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Opera Colorado's 40th Anniversary Gala Featuring Joyce DiDonato Is On Sale Now

This glamorous, black-tie event takes place on Saturday, May 13, 2023

Denver, CO (June 21, 2022)—Opera Colorado is thrilled to announce its magnificent 40th Anniversary Gala, which will take place on Saturday, May 13, 2023, in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House and Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The evening will feature a performance by superstar mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, proclaimed as “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation” by *The New Yorker*. The event is chaired by Joy and Chris Dinsdale and all proceeds benefit Opera Colorado’s expanding artistic initiatives and Education & Community Engagement Programs.

Ms. DiDonato says, “Opera Colorado is a radiant example of what can be created through great leadership, a determined and united community, and great passion and love for the power of music and theater to nourish people’s lives. I’m incredibly honored to help celebrate these wonderful four decades, and I wish Opera Colorado many more years of touching the hearts of your community.”

Chairperson Joy Dinsdale says, “Chris and I are honored to serve as the Chairs for Opera Colorado’s 40th Anniversary Gala, and to help create a spectacular celebration of this important milestone. Opera Colorado has been a pillar of the arts community in Denver and this special occasion will pay tribute to its many accomplishments from the last four decades and raise essential funds to help secure an even brighter future.”

“Our 40th Anniversary Season promises to be one that is filled with extraordinary artistic achievements and a renewed commitment to serving our community in meaningful ways through performance and educational programming,” says Greg Carpenter, The Ellie Caulkins General & Artistic Director. “I cannot think of a better way to celebrate our forty years than with the stunning talent of international superstar Joyce DiDonato and the leadership of long-time Opera Colorado supporters Joy and Chris Dinsdale. Our 40th Anniversary Gala promises to be a night to remember for another forty years.”

The celebration kicks off with a 7:00 p.m. performance by Joyce DiDonato accompanied by pianist Craig Terry at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Guests will then proceed to the Seawell Ballroom for dinner and dancing to the high-energy funk band, Funkiphino.

Individual tickets, packages, and table sponsorships are available at operacolorado.org/gala. A variety of special benefits for sponsors include on-site and print recognition, as well as an invitation to an exclusive event with Joyce DiDonato in advance of the gala. A portion of all reservations is tax-deductible. For more information about the gala, please contact Jennifer Colgan at jcolgan@operacolorado.org. For assistance with reservations, please contact Leah Bobbey at 303.468.2060 or lbobbey@operacolorado.org.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



“The staggering, joyful artistry of Joyce DiDonato reminds us that in any generation there are a few giants. Joyce is not only a great, brave, and inspiring artist—one of the finest singers of our time—but she is also a transformative presence in the arts. Those who know her repertoire are in awe of her gifts, and those who know nothing of it are instantly engaged. Joyce sings and the world is suddenly brighter. She compels us to listen actively, to hear things anew.”

Jake Heggie, *Gramophone*

Multi-Grammy Award winner and 2018 Olivier Award winner for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, Kansas-born **Joyce DiDonato** entrances audiences across the globe, and has been proclaimed as “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation” by *The New Yorker*. With a voice “nothing less than 24-carat gold” according to *The Times*, Joyce has soared

to the top of the industry both as a performer and a fierce advocate for the arts, gaining international prominence in operas by Handel and Mozart, as well as through her varied and highly acclaimed discography. She is also widely celebrated for the bel canto roles of Rossini and Donizetti.

Joyce’s exciting 2021-22 Season has so far included European tours of her baroque-inspired program *My Favorite Things* with Il Pomo d’Oro in cities including Edinburgh, Salzburg, Bucharest, Barcelona, Antwerp, and Lisbon, as well as her *Winterreise* and *In My Solitude* recital programs with pianist and long-time collaborator Craig Terry. Joyce also returned to the Royal Opera House Covent Garden as Irene in Handel’s *Theodora* alongside Julia Bullock and Jakub Józef Orliński. Most recently, Joyce has been touring her newly released album EDEN around Europe and the USA with Il Pomo d’Oro and Maxim Emelyanychev.

Recent highlights have included *In My Solitude* in Oviedo, Barcelona, Madrid, Essen, Amsterdam, Prague, and St. Petersburg; a breathtaking recital in Bochum for the Met Stars Live in Concert series; and *Winterreise* at the Musikverein Vienna and Festspielhaus Baden-Baden with Maxim Emelyanychev and Yannick Nézet-Séguin respectively. Joyce was Carnegie Hall’s 19/20 Perspectives Artist with appearances including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Muti and *Winterreise* with Nézet-Séguin. The season also held the final tour of her album *In War & Peace* with Il Pomo d’Oro starting in South America and culminating in Washington, D.C., and a tour with the Orchestre Métropolitain under Nézet-Séguin.

In opera, Joyce’s recent roles include the title role in *Agrippina* at the Metropolitan Opera and in a new production at the Royal Opera House; Didon in *Les Troyens* at the Vienna State Opera; Sesto in *Cendrillon* and Adalgisa in *Norma* at the Metropolitan Opera; Agrippina in concert with Il Pomo d’Oro under Maxim Emelyanychev; Sister Helen in *Dead Man Walking* at the Teatro Real Madrid and London’s Barbican Centre; the title role in *Semiramide* at the Bavarian State Opera and Royal Opera House; and Charlotte in *Werther* at the Royal Opera.

Much in demand on the concert and recital circuit, Joyce has held residencies at Carnegie Hall and at London’s Barbican Centre; toured extensively in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia; and appeared as guest soloist at the BBC’s Last Night of the Proms. Other concert highlights include the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under Sir John Eliot Gardiner, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and the Accademia Santa Cecilia Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra USA under Sir Antonio Pappano.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics/Erato, Joyce’s expansive discography includes *Les Troyens*, which in 2018 won the Recording (Complete Opera) category at the International Opera Awards,

the Opera Award at the BBC Music Magazine Awards, and Gramophone's Recording of the Year; and Handel's *Agrippina*, which won the Gramophone Opera Recording and Limelight Opera Recording of the Year awards in 2020. Joyce's other albums include her celebrated *Winterreise* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, *Songplay*, *In War & Peace* which won the 2017 Best Recital Gramophone Award, *Stella di Napoli*, her Grammy Award-winning *Diva Divo*, and *Drama Queens*. Other honors include the Gramophone Artist of the Year and Recital of the Year awards and an induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame.



Grammy Award-winning pianist and arranger Craig Terry enjoys an international career regularly performing with the world's leading singers and instrumentalists. Currently, Terry serves as Music Director of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, following eleven seasons at Lyric as Assistant Conductor. Previously, he was an Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera after joining its Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Terry has performed with such esteemed vocalists as Jamie Barton, Stephanie Blythe, Christine Brewer, Lawrence Brownlee, Janai Brugger, Nicole Cabell, Danielle de Niese, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Christine Goerke, Susan Graham, Denyce Graves, Bryan Hymel, Amanda Majeski, Ana María Martínez, Eric Owens, Susanna Phillips, Patricia Racette, and more. He has collaborated as a chamber musician with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Lyric Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchester, and the Pro Arte String Quartet. His performances have taken him to five continents and some of the greatest concert halls, festivals, and venues in the world.

His discography includes *Diva on Detour* with Patricia Racette, *As Long As There Are Songs* with Stephanie Blythe, *Chanson d'Avril* with Nicole Cabell, and *French Horn Recital from 24 Preludes, Op. 11 - Alexander Scriabin* with Lyric principal horn Jonathan Boen. His latest recording project with Joyce DiDonato, *Songplay*, released by Warner Classics, received the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album.

Terry has appeared on numerous television, radio, and streaming programs, including multiple appearances on both *Live from Lincoln Center* and *Great Performances* for PBS, as well as NPR's *Tiny Desk* series. In May 2021, he was the pianist for the Metropolitan Opera's *Wagnerian Stars Live in Concert*, transmitted from the Hessisches Staatstheater in Wiesbaden, Germany.

ABOUT OPERA COLORADO

Opera Colorado has served as a cornerstone of Denver's cultural community since 1981, with its first season officially kicking off in 1983. 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 & Community Engagement Programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. For more information, visit operacolorado.org.