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Opera Colorado Seeks Three Community Members to Participate in *La Bohème* Performances as Supernumeraries

SUPERNUMERARIES SERVE AS CHARACTERS IN NON-SINGING/NON-SPEAKING SUPPORTING ROLES, SIMILAR TO “EXTRAS” IN FILM AND TV

Denver, CO — September 8, 2017 — Opera Colorado invites interested members of the community to volunteer for an exciting opportunity to participate in its upcoming performances of Puccini’s *La Bohème* — one of the most beloved operas of all time, and the inspiration for the hit musical *Rent*. The company seeks two men and one woman to join its fall 2017 production as supernumeraries in October and November at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. A supernumerary (usually referred to as a “super”) contributes their time and talent to the production by acting in a non-speaking/non-singing role, similar to being an extra in a movie!

Opera Colorado’s upcoming *La Bohème* production features supers who will be costumed as the wait staff and café owners at the Café Momus, and will be staged into the bustle of Act Two of Puccini’s drama, helping to complete the stage ambience.

All community volunteers who offer their time and talent as supernumeraries will receive:

- Two (2) tickets to the *La Bohème* Final Dress Rehearsal on Thursday, November 2.
- Parking Passes for the Denver Performing Arts Complex garage for all days in which they are called to rehearse or perform.



Rehearsals begin Saturday, October 14, with a final performance on Wednesday, November 15. Rehearsals will take place during weekday evenings and weekends. All rehearsals and performances take place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in downtown Denver.

To express interest in the openings and for a more specific rehearsal schedule, please contact Katie Preissner, Director of Production, at kpreissner@operacolorado.org. No phone calls, please.

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.

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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