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## The Opera Colorado Gala Makes Its Highly-Anticipated Return to the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

**This glamorous, black-tie event, featuring a variety of musical entertainment and live and silent auctions, takes place on Friday, May 20**

**Denver, CO (May 5, 2022)**—Opera Colorado is thrilled to host the ultimate celebration of our return to the stage this season with our magnificent gala, benefiting our expanding artistic initiatives and Education and Community Engagement Programs. The event, chaired by Robin and Eric Yaeger, takes place at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on Friday, May 20.

“It is so exciting to present Opera Colorado’s annual gala after the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of this celebratory event for two years. There is so much to celebrate as we end our 39th season and approach an exciting 40th anniversary. We are deeply grateful to Robin and Eric Yaeger for their leadership and look forward to welcoming our community of supporters,” says Greg Carpenter, The Ellie Caulkins General & Artistic Director.

“The gala is one of the highlights of the season,” says Elizabeth Caswell Dyer, Chairperson of the Board of Directors. “In addition to attending an elegant and fun party, attendees support a wonderful cause. This year, the gala is even more exciting because we have been apart from each other for so long.”

“The Opera Colorado Gala is extremely important to fulfilling Opera Colorado’s mission,” says Gala Chair Robin Kolsky Yaeger. “Not only do we raise critical funds, but attendees learn about our wonderful Artist in Residence Program and Opera Colorado’s efforts to expose children to opera.”

The black-tie evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the main lobby with cocktails, casino-style gaming, a silent auction, and live music from Moments Notice. At 7:30 p.m., guests will proceed to the Studio Loft for an elegant multi-course dinner, performance from Opera Colorado’s 2021-22 Artists in Residence, a live auction, and paddle raise. The festivities end with dessert, continued gaming, and post-dinner dancing to Moments Notice in the Chambers Grant Salon.

Live and silent auction lots are now available for viewing online through [OneCause](#). Gala attendees and non-attendees can bid on silent lots beginning Friday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. through Friday, May 20 at 10:00 p.m. Available silent auction items include:

- Tickets to live events at Denver’s most sought-after sports and culture experiences, including tickets to **Broncos and Rockies** home games and to the **Colorado Ballet’s 2022-23 Season**.

- **A private conducting lesson** with Maestro Ari Pelto, including exclusive access to attend an orchestra reading of *Rigoletto* this fall.
- **Spotlight Package for two guests** at Denver Film Festival 45, including a membership for two at the Sie FilmCenter with year-round benefits.

Available live auction items include:

- **Two coveted spots on a ten-day trip to Italy** for a tailored, luxurious experience through the countryside from October 10-19, 2022. The winners will see three operas and stay for nine nights in boutique hotels, with airfare provided. Generously donated by Mike and Julie Bock with Italiano For You.
- General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter and Music Director Ari Pelto will **cook a three-course dinner in your home for a group of up to ten** with a private, pre-dinner concert by the 2022-23 Artists in Residence. Donated by Greg Carpenter, Ari Pelto, and Opera Colorado.

Individual tickets, packages, and table sponsorships are available at [operacolorado.org/gala](https://operacolorado.org/gala). Package and Sponsor buyers receive a variety of special benefits, including invitations to a VIP backstage tour and reception and opportunities for on-site recognition. A portion of all reservations is tax-deductible. For more information or assistance with reservations, please contact Leah Bobbey at 303.468.2060 or [lbobbey@operacolorado.org](mailto:lbobbey@operacolorado.org).

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**ABOUT OPERA COLORADO**

Opera Colorado has served as a cornerstone of Denver's cultural community since 1981. In addition to its mainstage performances at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House each season, the company affirms its commitment to the future of the art form by annually presenting new works; with its nationally recognized Artist in Residence Program that trains the next generation of opera performers; and by each year reaching more than 45,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. For more information, visit [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org).