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OPERA COLORADO ANNOUNCES 2009/2010 SEASON 3 TALES OF OBSESSION

DENVER, CO—Opera Colorado General Director Gregory Carpenter announced plans for the company’s upcoming 2009/2010 Season. “Our new season includes three beloved selections from the operatic repertoire that represent both traditional and innovative approaches to the art form,” Carpenter said.

Carpenter stated that the artistic goals for the new season build on the company’s recent successes. “As we move into the future, Opera Colorado will strive to present at least one opera per season that is either new to Opera Colorado, new to Denver audiences or rarely performed in Colorado,” Carpenter said. “We are particularly excited that the 09/10 season will also introduce Denver audiences to many new artists, including conductors, designers, directors, and singers.” All together, twenty-nine artists will make their Opera Colorado debuts next season when all casting is complete.

Carpenter believes this artistic strategy will build Opera Colorado audiences for the future. “So far this season, we have seen great success with this approach,” Carpenter stated. “Our fall performance of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* was a runaway hit. That success has continued into the new year as we are experiencing strong ticket sales for our production of *The Pearl Fishers*, the first performance of this opera in the Rocky Mountain region. Giving our audiences both familiar options and opportunities to explore unfamiliar works and experience the work of new artists will build a diverse audience and donor base which is vital to our company’s future.”

The 2009/2010 Opera Colorado Season is generously sponsored by **Ellie Caulkins and Jeremy and Susan Shamos.**

The Tales of Hoffmann
By Jacques Offenbach
November 7, 10, 13 and 15, 2009

The season begins in November when Offenbach's vivid fantasy *The Tales of Hoffmann* springs to life in the stories of a poet obsessed with four remarkable women—and the four villains bent on his destruction. “This will be the first time Opera Colorado has produced this masterpiece in twenty-five years,” Carpenter announced.

Produced in cooperation with Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Colorado's new production was created by the noted French-Canadian team of stage director **Renaud Doucet** and set and costume designer **Andre Barbé**. The team has created productions in Europe for l'Opéra National du Rhin and the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe. In North America, their work has been seen at l'Opéra de Montréal and Florida Grand Opera among others. This production marks their Opera Colorado debut.

Inspired by the tales of the German Romantic poet E.T.A. Hoffmann, the opera tours a dramatic dreamscape populated with beautiful courtesans, magical portraits and fantastical automatons. “Offenbach's lush music fuels the visual style of the stage design inspired by 19th century couture and Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher,” Carpenter said. “The innovative approach to the design beautifully compliments the fantasy elements of this masterwork,” he continued.

French conductor **Emmanuel Joel-Hornak** makes his Opera Colorado debut leading a stellar cast. Maestro Joel-Hornak's credits include many of the major French and European opera houses and festivals as well as many major American companies such as New York City Opera and San Francisco Opera. Australian tenor **Julian Gavin** (*Carmen*, 2004) returns to Opera Colorado to portray the title character, a role he recently sang to great acclaim in Vienna. He is joined by baritone **Gaétan Laperrière** as the villains Lindorf, Coppélius and Dr. Miracle. Laperrière has performed leading roles with San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, The Washington National Opera, Santa Fe Opera and many others.

In an unexpected casting twist, soprano **Pamela Armstrong** (*La traviata*, 2008, *La bohème*, 2004) returns to sings the three roles of Olympia, Antonia and Giulietta.

“There are very few singers in the world who are able to sing all three of these remarkable characters in one performance,” noted Greg Carpenter. “I am delighted that we have engaged Pam Armstrong to take on this exceptional challenge.”

Julie Simson will sing the role of Antonia’s mother. **Matthew DiBattista** takes on the roles of Cochenille, Pitichinaccio and Franz. Mezzo-soprano **Katherine Rohrer** sings the role of Nicklausse.

The Tales of Hoffmann is sponsored by **Charles and Ursula Kafadar, Merle Chambers and Hugh Grant, Dave and Pam Duke, and Marcia and Richard Robinson.**

The Barber of Seville
By Gioachino Rossini
February 6, 9, 12 and 14, 2010

The world’s most celebrated barber is coming to Denver next February, but haircuts aren’t the only thing on his mind. Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville* plays the Ellie in a charming production from Canadian Opera Company. The story surrounds Figaro joining forces with Count Almaviva to win the object of his obsession, the beautiful Rosina. Pure joy and silliness abound in an opera filled with disguise, mistaken identities and madcap mayhem. “Rossini’s quick-witted comic style and warmly expressive melodies will be well served by **David Gately**’s lively direction,” Carpenter said. “The traditional setting and costumes work wonderfully with David’s gift for comedy.”

Italian conductor **Leonardo Vordoni** (Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera) makes his Opera Colorado debut with this production. The cast includes the debut of four leading artists: **Lucas Meachem** (Santa Fe Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden) as Figaro; **Isabel Leonard** (Metropolitan Opera, l’Opéra National de Bordeaux) as Rosina; **Brian Stucki** (Seattle Opera, American Symphony Orchestra) as Count Almaviva; and **Wayne Tigges** (Lyric Opera of Chicago, Metropolitan Opera) as Basilio. **Thomas Hammons**, who last appeared at Opera Colorado as Henry Kissinger in *Nixon in China*, returns to sing the role of Dr. Bartolo.

The Barber of Seville is sponsored by **Tanya R. Mathews, CIBER, Inc. and Mike and Julie Bock.**

Tosca

By Giacomo Puccini

April 24, 27, 30, May 2, 2010

The season comes to a close with an opulent production of Puccini's intense drama ***Tosca***. "Director **Ron Daniels**, who had great success at Opera Colorado with *Madama Butterfly* this past fall, will return to stage the operatic thriller set among the historical landmarks of Rome," Carpenter announced. Designed by **Thiery Bosquet**, the production comes from San Francisco Opera. **Stephen Lord**, an Opera Colorado favorite, will return to lead the orchestra.

American-born soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** sings her first *Tosca* in her Opera Colorado debut. The 1995 winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Ms. Radvanovsky has sung leading roles with the Metropolitan Opera, The Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera and many leading European companies.

When tenor Roberto Alagna walked out of the Zeffereilli production of *Aida* in 2006, Italian tenor **Antonello Palombi** was thrust into the international opera spotlight when he stepped in to take over the role on a moment's notice. His U.S. credits include appearances at Seattle Opera, Cincinnati Opera and Michigan Opera Theatre. His performance as Cavaradossi marks his Opera Colorado debut.

Bass-baritone **Greer Grimsley** reprises his acclaimed performance as the lecherous Scarpia who is obsessed with the beautiful opera singer Floria Tosca. Mr. Grimsley's international career includes performances at the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera and many European companies.

Tosca is sponsored by **Merle Chambers and Hugh Grant, The Colorado Trust—Dr. and Mrs. William Maniatis and Hilja K. Herfurth.**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
Opera Colorado to present first Czech opera in 2011**

**Antonin Dvořák's
RUSALKA
Starring Kelly Kaduce in the title role
Opera to serve as centerpiece for community-wide cultural festival**

In a signal to the community about Opera Colorado's commitment to expanding the company's repertoire, Carpenter also announced that during the 2010-2011 season, Opera Colorado will perform its first Czech opera, *Rusalka* by composer Antonin Dvořák. The performances will take place in February 2011.

"There are many works in the standard repertoire that have never been presented to Denver audiences," Carpenter said. "Dvořák's tragic fairytale about a water nymph who longs to be human includes some of opera's most beautiful music. Our production will star soprano **Kelly Kaduce** in the title role. Kelly is one of the most exciting young singers working today. We are thrilled to welcome her back to Opera Colorado to perform this challenging and beautiful role."

Carpenter noted that Ms. Kaduce was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions competition in 1999. She sang the "Song to the Moon" from *Rusalka* to win the competition.

Ms. Kaduce has earned praise singing leading roles at major opera companies across the U.S., including Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Florida Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera and many others. *Entertainment News* praised her work, writing "In a career-making role, Kelly Kaduce dominates the stage. With high notes that thrill and a creamy middle range, this gifted young soprano delivers vocal velvet. But she is also a great singing actress...This is an authentically great performance." The *Dallas Morning News* stated, "Kelly Kaduce's performance in the title role is a tour de force."

"The reason we are announcing this project this early is to have the opportunity to create long-term education programs that will engage the community in this exciting festival concept," Carpenter stated. "We look to this project as a way to foster a deeper awareness of Opera Colorado's commitment to our community and to promote collaborations with other arts organizations throughout the metro area."

To celebrate this new production, Opera Colorado will create a cultural celebration of Czech culture surrounding the performance. The festival will take place under the name **Czech Point Denver**. Opera Colorado will partner with arts and cultural groups throughout the community to explore the musical and artistic contributions of Czech artists to world culture. “Czech artists of all genres have created some of the world’s greatest artworks,” Carpenter said. “We will seek out other cultural partners to create a community-wide celebration that will honor these contributions.” In addition to musical performances in the community and on the air, Opera Colorado hopes to include visual arts, film and other performing arts as part of this special series of events.

Season tickets to the 2009/2010 Season will go on sale to renewing subscribers on February 9, 2009. Season subscribers get access to tickets before individual tickets go on sale to the general public. “Renewing subscribers are seated before new subscribers, so it is important for opera lovers to get their season ticket orders in early,” Carpenter noted. Opera Colorado will begin selling season tickets to the general public in mid-March. Additional information about season tickets is available at the Opera Colorado website, www.operacolorado.org or by calling Opera Colorado’s season ticket office: **303-468-2030**.

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