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Media Contacts:

Camille Spaccavento, Director of External Affairs & Marketing | 303.778.0214

cspaccavento@operacolorado.org

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

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A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION: THE MAKING OF *AS ONE* THE OPERA

**Denver's Own Mark Campbell – Pulitzer Prize-Winning Librettist –
Comes to Colorado to Discuss**, the birth and making of the acclaimed opera
As One

Denver, CO (September 27, 2016) Come behind the scenes for this one of a kind experience. Opera Colorado will welcome the creative team of *As One* to Denver on October 4 for **A Luncheon Conversation: The Making of AS ONE**. This special panel discussion moderated by Eden Lane will feature *As One*'s composer **Laura Kaminsky**, librettist **Mark Campbell** and filmmaker and librettist **Kimberly Reed**, as well as conductor **Andres Cladera**. The luncheon will take place from 12- 1:30pm at The Curtis Hotel in Downtown Denver. Join Opera Colorado for a unique exploration, the birth and making of the acclaimed opera *As One* which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2014.

Mark Campbell graduated from Denver's Jefferson High School and the University of Colorado. He is one of the most in-demand and prolific librettists in the world, profiled in *Opera News* as **"poised...to become a major force in opera in the coming decade."** Along with many other prestigious awards, Mark won the Pulitzer Prize in 2012 and received a Grammy Nomination for Best Classical Recording.

Take advantage of this opportunity to welcome Mark Campbell back to Denver and experience an inside look at *As One* with the entire creative team – also including composer Laura Kaminsky and co-librettist Kimberly Reed. Moderated by Eden Lane.



The Colorado premiere of *As One* by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed will take place at the Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School, located at 1101 W 84th Ave in Denver. Three performances are set for March 2, 3 and 4 in 2017. This production of *As One* will be Opera Colorado's first full-length, fully-staged chamber opera presented in a venue outside of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

As One, a new 75-minute chamber opera, depicts the experiences of its sole transgender protagonist, Hannah, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world. Two singers, a baritone and a mezzo-soprano, together portray the character Hannah. Inspired in part by the life experience of acclaimed filmmaker Kimberly Reed and her film *Prodigal Son*, *As One's* rich libretto – and evocative melodies and harmonies – make it an unforgettable work. This production will be conducted by Opera Colorado's new Associate Conductor Andres Cladera and directed by Jeffrey Buchman. Baritone Kelly Markgraf will sing Hannah Before and mezzo-soprano Blythe Gaisert will sing Hannah After. *As One* features a string quartet in addition to the two soloists and film projections.

Opera Colorado has embarked on the next chapter of its history by establishing a new artistic vision—presenting contemporary works in unique venues alongside the masterworks of the operatic repertoire at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, its home in the downtown Denver Performing Arts Complex. As a part of its new five-year strategic plan, Opera Colorado is enhancing its role in the community as a dynamic cultural force by exploring new repertoire, building new audiences, expanding its commitment to arts education, and growing the Young Artist Program to increase its geographical footprint in the ever-diverse Rocky Mountain region.

A Luncheon Conversation: The Making of AS ONE

AS ONE MUSIC & CONCEPT BY LAURA KAMINSKY

AS ONE LIBRETTO BY MARK CAMPBELL & KIMBERLY REED



ANDRES CLADERA, Conductor

EDEN LANE, Moderator

DATE: October 4, 2016

TIME: 12PM – 1:30PM

LOCATION: The Curtis Hotel, Marco Polo Room, 1405 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80202

TICKETS: \$45 | <https://www.operacolorado.org/conversation/>

As One is sponsored by *Out Front*.

As One will be presented by Opera Colorado

MARCH 2 | 3 | 4 | 2017

PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX AT PINNACLE CHARTER SCHOOL

With humor and empathy, *As One* chronicles a transgender person’s inner journey.

This new, 75-minute chamber opera depicts the experiences of its sole transgender protagonist, Hannah, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world. Two singers, a baritone and a mezzo-soprano, both portray the character Hannah. Inspired in part by the life experiences of acclaimed filmmaker Kimberly Reed, *As One’s* rich libretto – and evocative melodies and harmonies – make it an unforgettable work

For more information on the performance and to purchase tickets:

<https://www.operacolorado.org/tickets/as-one/>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Laura Kaminsky | Composer

Laura Kaminsky is a composer with “an ear for the new and interesting” whose works are “colorful and harmonically sharp-edged” *The New York Times*. Social and political themes are common in her work, as is an abiding respect for and connection to the natural world. Kaminsky’s “music is full of fire as well as ice, written in an idiom that contrasts dissonance and violence with tonal beauty and meditative reflection. It is strong stuff.” *American Record Guide* Her opera, *As One* (co-librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed), recently presented at BAM, received unanimously positive reviews, including: “*As One* is a piece that haunts and



challenges its audience with questions about identity, authenticity, compassion, and the human desire for self-love and peace” *Opera News* and “...musically, (this seasoned, socially-aware composer’s) dramatically charged music has a tonal ambiguity that allows each scene to go where it needs to, and in a clear dramatic trajectory.” *Operavore*

Mark Campbell | Librettist

Mark Campbell is one of the most in-demand librettists working in opera today, profiled in *Opera News* as one of twenty-five people "poised...to become major forces in opera in the coming decade." Mark has written fifteen librettos, but his most known work is the libretto for the opera *Silent Night*, which garnered the 2012 Pulitzer in Music for composer Kevin Puts. Since its premiere at Minnesota Opera, the opera has been broadcast on PBS' Great Performances and received productions at Opera Philadelphia, Ft. Worth Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Calgary Opera, The Wexford Festival in Ireland, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Opéra de Montréal. Other successful operas include: *Later the Same Evening*, *Volpone*, *As One*, *Bastianello/Lucrezia*, *A Letter to East 11th Street*, *The Inspector*, *Rappahannock County*, *Approaching Ali* and *The Manchurian Candidate*. Mark has collaborated with many notable contemporary composers, including Mark Adamo, Mason Bates, William Bolcom, Conrad Cummings, Ricky Ian Gordon, Jake Heggie, Martin Hennessy, Laura Kaminsky, Paul Moravec, John Musto, Paola Prestini, Kevin Puts, Richard Peaslee, D.J. Sparr, and Michael Torke.

Kimberly Reed | Librettist and Film

Kimberly Reed, filmmaker/librettist — featured on Oprah, CNN, NPR, MSNBC, The Moth Radio Hour — is one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* “25 New Faces of Independent Film.” A New York Foundation for the Arts fellow, she has had residencies at Yaddo, Hermitage Artist Retreat, and Squaw Valley Community of Writers. Regarding her debut as co-librettist and filmmaker of Laura Kaminsky’s opera *As One*, *The New York Times* review of its BAM premiere said: “backed by scene-setting projections from Ms. Reed, the drama powerfully coheres.” *San Francisco Chronicle* noted the “delicately atmospheric film” and libretto—co-written with Mark Campbell—that “conjures up a blend of excitement, shame, self-fulfillment and fear with crisp efficiency.” She is collaborating again with Campbell and Kaminsky on a new opera for Houston Grand Opera/HGOco and *Today It Rains* for San Francisco’s Opera Parallèle. Reed’s *Prodigal Sons*, a “whiplash doc that heralds an exciting talent” (*SF Weekly*), premiered at Telluride Film Festival, has been shown at 100+ festivals and broadcast worldwide, and garnered 14 awards including the FIPRESCI Prize. She is also working on *Dark Money*, a documentary about campaign finance reform.



Andres Cladera | Conductor

Uruguayan conductor Andres Cladera, recently named Associate Conductor with Opera Colorado and Artistic Director of Emerald City Opera, is a versatile and cultivated artist in both the operatic and symphonic worlds. He has prior conducting experience with Opera San Antonio, Opera Colorado, Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Edgewood Symphony, Emerald City Opera, Chatham Baroque and San Antonio Symphony. Maestro Cladera holds a Masters of Music degree from Carnegie Mellon University and Bachelors of Fine Arts degrees in Piano and Voice Performance from College of Charleston. Cladera was awarded the Outstanding Young Conductor of the year by the Association of Choral Directors of America, and first place in several international piano competitions including: Luis Troccoli International Piano Competition, Luis Cluzeau Mortet Piano Competition, as well as the Young Artist Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera House. Upcoming engagements include: *Florencia en el Amazonas* with Emerald City Opera, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat* with Quantum Theater, *La Fanciulla del West*, *As One* and *Lucia di Lamermoor* with Opera Colorado. Maestro Cladera is represented by Encompass Arts LLC.

Eden Lane | Moderator

Eden Lane is the creator, host and producer of *In Focus with Eden Lane*, a Colorado Public Television weekly program celebrating Arts and Culture. Now in entering the ninth season, this weekly series has already featured over 250 original episodes spotlighting local and national music, theatre and arts. Eden has also served as a producer for CPT 12's flagship LIVE Community Affairs program Studio 12. Additionally, Eden hosts LIVE Auction Broadcasts. After several years as a Homemaker and Stay-at-Home Mom Eden relaunched her career focusing on community affairs, and political reporting for the PBS affiliate, and as a stringer for the Logo Cable Television Network.

ABOUT EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC TEAM

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. 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, D.C. 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, Greg 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 has served 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.

Ari Pelto, Music Director

Ari Pelto, music director of Opera Colorado, is widely known for performances, which have been called poetic, earthy, vigorous and highly individual. He is in demand in opera houses and with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. At age of 24 Pelto was appointed Assistant Conductor at the Spoleto Festival and has gone on to conduct on stages worldwide. His international appearances include symphonic performances with the Bochumer Philharmoniker, productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Falstaff* at New National Theatre of Tokyo, and *Faust* at the Teatro Nacional Sucre in Quito, Ecuador. In 2004 he made his highly-praised debut with New York City Opera conducting *La Traviata*, after which he became a regular guest conductor, returning for productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *La Boheme*, and *Carmen*. In 2015, Pelto was named Opera Colorado’s first ever Music Director, where he has conducted acclaimed performances of *Don Giovanni*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aida* and the recent world premiere of Lori Laitman’s long-awaited work, *The Scarlet Letter*, a recording of which will be released in fall 2017 on the Naxos label. In upcoming seasons at Opera Colorado Pelto will lead productions of *La Fanciulla del West*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and more. Highlights of his 2015/16 season included *Aida* at Utah Symphony and Opera, for which the *Salt Lake Tribune* raved “Whether in the grandeur of the triumphal scene or the exquisite beauty of the Nile scene, one couldn’t have asked for a more inspiring performance of Verdi’s score,” a double bill



of *La Voix Humaine* starring Patricia Racette and *Gianni Schicchi* at Chicago Opera Theater, and return appearances at Atlanta Ballet and at Opera Memphis. He conducted a variety of symphonic programs with orchestras in the US, including Omaha Symphony and the NYU Symphony. After earning his Bachelor of Music in violin performance at Oberlin Conservatory, he studied conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Rubin Academy in Jerusalem and with Imre Pallo at Indiana University.

About Opera Colorado

Great cities need 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 grand opera to the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, its Denver home since its opening in 2005. Alongside standard repertoire in the grand opera tradition Opera Colorado presents new works or rarely performed productions each season. The company reaches more than 37,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. 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. The 2016-2017 Season productions at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House will feature Puccini's *La Fanciulla de West* in November 2016 and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in May 2017, and Laura Kaminsky's *As One* at the Performing Arts Complex at PCS in March 2017.

www.operacolorado.org

Music Director Ari Pelto is sponsored by Mike and Julie Bock. Season sponsors for the 2016-2017 Season include the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Marriott The Residence Inn, Kevin Taylor's at the Opera House, Rassman Design and media partner Out Front Magazine.

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