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Media Contacts Colorado:

Camille Spaccavento, Director of External Affairs & Marketing | 303.778.0214 | cspaccavento@operacolorado.org

Rachel Perez, Marketing Manager | 303.698.2334 | rperez@operacolorado.org

Images: For high resolution images, please visit: operacolorado.org/press-room

Opera Colorado Ellie Celebration

Honoring Ellie Caulkins and Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Denver, CO — (August 3, 2015) Opera Colorado will honor Ellie Caulkins and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on Saturday, September 19, 2015. The Ellie Celebration will benefit Opera Colorado, supporting the company's many endeavors to further the art form and continue to bring the joys of live opera to audiences of all ages and communities throughout the state. The festive evening will highlight a concert in the Opera House at 7PM showcasing opera favorites, followed by dinner and dancing. The celebratory performance will feature some of Opera Colorado's past, present and future opera stars including **Pamela Armstrong, Jonathan Boyd, Sandra Piques Eddy, Catherine Martin, Jay Hunter Morris, Marco Nisticò, Eric Owens, Brett Sprague** and **Monica Yunus**, singing beloved repertoire with the Opera Colorado Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Ari Pelto – newly appointed Music Director Designee of Opera Colorado.

Patrons attending the celebratory evening will enjoy cocktails in the Studio Loft of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at 5:30PM. Following the concert guests then will go on to dinner at 8:30PM with a meal designed by Chef Kevin Taylor. Patrons who wish to join in the full evening of celebrating can contact Leah Podzimek at 303.468.2029 to make a reservation.



Patrons who wish to attend the concert-only portion of the celebration may purchase single tickets to the performance separately. Concert-only ticket can be purchased directly through Opera Colorado online at operacolorado.org/ellie-celebration or by calling Patron Services at 303.468.2030.

“As we reflect on our colorful history and look forward to all that is yet to come, let’s also enjoy what we are lucky to have today: an opera company that honors tradition and welcomes innovation,” said Ellie Caulkins in a recent reflection on the upcoming 10th anniversary. “I know this opera house will always be our home, and on the eve of its 10th anniversary, it is time to throw a party. I hope you will join us.”

ABOUT ELLIE CAULKINS

The Ellie Caulkins Opera House opened on September 10, 2005 and was named, as a surprise, for Eleanor N. “Ellie” Caulkins by a generous gift given from her late husband George Caulkins and their children. Ellie Caulkins first fell in love with opera when taking a class called “Opera as Drama” as an English major at the University of Colorado, Denver. Since then, she has served as one of the most steadfast and impactful supporters of opera both in Colorado and nationally. Having been heavily involved with Opera Colorado since its inception over 30 years ago, she is the lifetime honorary chair on Opera Colorado’s Board of Directors. She serves as a board member of the Metropolitan Opera Association and formerly served as president of the Metropolitan Opera National Council, which fosters emerging young opera singers across America through a nationwide audition program. Her philanthropic work in the Denver community spans many organizations and causes related to performing arts, children’s welfare and education; including The Children’s Hospital, the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association, the Colorado State Board of Psychologist Examiners, the Berkshire Choral Festival and the Music Project for Television. In 2006, she and her husband George received the Mayor’s Cultural Legacy Award. She received a Doctor of Humanities Honorary Doctorate from the University of Colorado, and serves on the University of Colorado Foundation Board. She



received Opera America's 2011 National Opera Trustee Recognition Award and the 2014 Bonfils Stanton Foundation Award for Arts and Humanities.

"It is hard to believe that 10 years have passed since we moved from performances in Boettcher Concert Hall and the Buell Theatre to our state-of-the-art home at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Now is the time to celebrate," stated Opera Colorado's General Director Greg Carpenter. "We could not be more thrilled to host this outstanding 10th Anniversary Celebration which will honor Ellie Caulkins. Opera Colorado has invited several guest artists to perform in the concert who have appeared in productions at the Ellie over the past 10 years, and some of whom are newer to Opera Colorado who will bring their talents to the main stage in future seasons. Ari Pelto and I have selected a superb mix of opera favorites for the evening's program which our audience will surely enjoy."

CELEBRATION DETAILS

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Time: 5:30PM cocktail reception, 7PM concert, 8:30PM dinner

Location: Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Located at 1101 14th Street, Denver 80202

Attire: Black Tie

Parking: Parking is available in the Denver Performing Arts Complex or Colorado Convention Center Parking Garages, as well as street parking and surface lots in the area.

TICKETS & TABLES

Purchase concert-only tickets at operacolorado.org/ellie-celebration or call 303.468.2030. For more information on premiere dinner packages or to make a table purchase, please contact Leah Podzimek at 303.468.2029.

PRESS INFORMATION

For full bios and high resolution images of the artists performing in the celebration concert, visit Opera Colorado's press page here. operacolorado.org/press-room



Ari Pelto, Conductor & Music Director Designee

In May 2015 Opera Colorado appointed Ari Pelto Music Director Designee, a role he will officially begin in 2016 as the first Music Director in the company's history. He was appointed Opera Colorado's Artistic Advisor in 2013, following an acclaimed debut conducting *Don Giovanni* for the company. He recently conducted the Company's 2014 production of *Madama Butterfly*, and is also set to conduct *Aida* in the fall of 2015 and the world premiere of the new American opera *The Scarlet Letter* in 2016. Pelto is in demand at elite opera houses, ballets, symphonies and conservatories throughout the United States. He has also conducted in Italy, Germany and Bulgaria. [For Maestro Pelto's full bio click here.](#)

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. [For Greg Carpenter's full bio click here.](#)

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 & 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. The 2015-2016 Season features performances of Verdi's *Aida* (November 7-15, 2015) and the World Premiere of a new American opera, Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter* (May 7-15, 2016).

Opera Colorado's 2015-2016 season is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth T. Barrow. Season sponsors for the 2015-2016 Season include the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), The Denver Post, 5280 Magazine, Yellow Scene Magazine, Magnolia Hotels, KCNC-TV CBS4, The Edge Restaurant & Bar, The Four Seasons Hotel, and Rassman Design.

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