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## **Mike Hurdle takes over for Darrel Curtice as Director of Finance and Administration**

### **Darrel Curtice retires after 26 years with Opera Colorado**

Denver, CO — (September 30, 2015) Opera Colorado announces that Mike Hurdle will take over for Darrel Curtice as Director of Finance and Administration. Darrel Curtice retires today after 26 years of service to Opera Colorado as Director of Finance and Administration/CFO.

Mike Hurdle comes to Opera Colorado with 15 years of experience in accounting and finance. His responsibilities with Opera Colorado will include providing General Director Greg Carpenter, with input for increased administrative efficiency, financial oversight and planning. He will work alongside members of the Senior Management Team, including the Director of External Affairs and Marketing, Director of Education and Community Engagement Programs and the Production Manager, to ensure smooth and effective operations in all aspects of Opera Colorado's endeavors. As a key position within the company, he will be responsible for all daily financial operations through the oversight of Contributed and Earned Income, finance staff and daily administration functions.

Before joining Opera Colorado, Mike Hurdle served as the Director of Finance at the Atlanta Opera. Hurdle is a CPA and ran his own firm in Atlanta for many years. He holds an MBA from the University of Georgia. "I am thrilled to join the staff at Opera Colorado," said Hurdle. "It is an exciting time to be here as Opera Colorado grows, and I hope to be able to help advance the process in the upcoming seasons."



“Mike Hurdle comes to us with extensive experience and we are happy to have him on board with Opera Colorado,” stated General Director Greg Carpenter. “He will be a valuable asset to Opera Colorado as we continue to grow and bring world-class opera performances and education programs to audiences throughout the state of Colorado.”

Darrel Curtice retires after 36 years of working in the arts. Prior to his 26 years with Opera Colorado as Director of Finance and Administration, he held the same position with the Denver Symphony for 10 years before it reorganized into the Colorado Symphony. Opera Colorado Founder Nathaniel Merrill, having a long standing relationship with Darrel Curtice, invited him to join Opera Colorado as Director of Finance and Administration/CFO in 1989.

*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.*

#### **2015-2016 Season and Single Tickets on Sale Now**

Tickets are on sale for Opera Colorado’s performances of *Aida* (November 7-15) and the world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter* (May 7-15). More information at [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org) or call 303.468.2030

#### **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, a seven-month residency for singers at the beginning stages of their careers, provides training for the next generation of American opera performers. Young Artists play a vital role as the voice and face of Opera Colorado in the community. They perform throughout the season in school and community centers across the State. The 2015-2016 Season features performances of *Aida* (November 7-15, 2015) and the world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter* (May 7-15, 2016).

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