



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 28, 2008

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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES ENCHANTING FAMILY OPERA TO BE PERFORMED IN GREELEY **Rossini's *Cinderella* to appear at Union Colony Civic Center**

DENVER, CO - Opera Colorado announces its touring opera, Rossini's *Cinderella*, will appear at **Union Colony Civic Center** in Greeley on **Friday, May 9th at 7:00 pm**. Perfect for audiences of all ages, this English version of Rossini's charming fairytale opera features wicked stepsisters, a greedy stepfather and a prince disguised as a servant. It is performed in one act and runs approximately one hour. Tickets are on sale and available by visiting Union Colony Civic Center's website at www.ucstars.com or by calling 970-356-5000. Tickets are \$7.50.

Education Director and Stage Director **Leigh Holman** says, "*Cinderella* has been a popular opera for schools and community organizations around the state. Opera Colorado is thrilled to present this work to new audiences with support from Greeley's community."

First performed in Rome in 1817, *Cinderella* (or *La Cenerentola*) was composed by Gioacchino Rossini with a libretto by Jacopo Ferretti. Rossini composed it after his most well-known opera, *The Barber of Seville*, and the work is considered to have some of his finest writing for solo voice and ensembles. The storybook set and colorful costumes in Opera Colorado's touring production reflect the light and whimsical nature of the fairy tale.

Cinderella will be performed by the 2008 Opera Colorado Ensemble. The Ensemble is comprised of a select group of young professional opera performers who are auditioned nationally to partake in a residency with Opera Colorado's Education department, performing in schools and community venues throughout the state of Colorado. Education Director **Leigh Holman** is the Stage Director; **Michael Tilley** arranged the score for keyboard. **Steven Aguiló-Arbues** and **Charles Dillard** will accompany on piano and electronic keyboard.

Set Designs are by **Bruce Bergner** and Costume Designs are by **Ann Piano**. Lighting by **Mark DeBell**. The English translation of the libretto is by **Kade Smith** of **Houston Grand Opera**.

CAST

Kristin Behrmann, mezzo-soprano..... Cinderella
Hak Soo Kim, tenor Don Ramiro
Carlos Aguirre, baritone..... Dandini
Rodolfo Nieto, bass-baritone Don Magnifico / Alidoro
Michelle Trovato, soprano Clorinda
Eve Orenstein, mezzo-soprano..... Tisbe
(more)

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Gioacchino Rossini (1792 – 1868) wrote 39 operas in his life, 4 of which are performed regularly today. His best-known works include *The Barber of Seville* and *Cinderella* as well as the opera *William Tell*, which features the William Tell Overture. Rossini's success and popularity made him one of the first composers able to survive financially, independent from a wealthy patron. Rossini was known to complete works more quickly than other composers, which may be due to his plagiarism of his own music! Though he retired at the early age of 37, Rossini's role in shaping Italian and French opera in the early 19th century was significant and continues to inspire composers today.

PERFORMANCE VENUE

Union Colony Civic Center, Monfort Concert Hall, 701 10th Ave, Greeley, 80631

Map and Directions available at www.ucstars.com

Opera Synopsis, cast information, and more information about the production is on www.operacolorado.org. Images can be found on the Image Gallery located in the "News & Press" section of the website.

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