



For Immediate Release: September 25, 2015

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Opera Colorado *AIDA*

With pageantry and classic flair, this production has it all.

Denver, CO — (September 25, 2015) Opera Colorado's traditional production of Verdi's *Aida* opens at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on November 7, 2015 at 7:30PM. Directed by David Gately and conducted by Opera Colorado's newly appointed Music Director Designee Ari Pelto, this production will feature Alexandra LoBianco as Aida, Carl Tanner as Radames, Catherine Martin as Amneris, Marco Nisticò as Amonasro and Harold Wilson as Ramfis.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Date/Time: Saturday, November 7 at 7:30PM

Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30PM

Friday, November 13 at 7:30PM

Sunday, November 15 at 2PM

Location: Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Located at 14th and Curtis Streets, Denver, CO 80202

Tickets: Tickets at operacolorado.org or 303.468.2030.

Parking: Parking is available in the Denver Performing Arts Complex or Colorado Convention Center Parking Garages.



With pageantry and classic flair, this production has it all – a chorus of 40, a stage filled with supernumeraries and ballet, all except for live animals. Verdi’s vivid music and stunning cast combine to set the stage for an unforgettable evening of grand opera. This opera presents a love triangle for all time as two women test their fate to win the man whom they both love.

Do not miss this spectacular production with a line-up of artists who have received critical acclaim.

“Alexandra LoBianco has a beautifully steely voice...One of the best all-around performances I can remember.” *St Louis Post-Dispatch*

“From his demanding opening aria, ‘Celeste Aida,’ Mr. Tanner left no doubt about his prowess, singing with a firm, generously sized voice and producing clarion top notes...”
New York Times

This opera will be sung in Italian with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ari Pelto | Conductor

With past performances that have been called poetic, earthy, vigorous and highly individual, Ari Pelto was recently appointed Music Director Designee at Opera Colorado following an acclaimed debut conducting *Don Giovanni*. Future productions include *Aida* and the world premiere of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlett Letter*. Additionally this season, he conducts *Aida* at Utah Opera and returns to Atlanta Ballet, Opera Memphis, Omaha Symphony, Lamont Symphony and the NYU Symphony. Recent highlights include *La Rondine* in Cortona (Italy), *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Salome* at Virginia Opera, *The Rake’s Progress* at Portland Opera, *Rigoletto*, *Don Pasquale* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera Memphis (where he is Principal Guest Conductor); *La Boheme* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, *Cunning Little Vixen* at Chautauqua, *Rusalka* at Boston Lyric Opera, *Romeo et Juliette* at Minnesota Opera, *The Magic Flute*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Portland Opera and *Hansel and Gretel* at Utah Opera.

David Gately | Director

Stage director David Gately is known for his vivid story-telling and lively and clever productions. During the 2015-2016 season, Mr. Gately directs *Aida* with Opera Colorado, *Merry Widow* with Utah Opera, *Showboat* with Kentucky Opera and *I Barbiere di Siviglia* with Fort Worth Opera. Recent highlights include *La Fanciulla del West* with Des Moines Opera, *La Traviata* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Fort Worth Opera, *Silent Night* with Calgary Opera



and both *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* with McGill University. The Director's hugely successful "Wild West" production of *Don Pasquale*, hailed as a "contemporary classic," has been mounted by opera companies across the United States, including with the San Diego Opera, Kentucky Opera, Opera Colorado and Calgary Opera. In addition to his continued work on the stage, Mr. Gately was also recently appointed as Assistant Professor of Music in the College of Fine Arts at Texas Christian University.

Alexandra LoBianco* | Aida

American soprano Alexandra LoBianco has been hailed as possessing "a true Verdian voice of velvet-covered steel," capable of "effortlessly tossing off trills and roulades" (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*). She has been awarded First Prize in the 2013 Altamura International Vocal Competition and was named a First Prize winner of the William Sullivan Foundation 2013 Awards. Since earning first prize at the 2011 Liederkrantz Vocal Competition, and taking first prize and being named "Audience Favorite" at the 2011 Irene Dalis Competition, she has continued to win praise whenever she performs. *San Francisco Classical Voice* noted her "lyrical-to-heroic range," calling to mind "the ease and magnetism of a young Monserrat Caballe." In summer of 2015 she sings the title role in *Tosca* with PORTopera in Maine, and in 2015-16 she sings the title role in *Aida* with Opera Colorado and makes her Minnesota Opera debut as Tosca.

Carl Tanner* | Radames

Carl Tanner begins the 2015-16 season as Pinkerton *Madama Butterfly* for Minnesota Orchestra. He returns to London to appear as Luigi *Il Tabarro* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden before travelling to Honolulu to sing Manrico *Il Trovatore* for Hawaii Opera Theatre. Recent highlights include the title roles in *Samson et Dalila*, *Peter Grimes* as well as Hermann *Pique Dame* at Grange Park Opera in the UK where he won outstanding reviews. He also appeared as Otello at Pittsburgh Opera. Past successes include numerous appearances with the Metropolitan Opera as Canio *I Pagliacci*/Tiriddu *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Radames *Aida*, his signature role which he previously sang at Staatsoper Hamburg, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, Edmonton Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Semperoper Dresden. He made his debut at Washington National Opera as Captain Ahab *Moby-Dick* and at Deutsche Oper Berlin as Cavaradossi *Tosca*, a role he also sang the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Catherine Martin | Amneris

Mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin excels in repertoire ranging from Verdi and Wagner to Mozart and Donizetti. The 2015-2016 season and beyond brings debuts with Opera Colorado as Amneris in *Aida*, with Florida Grand Opera as Adalgisa in *Norma*, and returns to Washington National Opera and Houston Grand Opera. Engagements for the 2014-2015 season included her return to Opera Santa Barbara as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, her debut with Dayton Opera as



Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking*, Waltraute in *Die Walküre* with Houston Grand Opera and Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner* with the American Symphony Orchestra. Additional recent highlights include returns to Houston Grand Opera as Wellgunde in *Das Rheingold* and the Glimmerglass Festival as Der Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and debuts at the Kennedy Center with Washington National Opera as Mary in the premiere of *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me* and Annina in *Der Rosenkavalier* with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Marco Nisticò | Amonasro

Marco Nisticò joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera in 2009-2010, where he made his debut as Dancaire *Carmen*. Recent engagements include Rodrigue in *Don Carlos*, and Tonio in *Pagliacci* in Sarasota. Future engagements include Amonasro *Aida* with Opera Colorado and Sarasota Opera, Tonio with Opera Memphis, Malatesta with Florida Grand Opera and Dulcamara with West Australian Opera *Perth*. Recent past engagements include Figaro *Barbiere* with Sarasota Opera and Dulcamara and Dancaire with the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. He is frequently seen with Sarasota Opera in roles including Giacomo in *Giovanna d'Arco*, Germont in *La Traviata*, Rodrigue in *Don Carlos*, Francesco Foscari in *I Due Foscari*. In 2011-2012 Mr. Nisticò was heard as Dulcamara at the Landestheater in Bregenz, as Guglielmo at the Teatro Regio of Torino and Rigoletto with Sarasota Opera. His appearances with NYCO include Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore*, Schaunard in *La Bohème* and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*.

Harold Wilson | Ramfis

Harold Wilson's 2015-2016 season marks his return to several companies: with Opera Colorado, he will sing Ramfis in *Aida*; at the Metropolitan Opera, he will cover the role of Timur in *Turandot*; and with Sarasota Opera, he will sing the roles of Rocco and Marcovaldo in productions of *Fidelio* and *La battaglia di Legnano*, respectively. In concert, he makes a company debut with the Grand Junction Symphony as the bass soloist in Verdi's Requiem. Mr. Wilson's 2014-2015 season began with the Dayton Opera singing works by Mussorgsky and Tchaikovsky in a Gala Concert. Subsequently, the American bass debuted with Opera Memphis, as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, joined the Metropolitan Opera for its production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, and made appearances with Tulsa Opera, for Frère Laurent in *Roméo et Juliette*, and Opera Colorado, for Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*.

***Opera Colorado Debut**

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.



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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