



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opera Colorado's *Lucia di Lammermoor* Takes the Spotlight at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

**LUCY IS FORCED TO MARRY ARTHUR:
MURDERS HIM ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT!**

(March 24, 2017 – Denver, CO) In Celebration of our 100th production in our 35-year history; Opera Colorado is producing Donizetti's beloved opera *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, in traditional grand opera style. This production will enthrall both the long-time operagoers and audiences attending the opera for the first time. Lucia Di Lammermoor has nothing to lose but her mind in Donizetti's Italian masterpiece.

In the ethereal leading role of Lucia, celebrated soprano Anna Christy will delight audiences. Her Lucia, with the English National Opera, received rave reviews in *The London Times*, "**Christy produced a mesmerizing performance – and a top F note that shook the West End.**"

Anna Christy, a world famous soprano **who now makes her home in Colorado**, will be making her Opera Colorado debut. The company will design custom-made costumes for Christy's leading role as Lucia in this production. This special touch will enhance the production's other period-style costumes and give it a fresh, unique look. Designed by Costume Director Ann Piano all of these original pieces will be built right here in Opera Colorado's costume shop located in Denver. The large scale sets and props, along with the costumes, will place the production in the original time period of the opera, Scotland in the mid-17th century.

The Italian opera, in three acts, is a *Romeo and Juliet* type love story, Lucy Ashton is caught in the middle of a feud between her family and the man she loves. Forced by her brother to

forsake her love and marry for money, she loses more than her happiness. She loses her mind. After killing her bridegroom on their wedding night, Lucia plunges headlong into madness in one of opera's most horrifying and musically gorgeous scenes.

Music Director Ari Pelto will conduct this masterpiece. "Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the apex of Italian bel canto opera," said Pelto. "The classic gothic tragedy is told through some of the most electrifying and passionate music ever written; a tour de force of vocal fireworks, and edge of your seat drama!"

Acclaimed director Keturah Stickann returns to Opera Colorado for this production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, following her work on the company's 2014 *Madama Butterfly* which received rave reviews. Stickann is excited to come back to Denver to put her stamp on *Lucia*. "I'm thrilled to be coming back to Denver, especially to present my first *Lucia di Lammermoor*. This tale has roots in Sir Walter Scott's brilliant novel, 'The Bride of Lammermuir,' and I hope to mirror some of the novel's distinct Gothic flavor by bringing into sharper focus the supernatural and symbolic elements within Donizetti and Cammarano's musical retelling."

"Ari Pelto and I are excited to welcome back to Denver stage director Keturah Stickann as she brings to life Donizetti's gothic romance *Lucia di Lammermoor*," stated General Director Greg Carpenter. "Keturah has a wonderfully collaborative style of directing, bringing out all of the intricacies in relationships between characters that create the intense drama of the story. With Ari at the helm of our outstanding Opera Colorado Orchestra and Keturah guiding our superb cast and chorus, our audience is in for a beautiful, impactful performance."

This performance will be sung in Italian with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat. A pre-performance lecture with music historian Betsy Schwarm takes place one hour before curtain in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Learn more about the opera before seeing the performance.

This production is sponsored by Ellie Caulkins and the Avenir Foundation.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Lucia di Lammermoor by Gaetano Donizetti
Traditional Grand Opera Production

Creative team:

Ari Pelto	Conductor
Keturah Stickann	Director

Cast:

Anna Christy	Lucia
Eric Barry	Edgardo
Timothy Mix	Enrico
Matthew Trevino	Raimondo

Date/Time: Opening Night, Saturday, May 6 at 7:30PM
Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30PM
Friday, May 12 at 7:30PM
Sunday, May 14 at 2PM (Hearing impaired assisted performance)

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

Opening Night Dinner: Enjoy an elegant, all-inclusive dinner before the performance. Cocktails begin at 5PM followed by a three-course meal in the Chambers Grant Salon at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. After the opera, join the cast back at Kevin Taylor's for a sweet and savory reception. Tickets to the opera sold separately. More info at operacolorado.org/opening-night-dinner

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 the 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. 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*, *Steal a Pencil for Me* 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 35-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 *As One* by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, at the Performing Arts Complex at PCS in March 2017. Closing the season will be performances of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in May 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 and Rassman Design.

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