



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES JOHN ADAMS' "NIXON IN CHINA"

* = Opera Colorado Debut

Denver, Colo.— Opera Colorado's season closes with John Adams' enormously successful American opera, *Nixon in China*, which runs for four performances, **June 7-15, 2008**. Tickets are available for the captivating telling of Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972. 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.

Nixon in China will feature an all-star cast that's sure to delight! President Richard Nixon will be sung by baritone **Robert Orth** (*Die Fledermaus*, 1996) opposite Opera Colorado favorite, soprano **Maria Kanyova** (*The Elixir of Love*, 2007). Nixon aide Henry Kissinger will be performed by bass-baritone **Thomas Hammons*** (Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera), who originated the role at Houston Grand Opera in 1987. Chairman Mao will be sung by tenor **Joseph Kaiser*** (Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera). The Chairman's wife, Madame Mao, will be portrayed by soprano **Tracy Dahl*** (Metropolitan Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala). The advisor to Mao, Chou Enlai, will be sung by baritone **Chenye Yuan*** (Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Houston Grand Opera).

Opera Colorado Artistic Director **James Robinson** (*The Elixir of Love*, 2007; *Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006) will direct this production, which he created for Opera Theatre of St. Louis in 2004. The sets were designed by **Allen Moyer** (*Carmen*, 2005; *Abduction from the Seraglio*, 2006) and costumes designed by **James Schuette** (*Rigoletto*, 2005; *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2005). 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 and recently won a MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant and the Classical Brit Award for Best Female Artist. This is a co-production with Opera Theater of St. Louis, Minnesota Opera, Portland Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, and Houston Grand Opera. 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 or call **303-357-2787**. This production will be sung in English with subtitles provided on every seatback in English or Spanish. *Nixon in China* will be performed in three acts with one intermission.

***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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***Nixon in China* is sponsored by:**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Robinson, the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, and Paul and Linda Sinsar.

Tickets – Tickets are on sale now and are available through Ticketmaster via 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 \$28 - \$157. Discount rates are available to groups of 10 or more.

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