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Opera Colorado Reveals *The Scarlet Letter* Alongside Crowdfunding Campaign

Denver, CO — March 12, 2015 – Opera Colorado hosts sold out concert performance of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter*, launching a 2-month crowdfunder to support the world premiere in May 2016.

On Sunday March 8, 2015 Opera Colorado filled the Loft at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House with audience members excited to catch a sneak peek of Lori Laitman's new American opera, *The Scarlet Letter*. The hour-long performance was followed with a discussion between the Opera Colorado Young Artists, composer Lori Laitman and librettist David Mason, led by conductor and Opera Colorado Artistic Advisor Ari Pelto.

The event served to offer attendees and patrons a glimpse of how the company and artists will present this iconic novel in schools throughout the state of Colorado as well as on the stage of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in downtown Denver.

The event also served to successfully launch an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign aimed at raising \$25,000 in two months to support the statewide touring and mainstage presentation of the opera. Fundraising will continue through May 2, 2015, with the crowdfunding campaign concluding on opening night of *The Magic Flute*.



For information on purchasing tickets to *The Magic Flute*, May 2-10, 2015, please visit: operacolorado.org/the-magic-flute.

For more information on how to support *The Scarlet Letter* and Opera Colorado's Education & Community Engagement programming, please visit operacolorado.org/scarletdonate.

The Scarlet Letter

Love finds a voice in our world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter*, a dramatic new adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's classical novel with libretto written by former Poet Laureate of Colorado, David Mason. It's a morality play of rigid judgment, heart-wrenching betrayal and redemptive love brought to life through stunning performances, dramatic set design and incredible music. Like Hester, you'll discover that sin, while a failing, is essential to the human experience. *The Scarlet Letter* will premiere as a full, grand opera production on the mainstage of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in May of 2016.

***The Scarlet Letter* and its correlating Education & Community Engagement programming** are sponsored by Ken and Donna Barrow, Jeremy and Susan Shamos, Dave and Pam Duke, Noël and Thomas Congdon, Joy Dinsdale, Daniel L. Ritchie, the National Endowment for the Arts and Opera America.

Greg Carpenter, General Director

The fourth General Director in Opera Colorado's 31-year history, Greg Carpenter guides both the artistic and administrative operations of the company. His role as General Director began in 2007, prior to which he served as Opera Colorado's Director of Development from 2004-2007, overseeing all fundraising and Board of Directors activities. Carpenter currently serves on the Board of Directors for OPERA America, the national service organization for the opera industry.

About Opera Colorado A cornerstone of Denver's cultural community, Opera Colorado presents operas annually at its downtown Denver home, the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. The Company presents new works alongside standard repertoire, and reaches more than 35,500 students and community members throughout the Rocky Mountain region through a variety of education and community engagement programs. Opera Colorado Young Artists, an eight-month residency for singers at the beginning stages of their careers, provides training for the next generation of American opera performers. Remaining performances in the 2014-2015 include *The Magic Flute* by W.A. Mozart (May 2-10, 2015).

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