances February 9 through 17, 2008. Maestro **Stephen Lord** will conduct. The production is directed by its originator, **David Gately***, with sets designed by **Tony Fanning*** and costumes designed by **Helen Rodgers***. Sung in Italian with English and Spanish subtitles.

***Don Pasquale* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, February 8, 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 10, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 pm
Friday, February 15, 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 17, 2:00 pm

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Sponsored by: Frontier Airlines.

This production was created for San Diego Opera.

The Flying Dutchman Richard Wagner's musical drama about a cursed sea captain and his quest to find redemption through true love continues the 07-08 season with two spring concert performances on April 18 and 20, 2008. *The Flying Dutchman* will feature the foremost Wagnerian bass-baritone of his generation, **James Morris** (*The Tales of Hoffmann*, 1984; *Don Giovanni*, 1986), in the title role. He will sing opposite **Hasmik Papian** (Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris), who will sing the role of Senta. Australian tenor **Stuart Skelton*** (Opéra National de Paris, San Francisco Opera) makes his company debut as Erik, the huntsman. Bass-baritone **Dale Travis** (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006; *Fidelio*, 2000) returns to sing the role of Daland, the sea captain. Mezzo-soprano **Judith Christin** returns as Frau Mary. Maestro **Stephen Lord** will conduct the performances and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra will be featured on the Ellie Caulkins Opera House stage. Sung in German with English and Spanish subtitles.

***The Flying Dutchman* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, April 18, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 20, 2:00 pm

Sponsored by: Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Merrill and Dave and Pam Duke

Nixon in China John Adams' enormously successful American opera follows the President and First Lady, Richard and Pat Nixon, on their tour of China in 1972. The captivating telling of these events focuses on the six key players: the Nixons, Jiang Qing and Chairman Mao, and the two close advisors to the two parties, Henry Kissinger and Zhou Enlai. Featuring music reminiscent of American melodies and lyrical lines written in poetic styles native to China, this contemporary work is a prime example of the impressive capabilities of today's composers and librettists.

Veteran performer baritone **Robert Orth** (*Die Fledermaus*, 1996), who has sung the role numerous times and gives an uncanny performance as the President, will sing Richard Nixon. He is joined by Opera Colorado favorite, soprano **Maria Kanyova** (*Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006; *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2005) as Pat Nixon. They are joined by bass-baritone **Thomas Hammons*** (Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera) singing the role of Nixon's aide, Henry Kissinger, tenor **Joseph Kaiser*** (Tamino in Kenneth Brannagh's *The Magic Flute*; Metropolitan Opera) as Mao Tse-tung and coloratura soprano **Tracy Dahl*** (Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala) as Madame Mao.

Nixon in China plays for four performances June 7 through 15, 2008 during the National Performing Arts Convention, hosted in Denver, Colorado. Maestro **Marin Alsop*** (Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony, Conductor Laureate of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra) will conduct. Alsop directed this particular production's debut at Opera Theatre of St. Louis; she recently won a MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant and the Classical Brit Award for Best Female Artist.

The highly acclaimed production is directed by **James Robinson**, who originally created the staging for its premiere at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Scenic Designs are by **Allen Moyer**. Choreography is by **Sean Curran***. Sung in English with English and Spanish subtitles.

***Nixon in China* Performance Schedule:**

Saturday, June 7, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 pm

Friday, June 13, 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 15, 2:00 pm

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Sponsored by: Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Robinson, The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, and Paul and Linda Sinsar.
Co-production among Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Minnesota Opera, Portland Opera, Chicago Opera Theater,
Houston Grand Opera and Opera Colorado.

Tickets – Subscriptions went on sale to the general public in May 2007 and Single Tickets went on sale August
27. Call the Opera Colorado Subscriber Services line at **303-468-2030** or visit 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, 14th and Curtis Streets in downtown Denver.

Opera Colorado's 2007-2008 Season Sponsors

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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.