



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing Opera Colorado's *Scene Change*

SCENE CHANGE

(February 8, 2017 – Denver, CO) Eight operatic happenings, six venues across the city, one new chamber opera taking the country by storm! *Scene Change*, Opera Colorado's new venture represents a fresh way to experience opera.

Michael Bock, Chairman of the Board; Greg Carpenter, General Director and Ari Pelto, Music Director announced this new direction for Opera Colorado born out of the company's commitment to serve the Denver Metro by bringing innovated opera programming to new audiences. There will be something for everyone – new productions, concerts in unexpected places, discussions, opportunities to get a behind the scenes look at the opera world. Some events will be free; others will have easy access to affordable ticket prices.

Have you ever wondered what opera would sound like or look like in a small theatre, art gallery or even a retail store? Now is your chance to find out with Opera Colorado's brand new initiative *Scene Change*. This new venture represents a fresh way to experience opera in unexpected places throughout Metro Denver.

"Our intention is to change things up and draw the audience into different opera experiences," said Greg Carpenter, General Director of Opera Colorado. "The style of grand opera is an art form to be relished, but it is not the only way to engage and we feel with *Scene Change* we can meet the audience where they live and play."

The inaugural opera production for *Scene Change*, in March 2017, will be **AS ONE**.

Scene Change Performances:

AS ONE

March, 2, 3, 4, 2017

Performing Arts Complex at PCH

1001 West 84th Avenue, Denver

A CHAMBER OPERA FOR TWO VOICES

MUSIC & CONCEPT BY LAURA KAMINSKY

LIBRETTO BY MARK CAMPBELL & KIMBERLY REED

By arrangement with Bill Holab Music

AS ONE was commissioned and developed by American Opera Projects (AOP)

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.

OPERA America reports that the work is one of the most produced new operas in recent history.

“Game-changer – One of the [10 DENVER ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2017](#).” – *Denver Post*

“Laura Kaminsky’s *As One* proved to be a thoughtful and substantial piece as well as that rarest of operatic commodities — a story that lends itself to dramatization in music.” - *The Washington Post*

“The popularity of *As One* is very gratifying. Even more gratifying to us is how the opera’s message about human rights is reaching so many people—especially at a time when leadership in this country wants to dehumanize trans people and strip away their rights. We feel honored that a company with the reputation of Opera Colorado would choose to not only produce a new production of our opera, but also to do so with such loving care.”

—Laura Kaminsky, composer; Mark Campbell, librettist; Kimberly Reed, librettist - February 2017

[AS ONE Video Excerpt](#)

[AS ONE Artists Bios](#)

In partnership with the Denver Film Society
Film Event

52 TUESDAYS

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:30PM

Sie FilmCenter

2510 East Colfax Avenue, Denver
<https://www.operacolorado.org/filmsandoperapackage/>

In partnership with the Denver Film Society
Film Event

PRODIGAL SONS

Tuesday, February 23, 2017 at 7:30PM

Sie FilmCenter

2510 East Colfax Avenue, Denver

<https://www.operacolorado.org/filmsandoperapackage/>

Package Price: Two Films and One Opera: \$74

Brooks Brothers Presents Opera Colorado

Saturday, February 25, 2017 | 1-3PM

Brooks Brothers

Cherry Creek Shopping Center

3000 East 1st Avenue, Denver

25% of purchase proceeds will be donated to Opera Colorado

Young Artists Performance at Cherry Creek Shopping Center

April 15, 2017 | 1:30PM

3000 East 1st Avenue, Denver

Free Event

Meet the *Lucia di Lammermoor* Artists | Panel Discussion

April 26, 2017 | 12PM

The Loft at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

1385 Curtis Street, Denver

Free Event

Young Artist Farewell

Sunday, May 21, 2017 | 2PM

The Loft at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

1385 Curtis Street, Denver

General Admission \$10 | Free for Red Dot Patrons and above donors

<https://www.operacolorado.org/tickets/2016-2017-young-artists-farewell/>

Steal a Pencil for Me

World Premiere

January 25, 27, 28, 30, 2018

The Wolf Theater at the Mizel Arts and Culture Center, MACC at the JCC

350 South Dahlia Street, Denver

MUSIC BY GERALD COHEN LIBRETTO BY DEBORAH BREVOORT

Based on the book of the same title by Jaap Polak and Ina Soep Polak

Based on a true love story that transcends the horrors of the holocaust, two lovers secretly pass letters while prisoners at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. "I'm a very special Holocaust survivor. I was in the camps with my wife and my girlfriend; and believe me, it wasn't easy." – Jaap Polak

Additional programming will be announced throughout the season.

Opera Colorado will continue to produce grand opera productions in the fall and spring at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

Lucia di Lammermoor

By Gaetano Donizetti
May 6, 9, 12, 14, 2017
Ellie Caulkins Opera House
Denver Performing Arts Complex
14th Street at Curtis Street

La Bohème

By Giacomo Puccini
November 4, 7, 10, 12, 2017
Ellie Caulkins Opera House
Denver Performing Arts Complex
14th Street at Curtis Street

Falstaff

By Giuseppe Verdi
May 5, 8, 11, 13, 2018
Ellie Caulkins Opera House
Denver Performing Arts Complex
14th Street at Curtis Street

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 Bohème*, 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. This season at Opera Colorado Pelto lead a production of *La Fanciulla del West* and will lead *Lucia di Lammermoor*, as well as *La Bhoème* and *Falstaff* in the 2017-2018 season. 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 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, 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, 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.

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 featured Puccini's *La Fanciulla de West* in November 2016 and will feature Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in May 2017, and *As One* by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, 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 Ellie Caulkins, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Colorado Creative industries, Marriott The Residence Inn, Kevin Taylor's at the Opera House, Rassman Design.

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