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Opera Colorado announces plans for 2010-2011 Season

DENVER, CO—General Director Greg Carpenter will announce plans for Opera Colorado's 2010-2011 season at a special reception for donors at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on Tuesday, January 26th.

"Opera Colorado continues to expand our repertoire selection during the 2010-2011 Season," Carpenter said. "We launch our season with one of the most beloved operas of all time. We then explore unfamiliar territory with some exciting new repertoire. Our final opera has not been seen on the Opera Colorado stage since 1995. During the entire season, we will welcome many new artists who will be joining us along the way for the very first time."

By including a very familiar title along with two works that are new or less familiar to the Colorado audience, Carpenter hopes to appeal to a broad spectrum of opera fans with next season's repertoire. "We've selected operas that we believe will interest both seasoned opera lovers and audiences new to the art form."

La Bohème **By Giacomo Puccini** **November 6, 9, 12 & 14, 2010**

"It seems that no season is complete without a blockbuster Puccini opera and we will begin our season with one of his most beloved works, *La Bohème*," Carpenter said. This masterwork has enchanted generations of opera goers.

A chance meeting between a young poet and the beautiful young woman next door ignites one of the most romantic love stories of all time. Love blossoms

under the moonlit Paris sky as Rodolfo and Mimì share their hopes and dreams. But can their love survive in the face of looming tragedy? The passion, beauty and fragility of young love vividly comes to life in this romantic work of genius.

The cast features four artists debuting in the leading roles. "**Jennifer Black** was a revelation as Mimì," raved the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. "Her soprano was gleaming and glorious, with wonderful nuances of light and shade and complete dynamic control. She showed the little seamstress's shyness, archness and saucy ardor perfectly, and her arias were meltingly sung. Her sad Act III duet was one of the best I've ever heard."

"**Richard Troxell** has movie-star good looks as the poet Rodolfo," according to the *Roanoke Times*. "His tenor instrument has huge power."

Morgan Smith will sing the role of Marcello. *The Dallas Morning News* described his voice as "a rich, oiled-walnut baritone."

Completing the quartet is **Sari Gruber** as Musetta, who has been described by *Opera Magazine* as "nothing short of sensational."

The same team that created Opera Colorado's 2008 production of *The Pearl Fishers* will lead this production: stage director **Andrew Sinclair** and conductor **Sebastian Lang-Lessing**.

Rusalka

By Antonín Dvořák

February 12, 15, 18, & 20, 2011

"The centerpiece of our 2010 - 2011 Season will be a evocative new production of Antonín Dvořák's masterpiece *Rusalka*," Carpenter continued. "This will be the first time that Opera Colorado has delved into the intoxicating realm of Czech repertoire and we have put together a sensational cast for this groundbreaking venture."

Based on the folk story of a water sprite who longs to become human, *Rusalka* sings the haunting "Song to the Moon," begging the celestial orb to tell the Prince of her love. The witch Jezibaba makes *Rusalka*'s dreams come true. But when the Prince she loves is unfaithful, there are tragic results for all.

Rusalka will star soprano **Kelly Kaduce** in the title role. *Opera News* praised her work, writing "Kaduce sings with a bell-like purity and silvery

sweetness, and she suspends her legato with an effortless, sensual spin. A born actress, Kaduce is also a masterful illuminator of text.”

Making their Opera Colorado debuts will be tenor **August Amonov** as the Prince and mezzo-soprano **Catherine Cook** as the witch Jezibaba.

The production will be directed by **Eric Simonson** and conducted by **Alexander Polianichko**, both of whom are making their Opera Colorado debuts with this production.

“*Rusalka* will also be the focal point of a citywide festival of Czech cultural arts, titled **Czech Point Denver**,” said Carpenter. “Spearheaded by Opera Colorado, the festival will be a celebration of Czech cultural arts, including music, visual arts, film and more. Opera Colorado will partner with arts organizations throughout the Denver community to create this high profile event. We are excited to be the catalyst for this unique festival and to collaborate with our colleagues at many of Denver’s premiere arts organizations.”

A separate press announcement with details about the festival is being planned for mid-May, 2010.

Cinderella (La Cenerentola)

**By Gioachino Rossini
April 30, May 3, 6, & 8, 2011**

“Our 2010-2011 Season concludes with Jean Pierre Ponnelle’s charming and elegant production of Rossini’s *Cinderella*,” Carpenter announced. “Opera Colorado has not performed Rossini’s poignant comedy since 1995.”

The story revolves around a young girl who yearns for true love while under the thumb of her cruel stepfather and vain stepsisters. When Cinderella offers kindness to a stranger, her fate is forever altered as she is whisked away to the ball and becomes the woman who captures the prince’s heart. Rossini’s version of the classic folk tale is a delight. However in the end, Cinderella’s transformation is brought about not by supernatural powers, but through the magic of music.

Daniela Mack will make her company debut in the title role. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* recently praised her singing as “a mix of honey and fire, with plenty of expressive facial gestures to reveal the girl’s changing emotions.”

Tenor **Michele Angelini** will debut as the prince. The *Dallas Morning News* raved about his performance in the role: "Michele Angelini, as a handsome Prince Ramiro, displays a voice of silken loveliness as well as graceful agility."

Dale Travis, who last appeared with Opera Colorado as Don Alfonso in last season's *Così fan tutte*, will sing the role of Alidoro.

Daniel Belcher will return to Denver to make his Opera Colorado debut in the role of the prince's valet, a portrayal hailed in *The Contra Costa Times* as "a sure-voiced, superbly comic Dandini."

Conductor **Tim Long** will make his Opera Colorado debut.

The production comes from San Francisco Opera and was originally created by legendary French stage director Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. Stage director **Grischa Asagaroff**, one of Ponnelle's original assistants, and **Greg Fortner** will collaborate to direct the production.

Season tickets will go on sale to existing season ticket-holders beginning January 27. The general public will be able to purchase tickets beginning March 15. Individual tickets for the operas will go on sale next fall. More information is available at the Opera Colorado website (www.operacolorado.org) or by calling the Opera Colorado box office at 303.468.2030.

The 2010-2011 Opera Colorado season is sponsored by Ellie Caulkins and Boettcher Foundation.

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