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Media Contact:

Tamara Vallejos, Director of Marketing & Audience Development | 303.778.0214 | tvallejos@operacolorado.org

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

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Opera Colorado Announces New Opera Center

*ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND REHEARSAL VENUE COMBINE TO CREATE
A NEW OPERA CENTER IN ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO*

Denver, CO — September 21, 2017 — Opera Colorado announces today that it will relocate its administrative offices to Englewood, Colo., combining the company’s office space with rehearsal space as part of the new, 7,000-square-foot Opera Colorado Opera Center. For the past 30 years, Opera Colorado has conducted business out of a 4,800-square-foot administrative office located on S. Colorado Blvd. in Denver’s Belcaro neighborhood, with rehearsals taking place downtown in The Studio Loft at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House and in other venues in and around the Denver Performance Arts Complex.

Now, by bringing together under one roof the administrative and artistic functions of the company, Opera Colorado will experience unprecedented synergy between the organization’s administration and its artistic product. Staff and artists will have direct, immediate access to each other’s work, allowing for greater collaboration and innovation across the entire Opera Colorado team.

“The idea of moving Opera Colorado’s office has been years in the making, and we are thrilled to finally see all the pieces align this past year, and our vision of creating an Opera Center come to fruition,” stated Opera Colorado General Director Greg Carpenter.

The new 7,000-square-foot Opera Center will be located at 4121 S. Navajo St., Suite 100, in Englewood, in a 1930s industrial warehouse with a bow-shaped truss ceiling, exposed brick and



ample natural light. With square footage divided nearly equally, half the building will serve as office space featuring an open floor plan with glass architectural elements to promote an open and airy feel. The adjacent rehearsal venue will boast acoustic cloud ceilings and dimmable lighting, making it suitable for hosting events in addition to rehearsals. The property is currently owned by LCP Development, which has worked closely with Opera Colorado in developing this project.

Opera Colorado signed a 10-year lease for the property in July 2017 and construction for tenant improvements is now underway, with a target move-in date set for late November 2017.

Opera Colorado Managing Director Paul Deckard, who joined the organization in the spring of 2017, has been intimately involved with the details of the relocation. “This exciting move for Opera Colorado was possible because of Greg Carpenter’s visionary leadership,” said Deckard. “We worked closely with the Board of Directors in methodically finding the best possible option for Opera Colorado without increasing our existing facilities budget and while improving our expense control. These efforts will provide great momentum and stability for the company.”

Discussions for Opera Colorado’s office and rehearsal space relocation began in February of this year, when SVN Commercial Real Estate Advisors were engaged to help the company identify a well-suited location. During the search process, Opera Colorado’s leadership remained open to all possibilities throughout the Denver Metro Area including downtown Denver, Littleton, Englewood and Glendale. The property in Englewood, however, stood out for having the best intersection of location, space and cost, as well as for the building’s existing architecture, its surrounding community and its close proximity to public transportation for artists and staff to commute directly to downtown and the Ellie Caulkins Opera House via RTD rail lines. Additionally, the new building is located in a Colorado Enterprise Zone, which gives Opera Colorado the opportunity to apply for additional tax credit incentives.



“Opera Colorado had many options for their new location and we are very pleased that they chose Englewood,” stated Englewood Community Development Director Brad Power. “Our Economic Development staff worked closely with them to identify suitable office space. As an employer that is bringing new jobs to Englewood, they received a rebate of some of the taxes associated with the completion of their office space under our Primary Employer Incentive Program. Opera Colorado is a great addition to the vibrant and diverse Englewood business community.”

Backed by the full support of Opera Colorado’s Board of Directors, the organization’s senior leadership team views this relocation as a key element in the overall trajectory of the company.

Now in the second year of a five-year strategic plan, Opera Colorado continues to uphold its goal of creating a more sustainable opera company that focuses on artistic excellence, audience development and an expanded role in the community, while using its resources as effectively as possible. The move to a new Opera Center is a prime example of these goals in action. Not only will it positively impact the work of both the administrative and creative teams, but costs associated with the relocation will not exceed Opera Colorado’s current office space and rehearsal venue rental expenses.

ABOUT EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC TEAM

Greg Carpenter, General Director

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, 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 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 just released in September 2017 on the Naxos label. Last season at Opera Colorado Pelto lead productions of *La Fanciulla del West* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. This season he will lead *La Bohème*, the World Premiere of *Steal a Pencil for Me* and *Falstaff*. 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.



Paul Deckard, Managing Director

Paul Deckard, Managing Director of Opera Colorado, leads the senior leadership team in daily operations and strategic initiatives including financial oversight. Recently relocating from Atlanta, GA. He brings a diverse set of experiences as both a leader and an artist. Deckard’s international exposure and artistic background have enabled him to create innovative and collaborative solutions for arts organizations. He has a deep passion for opera and began his career working in a variety of artistic and production roles at regional opera companies in the US and Europe primarily in production design and management. After gaining experience in the creative side of the arts Deckard began focusing on providing business strategy and financial consultation for arts organizations. He has worked as a CFO and management consultant focusing on financial sustainability and strategic planning. Deckard has been widely recognized as an influential leader with a successful track record. In 2015, he was nominated as CFO for the year by the Atlanta Business Chronicle for his work with the Atlanta Opera in a major financial turnaround and program expansion. Deckard has also served as a leader on a variety of community non-profit boards focused on strategic planning and major fundraising campaigns. Paul Deckard received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre from Michigan State University, and a Master of International Business from Hult International School of Business in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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 38,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. During their eight-month residency with the company, Opera Colorado’s Young Artists perform 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 2017-2018 Season productions at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House will feature Puccini’s *La Bohème* in November 2017 and Verdi’s *Falstaff* in May 2018, and the World Premiere of Gerald Cohen and Deborah Brevoort’s *Steal a Pencil for Me* at the Mizel Arts and Culture Center at the JCC in January 2018. www.operacolorado.org

Music Director Ari Pelto is sponsored by Mike and Julie Bock. Season sponsors for the 2017-2018 Season include the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Colorado Creative Industries and Rassman Design.

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