



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES DONIZETTI'S "DON PASQUALE"

* = Opera Colorado Debut

Denver, Colo.— Opera Colorado presents Gaetano Donizetti's rousing comedy of disguise and deception, *Don Pasquale*, which runs for five performances, **February 8-17, 2008**. Tickets are available for this production which has toured to rave reviews across the United States and Canada. Restaged in the Wild West, the opera hits Denver in perfect time to keep the theme of the National Western Stock Show momentum going strong! Don Pasquale's nephew, Ernesto, refuses to marry the woman his uncle has selected for him, choosing instead the poor widow Norina. Don Pasquale decides to marry and disinherit his nephew, leading to a comedy of errors as Ernesto and Norina trick the Don into letting them marry.

Don Pasquale will feature operatic legend **Samuel Ramey** (Metropolitan Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala) in his role debut as the bachelor Don Pasquale. The spirited young widow Norina will be sung by soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian*** (Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera - Covent Garden) and her lover and the Don's nephew, Ernesto, will be performed by tenor **Norman Reinhardt** (*The Magic Flute*, 2006). The young lovers' friend, the scheming Doctor Malatesta, will be sung by baritone **Christopher Feigum** (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, 2004).

Acclaimed director **David Gately*** (Glimmerglass Opera, The Dallas Opera) will direct this popular production which was created for the San Diego Opera. The sets were created by Emmy Award-winner **Tony Fanning***, who has designed for films including *Forrest Gump*, *Spider-Man*, and *Munich*. Costumes were designed by **Helen E. Rodgers*** (New York City Opera, Wolf Trap Opera). Maestro **Stephen Lord** (*Norma*, 2006; *Carmen*, 2005), who was recently named one of the top 25 opera artists by *Opera News*, will conduct. Opera Colorado is proud to feature 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 Italian with subtitles provided on every seatback in English or Spanish. *Don Pasquale* will be performed in three acts with one intermission.

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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Don Pasquale is sponsored by:

Frontier Airlines.

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.

Opera Colorado performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14th and Curtis Streets in downtown Denver.

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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.