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Opera Colorado Modifies 2020-21 Season in Response to Public Health Concerns

*Production of The Shining rescheduled to June 2021 to address concerns
about artist and audience safety amid the coronavirus pandemic*

Denver, CO (May 26, 2020)—Opera Colorado announces that its performances of *The Shining*, previously scheduled for November 2020, will take place in June 2021 due to coronavirus concerns. The production and cast remain unchanged.

“We miss welcoming audiences to performances at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, but the safety of everyone involved is our top concern,” says Greg Carpenter, Opera Colorado’s General & Artistic Director. “Moving our fall production to summer 2021 gives us time to ensure that our patrons, artists, and staff will have the safest experience possible next season, and gives our audiences time to navigate the transition back to visiting cultural institutions.”

The season now opens in February 2021 with a classic of the Italian canon, Mascagni’s emotionally turbulent *Cavalleria Rusticana*. This audience favorite delves into the repercussions of passion and betrayal, set to the soaring lines of a verismo masterpiece. While this title is well beloved by many opera fans, this will be the first time Opera Colorado has produced the piece in its 38-year history.

Bizet’s smoldering drama, *Carmen*, takes the stage in May 2021, featuring a captivating score filled with some of the most beloved melodies in all of opera. This iconic tale of love, lust, and obsession will sweep the audience away to Spain in a larger-than-life production.

The season’s finale is *The Shining*, renewing Opera Colorado’s commitment to producing new and rarely-performed operas. This dynamic work creates an immersive experience using compelling visuals, a dramatic libretto by Mark Campbell, and an atmospheric score by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec. This will be the opera’s Colorado debut. Stephen King’s novel was inspired by Colorado’s own Stanley Hotel, so don’t be surprised if there are some chilling collaborations with several Colorado institutions throughout the season.

Opera Colorado’s 2020-21 Season includes the return of several familiar faces, as well as some highly-anticipated company debuts. *Cavalleria Rusticana* brings the Opera Colorado debut of mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung, whose international career includes performances at the Royal Opera House, Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, and the Bayreuth Festival. Director David Lefkovich (*Pagliacci* 2020) returns to bring his creative vision and energy to *Cavalleria Rusticana* and former Opera Colorado Artist in Residence Kira Dills-DeSurra will make her principal artist debut as Lola.

Our lush production of *Carmen* features Kate Aldrich, who is hailed as the “Carmen of this generation” and has performed the role around the world in theaters such as the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Metropolitan Opera, Opernhaus Zürich, and Arena di Verona. *The Shining* sees the return of Kelly Kaduce (*Rusalka* 2011) as Wendy Torrance—a role she originated in 2016 with Minnesota Opera. Kaduce will perform alongside baritone Edward Parks as Jack Torrance, making his Opera Colorado debut.

“The 2020-21 Season represents an exciting balance of the classic repertoire we all love, along with *The Shining*, a new work that is sure to appeal to a broader base of music and art enthusiasts who are curious about opera,” says Carpenter. “We are thrilled that each of the season’s productions feature some of the brightest and best talent, and present opera in its grandest form, showing off the great Opera Colorado Orchestra and Chorus.”

“We couldn’t be more thankful for the support we’ve received from our audiences and artists during this challenging time. I am looking forward to returning to the opera house and working with the staff, orchestra, singers, and crew to present an unforgettable season,” says Music Director Ari Pelto.

Subscriptions for the 2020-21 Season are on sale now. Three-opera packages start at just \$84 and are available now by visiting operacolorado.org or calling Opera Colorado’s Patron Services team at (303) 468-2030. Tickets to individual shows will be available this fall. Patrons can add Booking Protect to their order, which allows them to apply for a full refund in the event of illness, injury, or other unforeseen circumstances.

2020-21 Season

Cavalleria Rusticana

Music by Pietro Mascagni

Libretto by Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci

February 20, 23, 26, 28 | 2021

Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex
Performed in Italian, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat

Passion’s Consequence

Mascagni’s classic verismo tale shines a light on rustic life in an idyllic Sicilian village—a closer look reveals jealousy, betrayal, and secrets lurking beneath the pastoral facade. Rebuked by both the church and her lover, Turiddu, the pious Santuzza must decide whose secrets to keep. What will the consequences be for the faithless Turiddu and the adulterous Lola?

Cast

Santuzza | Michelle DeYoung

Turiddu | Robert De Biasio

Lola | Kira Dills-DeSurra

Mama Lucia | Catherine Cook

Alfio | Malcolm MacKenzie

Creative Team

Conductor | Ari Pelto

Stage Director | David Lefkowich

Scenic Design | Constantine Kritikos

Lighting Design | Joe Beumer

Sets provided by the New Orleans Opera Association

Carmen

Music by Georges Bizet

Libretto by Ludovic Halévy and Henri Meilhac

May 1, 4, 7, 9, 13, 15 | 2021

Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex

Performed in French, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat

Seduction—Obsession—Murder

We conclude Opera Colorado's grandest season to date with Bizet's smoldering drama, *Carmen*, filled with some of opera's most iconic melodies—including Carmen's "Habanera" and the rousing Toreador song. Not a soul alive can resist Carmen's seductive charm, not even the naïve Don Jose. But when she leaves him for a charismatic bullfighter, Don Jose's infatuation turns obsessive. What fate, or choice, waits for the woman no man can tame?

Cast

Carmen | Kate Aldrich

Don Jose | Bruce Sledge

Micaëla | Susannah Biller

Escamillo | Nmon Ford

Creative Team

Conductor | Ari Pelto

Director | Keturah Stickann

Scenic Design | Allen Charles Klein

Lighting Design | Lucas Krech

Costume Design | James Schuette & Heidi Zamora

Sets provided by the Atlanta Opera

Costumes provided by Seattle Opera

The Shining

Music by Paul Moravec

Libretto by Mark Campbell

Based on a novel by Stephen King

June 19, 22, 24, 25, and 27 | 2021

Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex
Performed in English, with English and Spanish subtitles at every seat

Room 217 Is Calling

Based on Stephen King's spine-chilling novel, *The Shining* comes to the Ellie Caulkins stage as an opera, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec and librettist Mark Campbell. Hoping for a fresh start, the Torrance family takes up the care of Colorado's infamous Overlook Hotel. Little do they know that the isolation and the hotel's corrupting spirits will spark an inevitable descent into madness.

Cast

Jack Torrance | Edward Parks
Wendy Torrance | Kelly Kaduce
Dick Hallorann | Arthur Woodley
Delbert Grady | Vale Rideout
Mark Torrance | Troy Cook
Stuart Ullman | Joseph Gaines

Creative Team

Conductor | Ari Pelto
Original Production | Eric Simonson
Stage Director | David Radamés Toro
Scenic Design | Erhard Rom
Animation and Projection Design | 59Productions
Costume Design | Karin Kopischke
Lighting Design | Robert Wierzel
Sound Design | C. Andrew Mayer
Sets provided by Minnesota Opera

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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.