



OPERA COLORADO

For Immediate Release

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Metropolitan Opera star Sondra Radvanovsky makes her debut in the title role of *Tosca* with Opera Colorado

All-star production opens April 24; four performances only

Opera Colorado
presents

TOSCA

By Giacomo Puccini

Sat. 4/24, 7:30 pm
Tues. 4/27, 7:30 pm
Fri. 4/30, 7:30 pm
Sun, 5/2, 2:00 pm

Ellie Caulkins
Opera House

14th & Curtis Streets
Denver Performing Arts
Complex

Tickets:
\$30 to \$165

800.982.ARTS
OperaColorado.org

DENVER, CO—**Sondra Radvanovsky**, leading lady of New York’s Metropolitan Opera, will make her debut as Puccini’s tragic heroine in Opera Colorado’s upcoming production of *Tosca* playing at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House April 24, 27, 30 and May 2.

Conductor **Stephen Lord** will lead the performance featuring the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra**. Noted director **Ron Daniels** will stage the production also starring tenor **Antonello Palombi** as Cavaradossi and **Greer Grimsley** as the evil Baron Scarpia.

Tickets are available online at OperaColorado.org or by calling 800.982.ARTS.

A ruthless police chief’s obsession with a celebrated opera singer leads to betrayal, murder and suicide in this operatic thriller. Set among the historical landmarks of 19th century Rome, this opulent production of Puccini’s drama represents the best opera has to offer: an intensely dramatic storyline of cruelty and deception along with stirring and turbulent music from one of opera’s greatest composers, Giacomo Puccini.

American soprano Sondra Radvanovsky’s dramatic stage presence and stunning vocal gifts have firmly established her as one of the leading stars on the international stage today. *The New York Times* has praised her “rich, tremulous soprano voice and affecting intensity,” while *The Times* (UK) hailed her as “a true Verdian, with a big, juicy, vibrato-rich sound.” Most recently the *San Francisco Chronicle* declared, “even if nothing else happens during the rest of the San Francisco Opera’s 2009 fall season, soprano Sondra Radvanovsky has already provided us with at least one extraordinary and indelible musical memory.” Ms. Radvanovsky has sung in every major opera house in the world including Royal

Opera House Covent Garden, Paris Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Vienna State Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and numerous others. Her debut solo album, *Verdi Arias*, will be released on the Delos label on April 27.

Italian tenor Antonello Palombi was thrust into the international spotlight in 2006 when he unexpectedly stepped into the role of Radames in *Aida* mid-performance at La Scala when the tenor who had started the performance was unable to continue. His star has continued to rise as he has performed at companies throughout Europe and North America, including Seattle Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Cincinnati Opera and Dallas Opera.

Greer Grimsley reprises the role of Scarpia at Opera Colorado. The *San Diego Union Tribune* counts Grimsley "in the first rank of this role's great interpreters, a list that includes such heavyweights as Tito Gobbi and Cornell MacNeil." Grimsley earned critical praise last year for his performances as Wotan in *The Ring Cycle* with Seattle Opera. His international career has also included performances with companies across North and South America and Europe.

Stage director Ron Daniels was a founding member of the Teatro Oficina in São Paulo. He has also worked extensively with the Royal Shakespeare Company, American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, MA, the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain, The Shakespeare Theatre of Washington, D.C., The Public Theatre of New York and the Dallas Theater Center. Mr. Daniels is Opera Colorado's 2009-2010 Nathaniel Merrill Honorary Director, an honor made possible by a generous gift from Pamela Merrill.

Stephen Lord was recently chosen by Opera News as one of the "25 Most Powerful Names in U.S. Opera" (one of four conductors). Recent seasons included debuts with the San Francisco Opera, the Dallas Opera, Boston Lyric Opera and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis among many others.

Sets for this production were created to celebrate the re-opening of San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House as well as the opening of the 75th anniversary season of San Francisco Opera. Set designer **Thierry Bosquet** based the design on an earlier production that was seen at the opening of the War Memorial in 1932. While Bosquet carefully reproduced much of the period detail of the original set, he did not create a carbon copy. The new sets represent his interpretation of the old designs. The sets reproduce in realistic detail the historical Roman locations where the opera is set.

Performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 14th and Curtis, at the Denver Performing Arts Complex in downtown Denver. Tickets range from \$30 to \$165 and are available at OperaColorado.org or by calling 800.982.ARTS. Discounts for groups of 10 or more people are available by calling 303.468.2024.

Tosca is sponsored by Merle Chambers and Hugh Grant, Joy and Chris Dinsdale, Hilja K. Herfurth, and The Colorado Trust—Dr. and Mrs. William Maniatis. The Opera Colorado 2009-2010 Season is sponsored by Boettcher Foundation, Ellie Caulkins and Susan and Jeremy Shamos. Opera Colorado also receives support from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

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