



For Immediate Release
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**OPERA COLORADO PRESENTS OFFENBACH'S VIVID FANTASY
THE TALES OF HOFFMANN
4 Performances Only: November 7, 10, 13 & 15**

Opera Colorado presents
The Tales of Hoffmann
by Jacques Offenbach

Ellie Caulkins Opera House,
Denver Performing Arts Complex,
14th and Curtis, downtown Denver

Sat., November 7, 7:30 pm
Tue., November 10, 7:30 pm
Fri. November 13, 7:30 pm
Sun., November 15, 2:00 pm

Prices: \$30-\$160

Tickets online:
OperaColorado.org

Tickets by phone:
800.982.ARTS (2787)

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

Opera Colorado's 2009-2010
Season is sponsored by
Ellie Caulkins and Susan and
Jeremy Shamos.

DENVER, CO— A poet explores a surreal dreamscape as he recalls his lost loves in Opera Colorado's production of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*, playing for four performances only at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, November 7 through the 15. Tickets, ranging in price from \$30 to \$160 are available at OperaColorado.org or by calling 800.982.ARTS.

Created by director **Renaud Doucet** and production designer **André Barbe**, the opera is a vivid flight of the imagination about a poet named Hoffmann who is in love with four unforgettable women. The hero travels to a mad scientist's laboratory, the surreal home of a fragile young singer, and a Venetian brothel, but encounters evil villains who seek to ruin his chance at love. Offenbach's lush music fuels the visual style of the stage design, inspired by graphic artist M.C. Escher, and the lavish costumes, inspired by 19th century French couture. This will be Opera Colorado's first performance of Offenbach's masterpiece in more than twenty-five years.

The opera stars Australian tenor **Julian Gavin** (*Carmen*, 2005) in the title role alongside soprano **Pamela Armstrong** (*La traviata*, 2007), who takes on the challenging task of performing all four female roles. Normally these roles are performed by three different singers; to take on all four roles is truly a superhuman feat for any soprano. French-Canadian bass-baritone **Gaétan Laperrière** makes his Opera Colorado debut performing the roles of the Four Villains. The performance will be conducted by renowned French conductor **Emmanuel Joel-Hornak**, making his Opera Colorado debut.

The Tales of Hoffmann was created by Opera Colorado in cooperation with Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Boston Lyric Opera.

The cast of *The Tales of Hoffmann*...

Pamela Armstrong as *Olympia / Antonia / Giulietta / Stella*

American soprano Pamela Armstrong, recognized internationally for her artistry, returns to Opera Colorado after successful engagements with the company as Violetta in *La traviata* and Mimi in *La bohème*. Miss Armstrong has been engaged to sing with many important theaters both in the United States and in Europe. *The New York Times* praised her work: "She showed striking vocal and dramatic gifts. This was handsome, intelligent singing by a young artist who bears watching." She has appeared in many leading roles in European opera houses and cities, performing roles such as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, the title role in *Susannah*, Mimi in *La bohème* and Micaela in *Carmen*. The impressive list of European and American opera houses where Miss Armstrong has sung major roles includes the Metropolitan Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Opera de la Bastille in Paris, Teatro Regio in Turin, Grand Theatre de Bordeaux, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Utah Opera, Portland (Maine) Opera Theater and Michigan Opera Theater. Moving further afield, in 1997-98 Miss Armstrong sang the Countess with the Vienna State Opera in Beijing, China.

Julian Gavin as *Hoffmann*

Australian born tenor Julian Gavin graduated from the University of Melbourne and undertook postgraduate studies in conducting at the Victorian College of the Arts before coming to London where he studied at the National Opera Studio. His UK debut as Alvaro in *La Forza del Destino* for English National Opera led to a series of engagements for the company including roles such as Alfredo/*La traviata*, Il Duca/*Rigoletto*, Rodolfo/*La bohème*, Cavaradossi/*Tosca*, and the title roles in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Ernani* and *Il trovatore*. Other operatic appearances include Laca/*Jenufa*, Carlo VIII/*Giovanna D'Arco* (Opera North, Frankfurt), Luc Bondy's production of *Don Carlos* conducted by Bernard Haitink (Covent Garden), Pollione/*Norma* (Lucerne, Michigan) Alfredo/*La traviata* (Den Norske Oper, Opera Australia, Washington National Opera), Rodolfo/*La bohème* (Trieste, Stuttgart, De Vlaamse Opera, Opera North), Rodolfo/*Luisa Miller* (Essen, Bordeaux), Pinkerton/*Madama Butterfly* (Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera North), Des Grieux/*Manon Lescaut* (Israel Philharmonic Orchestra), Hoffmann/*The Tales of Hoffmann* (Washington), Cavaradossi/*Tosca* (Opera Colorado, ENO), Don José/*Carmen* (Opera Colorado, Opera Australia, Kansas Symphony Orchestra, Stockholm, Zürich, Teatro Real, Madrid, Vienna State Opera ENO), and many others.

Gaétan Laperrière as *Lindorf / Coppélius / Dr. Miracle / Dappertutto* (Opera Colorado debut)

Gaétan Laperrière's lyric baritone is consistently praised by journalists worldwide, and has been described by the *Ottawa Citizen* as having "...just the right darkness and weight on the one hand and expressive flexibility on the other." *The Boston Globe* praised his "nobility of tone, line and characterization." He has performed the title role of *Rigoletto* and Scarpia in *Tosca* in acclaimed performances around the world. In the U.S. he performs leading roles with the San Francisco Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Washington Opera, Minnesota Opera, Dallas Opera, Baltimore Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Boston Lyric Opera. Noted recent roles include Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* with the Florida Grand Opera, the title role in *Falstaff* with Opera Cleveland, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* with Manitoba Opera and Opera Hamilton, Alfio/Tonio in *Cavalleria Rusticana/I Pagliacci* with Opéra de Québec, Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Boston Lyric Opera, Pandolfe in *Cendrillon* with L'Opera de Montreal, and Beethoven's 9th Symphony with The Jeunesses Musicales.

Creative Team

Emmanuel Joel-Hornak, Conductor (Opera Colorado debut)

Renowned French conductor Emmanuel Joel-Hornak has lead major orchestras around the world in opera and orchestral works. He recently conducted productions with English National Opera, Aix-en-Provence Festival, NBR New-Zealand Opera, Scottish Opera, New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, L'Opéra de Paris-Bastille, the Wexford Festival, as well as conducting the leading opera companies of Lyon, Nantes, Montpellier, Toulouse, Sydney, Strasbourg. He made his U.S. opera debut in San Francisco Opera's production of *Carmen* during the 1996-1997 Season, and was immediately re-engaged to conduct San Francisco's productions of *Don Carlo* and *La bohème* in the following seasons. Noted recent engagements include *La traviata* at the New York City Opera, *Werther* at the Los Angeles Opera with Ramon Vargas, *Faust* with Cincinnati Opera, *Don Pasquale* with Simone Alaimo and Ruth Ann Swenson at the Los Angeles Opera, *Manon* with Elisabeth Futral at the Houston Grand Opera, *Samson et Dalila* with Olga Borodina and Sergey Larin at the San Francisco Opera, *Vanessa* at the Washington National Opera with Kiri te Kanawa, *Roméo et Juliette* at the Pittsburgh Opera with Marcello Giordani, *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein* with Opera Company of Philadelphia, and a return to the Houston Grand Opera for *Roméo et Juliette* with Ramon Vargas and Ana Maria Martinez.

Renaud Doucet, Stage Director (Opera Colorado debut)

Renaud began his performing career as a solo dancer, ballet master, and choreographer in international dance companies. He also worked as an actor in various movies & TV series. In the United States & Canada he staged & choreographed *Tosca*, *Aïda*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, *La bohème*, *Le Trouvère*, *l'Elisir d'amore*, *Carmen*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

André Barbe, Set and Costume Designer (Opera Colorado debut)

André received a bachelor of Fine Arts at Concordia University then studied at the National Theatre School of Canada under the tutelage of designer François Barbeau. He has designed over 300 productions for theatre, television and opera. He received the *Irish Times* Irish Theatre Award 2005 for best set designer for the production of *Pénélope* at Wexford Festival Opera.

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