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## **Opera Colorado Announces Expanded 2019-20 Season at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House**

**Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (Nov. 2019)  
Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (Feb./Mar. 2020)  
Puccini's *Tosca* (May 2020)**

*Plus:*

**Opera Colorado extends Music Director Ari Pelto's contract through 2023-24**

**A new \$1 million anonymous donation supports Opera Colorado's growth**

**DENVER (February 4, 2019)**—In response to its largest subscriber base in a decade and a string of full houses and sold-out performances, Opera Colorado today announces the 2019-20 season featuring an expansion from two to three fully staged productions at the 2200-seat Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex.

**The 2019-20 season**—which goes on sale for subscriptions on Monday, February 4, at 10 a.m.—is bookended by two treasured masterworks: **Rossini's rapid-fire and laugh-out-loud *The Barber of Seville***, in a whimsical Art Deco production (November 2, 5, 8, and 10, 2019); and **Puccini's tragedy of lust and vengeance, *Tosca***, set amongst the sumptuousness of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Rome (May 2, 5, 8, and 10, 2020). Rounding out the season is the addition of a winter production also at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House: **Leoncavallo's jealousy-fueled *Pagliacci*** (Feb 27 and 29 and March 1, 2020). *Pagliacci* is an optional add-on to two-opera subscriptions of *The Barber of Seville* and *Tosca*, and will be available exclusively to new and renewing subscribers beginning February 4. Single tickets will open to the general public this summer, at a date to be announced later.

“We are so pleased to say that **Opera Colorado is bucking the national downward trend for subscription rates**, and we are immensely grateful to Denver audiences for embracing this larger-than-life art form and the works we present,” says **Opera Colorado General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter**, now in his eleventh year leading the organization.

“In fact, more than 1,000 new subscribers have joined us over just the past two years,” says Carpenter. “It’s that excitement from new patrons, coupled with the passion of our long-time supporters, that has given us the confidence to move forward with an additional fully staged production at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House beginning in the 2019-20 season.”

“Being in the theater for one more large-scale production a season is so significant from an artistic perspective,” says **Opera Colorado Music Director Ari Pelto**. “We’re extremely proud of the high caliber of our productions, but two operas at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House—one in the fall, one in the spring—could feel like a long time between shows. Adding a winter production gives us a more well-rounded season. It means more time with our orchestra, our chorus, our crew, our costume shop; it means Opera Colorado has even more opportunities to refine the art we create.”

Pelto joined Opera Colorado as its first -ever music director in 2016. In that capacity, he leads the Opera Colorado Orchestra and supports General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter in the company’s artistic planning and casting. **Opera Colorado is pleased to announce a five-year extension on Pelto’s contract, through the 2023-24 season.** For more on Pelto, visit <http://aripelto.net/>.

“I feel extremely grateful that I’ve been asked to continue in my role at Opera Colorado at exactly the moment when the company is expanding and growing,” says Pelto. “There is so much potential for this organization over the next five years, and I have a huge sense of anticipation for what we’ll accomplish together.”

Opera Colorado’s continued growth is made possible not only through increased ticket sales and attendance numbers, but also by the generous philanthropic support of individual donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors. Earlier this season, [Bloomberg Philanthropies named Opera Colorado as one of newest grantees of its \\$43 million Arts Innovation and Management program](#), which provides two years of funding and administrative training resources to help small and midsize arts non-profits build their organizational capacity.

Now, Opera Colorado is thrilled to announce a **new \$1 million gift that marks the largest single donation to the company in a decade.**

“We are so thankful to this couple, who wish to remain anonymous, for making this investment in Opera Colorado’s future,” says Carpenter. “They have recognized the impact Opera Colorado already has in the greater Denver area—not just at our mainstage performances, but also through education and community programs that reach more than 45,000 people each season—and have chosen to support the expansion of that work in a truly transformational way.”

## 2019-20 SEASON DETAILS

# *the Barber* of SEVILLE

Music by Gioachino Rossini  
Libretto by Cesare Sterbini  
*Premiered February 20, 1816, Teatro Argentina (Rome, Italy)*

### Performances:

The Ellie Caulkins Opera House at Denver Performing Arts Complex  
November 2, 5, and 8, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.  
November 10, 2019 | 2 p.m.  
*Performed in Italian, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat*

### Cast & Creative Team:

<b>Rosina</b>	Megan Marino
<b>Count Almaviva</b>	Andrew Stenson*
<b>Figaro</b>	Bruno Taddia*
<b>Dr. Bartolo</b>	Stefano de Peppo
<b>Don Basilio</b>	Harold Wilson
<b>Conductor</b>	Ari Pelto (Opera Colorado Music Director)
<b>Director</b>	Omer Ben Seadia

**Opera Colorado Orchestra**  
**Opera Colorado Chorus**

Sets and costumes from Pacific Opera Victoria

*\*Opera Colorado debut*

# PAGLIACCI

Music and libretto by Ruggero Leoncavallo  
*Premiered May 21, 1892, Teatro Dal Verme (Milan, Italy)*

### Performances:

The Ellie Caulkins Opera House at Denver Performing Arts Complex  
February 27 and 29, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.  
March 1, 2020 | 2 p.m.  
*Performed in Italian, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat*

**Cast & Creative Team:**

**Canio** John Pickle\*  
**Nedda** Cecilia Violetta López  
**Tonio** Levi Hernandez  
**Beppe** Jonathan Johnson\*  
**Silvio** Will Liverman\*

**Conductor** Ari Pelto (Opera Colorado Music Director)  
**Director** David Lefkowich\*

**Opera Colorado Orchestra**

**Opera Colorado Chorus**

Sets and costumes from Utah Opera

*\*Opera Colorado debut*



Music by Giacomo Puccini  
Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa  
*Premiered January 14, 1900, Teatro Costanzi (Rome, Italy)*

**Performances:**

The Ellie Caulkins Opera House at Denver Performing Arts Complex  
May 2, 5, and 8, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.  
May 10, 2020 | 2 p.m.  
*Performed in Italian, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat*

**Cast & Creative Team:**

**Tosca** Melissa Citro  
**Cavaradossi** Rafael Davila\*  
**Scarpia** Luis Ledesma\*  
**Sacristan** Stefano de Peppo

**Conductor** Ari Pelto (Opera Colorado Music Director)  
**Director** Louisa Muller\*

**Opera Colorado Orchestra**

**Opera Colorado Chorus**

Sets and costumes from Seattle Opera

*\*Opera Colorado debut*

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

2019-20 subscriptions go on sale to new and renewing subscribers beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 4. To subscribe or renew, visit [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org) or call 303.468.2030.

Two-opera subscriptions featuring *The Barber of Seville* and *Tosca* start at \$56. *Pagliacci* tickets are available exclusively to new and renewing subscribers as a subscription add-on purchase. 2019-20 single tickets will go on sale in the summer of 2019, at a date to be announced.

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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 with its nationally recognized Artist in Residence Program that trains the next generation of opera artists; and by each year reaching more than 45,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs. The 2018-19 season features Verdi's *La Traviata* (November 2018) and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (May 2019) at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and a sold-out double-bill of the one-act operas *After Life* and *Josephine* by Tom Cipullo at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art (February/March 2019). For more information, visit [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org).