

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 8, 2008

Contact: Becky Lathrop, Director of Marketing
blathrop@operacolorado.org 303-778-0214

FOUR COMMUNITY PREVIEW EVENTS FOR UPCOMING OPERA "NIXON IN CHINA"

- **Preview Lecture at the Denver Newspaper Agency**
 - **OPERA Shorts! at Alto Restaurant**
 - **Meet the Artists at Tattered Cover**
- **La Piazza dell'Arte at Larimer Square**

Denver, Colo.— Opera Colorado is gearing up for the highly anticipated performances of John Adams' *Nixon in China*, running **June 7 - 15**. Leading up to the opening performances are several community events to educate Denver audiences on one of today's most popular modern American operas. Following are four special events to celebrate this milestone production!

1) Nixon in China Preview Lecture and Live Performance Highlights

When: Wednesday, May 14th 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: Denver Newspaper Agency, 101 W. Colfax, Main Floor

Cost: FREE

RSVP: 303-698-2334

Politics, media, history, art, and music are woven seamlessly into the story of Richard Nixon's 1972 trip to what was then referred to as "Red China." The entire episode spawned, among many other results, John Adams' opera *Nixon in China*. Opera Colorado's preview program will explore the geopolitical landscape changed by Mao's invitation to Nixon, the use of the media and art by both sides, and how it all came to be a great American opera which has already taken its place in the standard repertoire. The presentation includes historical video clips as well as live performances of several excerpts from the opera. Featuring guest speaker **Stephen Seifert**, Executive Director of the Newman Center for the Performing Arts and music performed by Opera Colorado's Ensemble.

2) OPERA Shorts! Like Cliff Notes, but with Live Music and Good Wine

When: Tuesday, May 27th 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Where: Alto Restaurant, 1320 15th Street

Cost: \$20 (includes one glass of wine and appetizers)

RSVP: 303-698-2334

Coming to you live from China in 1972! Special guest stage and screen actor **Bill Mooney** will anchor a television-style/Cronkite-influenced presentation similar to the media spectacle created for Nixon's historic trip to China. Designed as a "Cliff Notes" styled series, this high-energy event will offer a short talk, short songs, short clips and short skits that help audiences prepare for the upcoming performances in a light and entertaining way. Opera Colorado's Ensemble will perform live music samples. The program will be written and directed by **Leigh Holman**, Director of Education. Alto Restaurant, located in LoDo at 15th and Larimer, serves contemporary fine cuisine, fine wines and specialty cocktails presented in an upscale atmosphere, complete with a stage and lighting system to round out an ideal performance space. OPERA Shorts! attendees are encouraged to stay and dine at Alto following the program. Call Alto at 303-893-ALTO for dinner reservations; call 303-698-2334 to RSVP for the program.

3) Meet the Artists at the Tattered Cover Book Store

When: Wednesday, May 28th 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Where: Tattered Cover Book Store, LoDo, 16th & Wynkoop

Cost: FREE

RSVP: Open to the public, doors open at 11:30 am

Sneak a peek behind the scenes of Opera Colorado's upcoming production of Adams' opera *Nixon in China* at a free lunchtime chat. General Director **Greg Carpenter** will moderate the lively panel of speakers, including the principal singers and artistic team. Learn interesting facts about the opera and performers and participate in a Q&A session with the panel! Enjoy this event more by ordering lunch from the Tattered Cover Coffee Shop to enjoy during the discussion.

4) La Piazza dell'Arte *Nixon in China* artwork by Danyl Cook

When: Saturday - Sunday, June 7th – 8th, 10:00 am

Where: Larimer Street, LoDo, Between 14th and 15th

Cost: FREE

RSVP: Open to the public

Celebrate the opening weekend of *Nixon in China* with Denver artist **Danyl Cook** at Larimer Square's annual festival, La Piazza dell'Arte. For two days, historic Larimer Square will turn into a beautiful street museum of bright and colorful chalk art images. Opera Colorado has sponsored Danyl Cook to create an 8' x 8' square in honor of the opera *Nixon in China* which opens on June 7. Come join the fun and celebrate the arts in downtown Denver!

Nixon in China runs for four performances, June 7, 10, 13, 15. For more information on the production, please visit www.operacolorado.org.

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 at 303-468-2024.

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

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

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

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