



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
April 7, 2008

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### **OPERA COLORADO GALA CONCERT WITH SOPRANO FREDERICA VON STADE *One Night Only - Friday, September 26***

**Denver, Colo.**— Opera Colorado will celebrate the opening of the 2008-2009 season with a special concert by renowned soprano, **Frederica von Stade** on **Friday, September 26, 2008**. The special one-night only performance marks the opera legend's first engagement with the company. Opera Colorado is proud to announce new leadership to create another unforgettable celebration. Co-chairs of the gala committee are **Judy Black** and **Susan Noble**. Both ladies stated that after serving on the committee for the past several years, they are both delighted to steer the group towards another elegant and successful event in support of Opera Colorado. Leading the Corporate Committee is Starz! Entertainment's **Bob Clasen** and his wife **Liane**. The Clasen's also share their enthusiasm: "Opera Colorado is an integral part of Denver's cultural fabric. With the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, productions of uncompromised quality, and a reputation for hosting one of the most anticipated events of the year, we are very happy to lend our support to make this gala a tremendous success."

Tables, Couples Packages, and Individual tickets are available for purchase now. Single tickets for the *concert-only* portion of the event will not be available until July 1, 2008. The full evening package includes cocktails and dinner in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, tickets to the concert, and a post-performance dessert and dancing party. For gala details and reservations visit [www.operacolorado.org/getinvolved](http://www.operacolorado.org/getinvolved) or call 303-778-7086.

#### **Frederica von Stade performs *SEMPER UBI SUB UBI***

Renowned opera singer soprano Frederica von Stade will perform a one-act concert of her favorite selections from opera, operetta, Gershwin and other Broadway songs. a bene placito abusus non tollit usum a pedibus usque ad caput pluralis majestatis a bene placito abusus non tollit usum a pedibus usque ad caput pluralis majestatis a bene placito abusus non tollit usum a pedibus usque ad caput pluralis majestatis a bene placito abusus non tollit usum a pedibus usque ad caput pluralis majestatis.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Opera Colorado season begins with this special gala concert and is followed by the mainstage season with the opening of *Madama Butterfly* on November 8. Proceeds from the Season Gala will support the artistic,

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education, and community outreach programs of Opera Colorado, serving over 25,000 youth and adults throughout Colorado. The 2008-2009 Season also includes *The Pearl Fishers* and *Così fan tutte*.

### **Tickets**

Gala Tickets are available for purchase at 303-778-7086 or [www.operacolorado.org/getinvolved](http://www.operacolorado.org/getinvolved)

Gala Tables: \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000

Gala Couples Package: \$3,000

Gala Individual Ticket: \$350

Concert Only Tickets will go on sale on July 1, 2008.

### **Event Details**

**Organization:** Opera Colorado

**What:** 2008-2009 Season Gala Concert with Frederica von Stade

**Where:** Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver, Colorado

**When:** Friday, September 26, 2008

**Time:** Gala events begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Beneficiary:** Opera Colorado's artistic and education programs

**Co-Chairs:** Judy Black and Susan Noble

**Corporate Committee Chairs:** Bob and Liane Clasen

**Caterer:** Kevin Taylor's at the Opera House

### **Frederica von Stade**

Known to family, friends, and fans by her nickname "Flicka," the mezzo-soprano has enriched the world of classical music for over three decades. Miss von Stade's career has taken her to the stages of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. She began at the top, when she received a contract from Sir Rudolf Bing during the Metropolitan Opera auditions, and since her debut in 1970 she has sung nearly all of her great roles with that company. In addition, Miss von Stade has appeared with every leading American opera company, including San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Opera. Her career in Europe has been no less spectacular, with productions mounted for her at Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera, and the Paris Opera. She is invited regularly by the finest conductors, among them Claudio Abbado, James Levine, Riccardo Muti, André Previn, Leonard Slatkin, and Michael Tilson Thomas, to appear in concert with the world's leading orchestras.

A noted bel canto specialist, she excelled as the heroines of Rossini's *La cenerentola* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Bellini's *La sonnambula*. She is an unmatched stylist in the French repertoire: a delectable Mignon or Périhole, a regal Marguerite in Berlioz' *La damnation de Faust*, and, in one critic's words, "the Mélisande of one's dreams." Her elegant figure and keen imagination have made her the world's favorite interpreter of the great trouser roles, from Strauss' Octavian and Composer to Mozart's Sesto, Idamante and - magically, indelibly - Cherubino. Miss von Stade's artistry has inspired the revival of neglected works such as Massenet's *Cherubin*, Thomas' Mignon, Rameau's *Dardanus*, and Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*. Her ability as a singing actress has allowed her to portray wonderful works in operetta and musical theater including the title role in *The Merry Widow* and Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Her repertoire is continually expanding with the works of contemporary composers. She created the role of Tina in Dallas Opera's world premiere production of Dominick Argento's *The Aspern Papers* (a work written for her) as well as the role of Madame de Merteuil in the Conrad Susa's *Dangerous Liaisons* and Mrs. Patrick De Rocher in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, both for San Francisco Opera.

In 2005, Los Angeles audiences saw her first-ever performances of the title role in *La Grand Duchesse de Gerolstein* in a new production directed by Garry Marshall for Los Angeles Opera. Later that season, she gave her first performances as Ottavia in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* with Houston Grand Opera, a role she reprised for Los Angeles Opera the next season.

Frederica von Stade's orchestral repertoire is equally broad. She has garnered acclaim in her vast French repertoire as one of the world's finest interpreters of Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été*, and Canteloube's *Les chants d'Auvergne* as well as songs of Debussy and Duparc.

As a recitalist, Miss von Stade combines her expressive vocalism and exceptional musicianship with a gift for communication. Here, too, her repertoire encompasses a rich variety, from the classical style to the popular songs of Broadway's greatest musicals; from Italian "Arie antiche" to the songs of contemporary composers.

She has made over seventy recordings with every major label. Her recordings have garnered six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disc awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Italy's Premio della Critica Discografica, and "Best of the Year" citations by Stereo Review and Opera News.

Frederica von Stade began the 2007-08 season with her debut at Theater an der Wien where she reprised her portrayal of Mrs. Patrick De Rocher in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. She recently returned to Houston Grand Opera to create the role of Madeline in the world premiere of Jake Heggie's new chamber opera *Last Acts*, which Jake Heggie composed specifically for her. Ms. von Stade can also be seen in concert and recital performances throughout the season.

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