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From Queen to Duchess: Monét X Change Makes Opera Colorado Debut

Denver, CO – Opera Colorado is thrilled to announce that Monét X Change, celebrated drag queen and winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars," will make her highly anticipated debut with the company in Donizetti's beloved comic opera, *Daughter of the Regiment*.

Monét X Change, known offstage as Kevin Akeem Bertin, is a classically trained singer who has seamlessly blended her love for opera and drag. Her dynamic performances and vibrant personality have captivated audiences around the world. In *Daughter of the Regiment*, Monét brings her distinctive flair and vocal prowess to the role of the Duchess of Krakenthorp, a role she recently brought to life with great acclaim at Minnesota Opera.

"We are overjoyed to welcome Monét X Change to the Opera Colorado family," says Greg Carpenter, the Ellie Caulkins General & Artistic Director. "Her unique talent and charisma will undoubtedly make this production of *Daughter of the Regiment* an unforgettable event. We invite everyone, especially those in the LGBTQ+ community, to join us for an evening of joy, laughter, and extraordinary music."

Daughter of the Regiment tells the heartwarming and humorous story of Marie, a spirited young woman raised by a French army regiment. As she navigates the challenges of love and identity, Marie encounters a series of comical and touching twists and turns. Joining Monét in this delightful production are a stellar cast of talented artists, including Katrina Galka, making her Opera Colorado debut as Marie; Andrew Stenson as Tonio, Marie's devoted suitor; Stefano de Peppo as Sergeant Sulpice, Marie's protective and loving guardian; and Catherine Cook as the Marquise of Birkenfeld.

Directed by the visionary Chía Patiño, this production promises to be a visually stunning and hilariously entertaining experience. Music Director Ari Pelto will lead the Opera Colorado Orchestra in delivering Donizetti's energetic score.

Monét X Change is available for limited interviews, both advance/remote from July through September and in-person in October and November. Please direct any inquiries to Jennifer Colgan at jcolgan@operacolorado.org.

Daughter of the Regiment is sponsored by the Crawley Family Foundation.
Media Sponsor: OUT FRONT Magazine

Chía Patiño is partially supported by OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors, generously funded by the Marineau Family Foundation.

Performance Details:

Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment*

Dates: November 9, 12, 15, 17

Estimated Length: 2 hours and 35 minutes

Venue: Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver, CO

Tickets: Start at \$39

For more information, visit operacolorado.org.

ABOUT OPERA COLORADO

Opera Colorado has served as a cornerstone of Denver's cultural community since 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 reaching more than 25,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs throughout the Rocky Mountain region. For more information, visit operacolorado.org.

ABOUT MONÉT X CHANGE

Born and bred in New York City, Monét X Change is an entertainment spitfire and the first double crown winner from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Having earned the title Miss Congeniality on Season 10, she became the first queen of color inducted into the Hall of Fame after winning All-Stars 4. Known for delivering energetic and show-stopping performances, Monét's showmanship reflects a tireless work ethic. After her initial appearance on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Monét released a debut EP, *Unapologetically*, traveled around the globe with her one-woman show, *Call Me By Monét*, hosted her own talk show, *The X Change Rate*, produced by Yahoo! and began focusing her oftentimes sociopolitical humor as the co-host of the popular podcast *Sibling Rivalry* with Bob the Drag Queen and Ebony and Irony, with the legendary Lady Bunny. During her run on *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars: All Winners*, Monét shocked audiences with her rendition of "Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni" from *La sonnambula*. Following this performance, Monét has been a featured vocalist with San Francisco Symphony and was recently featured as The Duchess of Krakenthorp in *Daughter of the Regiment* with Minnesota Opera. This season, she appears with Dayton Opera as a soloist in their concert, *Prince Orlofsky's Grand Masquerade*.