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Opera Colorado Presents the A-List Event Series

Motivated by the upcoming world premiere of the new American Opera *The Scarlet Letter*, right here in Denver in May 2016,

Opera Colorado presents a series of events to inspire, educate and intrigue audiences.

DENVER, CO—January 14, 2016—Today, Opera Colorado announced the all-new A-List Event Series, in celebration of the upcoming World Premiere of *The Scarlet Letter*, taking place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in May. Through literary discussion, poetry, film, music and more – Opera Colorado will explore the themes of this story by Nathaniel Hawthorne, which are as relevant today as when the book was published in 1850. *The Scarlet Letter* immediately caught the country’s attention and has never lost its grip.

In collaboration with other non-profit and arts organizations, the A-List Events will take place throughout the community in various venues, highlighting art, poetry, film, music and literature.

Kicking-off the series on January 24, Opera Colorado collaborates with Redline Gallery to present An Afternoon of American Song, featuring works from opera, cabaret and art song. The final A-List Event will feature a screening of the 1926 silent film *The Scarlet Letter* at the Denver Public Library. All A-List Events culminate in the world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter* at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in May.

For more information about each event, to buy tickets or RSVP online for free events, please visit operacolorado.org/a-list or call Opera Colorado Patron Services at 303.468.2030.

A-List Events

An Afternoon of Song - Recital and Reception

Enjoy an afternoon of American Song – Opera Colorado’s Young Artists and pianist Alaina DeBellevue will delight with a concert showcasing works from opera, cabaret and art song. Lori Laitman, composer of *The Scarlet Letter*, will attend and meet with the audience at the post-performance reception.

Date and Time: Sunday, January 24 | 2PM

Location: Redline Gallery | 2350 Arapahoe St. Denver

Cost: General admission \$15



From Novel to Opera - A Literary Panel Conversation

Learn more about *The Scarlet Letter* in a literary discussion with moderator Eric Gould, author and professor of literature at the University of Denver; David Mason, Colorado's Poet Laureate *Emeritus* and librettist of *The Scarlet Letter*; and Paula Reed, author of the novel *Hester* – a modern sequel to *The Scarlet Letter*. Bring along your book club!

Date and Time: Sunday, March 13 | 2-4PM

Location: Denver Public Library, Vida Ellison Gallery, Seventh Floor, 10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver

Cost: Free event, RSVP online required

Slam Poetry Open Mic!

Opera Colorado in collaboration with SlamNUBA

Enjoy the premier of poetry written and performed by students in response to the music and themes of *The Scarlet Letter*. Join in as an audience member or present your own slam poetry based on the themes of *The Scarlet Letter*.

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 12 | 7PM

Location: Mercury Café, Jungle Room | 2199 California Street, Denver

Cost: Free event, RSVP online required

Luncheon | Women's Empowerment in the Arts - A Conversation

Luncheon and panel discussion of the issues facing women in the arts today. Moderated by Karen Sugar, CEO and founder of the Women's Global Empowerment Fund, with Lori Laitman, composer and Beth Greenberg, director of *The Scarlet Letter*.

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 19 | 12-1:30PM

Location: Kevin Taylor's at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House | 950 13th Street, Denver

Cost: General admission \$30

A Silent Film Screening -*The Scarlet Letter*

In collaboration with the Denver Public Library Fresh City Life event series, Opera Colorado co-hosts a free public screening of the 1926 silent film *The Scarlet Letter*.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 27 | 7:30PM

Location: Denver Public Library, B2 Conference Center | 10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy, Denver

Cost: Free event, tickets not required

About Greg Carpenter

The fourth General Director in Opera Colorado's 33-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. Prior to joining Opera Colorado, he worked for four years for the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. His work there included Special Projects Manager for the President of the National



Symphony Orchestra from 2000–2001 and Manager of Development from 2001–2004. Carpenter’s extensive experience working in the arts also includes two years as the Artist and Event Services Manager for the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, and Special Projects Coordinator for the University of Maryland School of Music. From 1986 – 1998, Carpenter performed as a professional opera singer. His work as an opera singer included both lead and supporting roles at Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, Cleveland Opera and Lyric Opera Cleveland. Carpenter currently serves on the Board of Directors for OPERA America, the national service organization for the opera industry. For the 2008 National Performing Arts Convention held in Denver, he served as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. In 2009 Carpenter received a Livingston Fellowship Award in Leadership from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. He also regularly serves as a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has served as a judge for the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition. Greg Carpenter received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Wittenberg University, a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Michigan State University and he completed post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland School of Music.

About Opera Colorado A great city needs great art, and for more than three decades Opera Colorado has brought world-class performing arts to Colorado audiences. Today Opera Colorado serves as a cornerstone of Denver’s cultural community, bringing live opera experiences to audiences throughout the state of Colorado and at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, its Denver home since the grand opening in 2005. Each season, the company reaches more than 35,500 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs. Opera Colorado’s Young Artists, singers at the beginning stages of their careers, perform during their eight-month residency with the company in schools and community centers across the State – including an annual tour on the Western Slope. Recognized nationally for its excellence, the Young Artists program provides training for the next generation of American opera singers. Opera Colorado’s Inside OC initiative for young professionals brings together like-minded individuals for networking, learning and attending opera performances. Presenting new works and productions, alongside standard repertoire in the grand opera tradition, Opera Colorado contributes artistically to the advancement of the art form. The 2015-2016 Season productions at the Opera House featured sold out performances of *Aida* (November 7-15, 2015) and will feature the world premiere of a new American opera, *The Scarlet Letter* (May 7-15, 2016). www.operacolorado.org.

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