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## **Opera Colorado Appoints Nathan Salazar as First Principal Repertoire Coach for Artist in Residence Program**

*“There’s so much we want to say through the unique magic of the unamplified human voice, and I can’t wait for audiences to hear just how thrilling the next generation can be,” says Salazar.*

**Denver, CO (October 7, 2021)**—Opera Colorado is thrilled to announce the appointment of Nathan Salazar to Opera Colorado’s music staff as Principal Repertoire Coach for its Artist in Residence Program. In this new role, Salazar will work closely with this season’s Artists in Residence on refining and interpreting their work as they prepare for roles in educational programs and mainstage operas at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

“I am delighted to have Nathan as the Principal Repertoire Coach for the Artist in Residence Program. His love of musical exploration and the creative process speaks to the heart of what we’re trying to do through this program: tell unique stories through individual artistry. He’s such a lovely person and is dedicated to bringing out the best in each artist that he works with,” says Cherity Koepke, Director of the Opera Colorado Artist in Residence Program and Director of Community Engagement.

Salazar’s role was recently created as part of Opera Colorado’s vision to grow its Artist in Residence program by recruiting additional talent who will contribute to the artists’ preparation and training. He joins the team to provide more coaching opportunities for the group of seven artists, who are selected each season through a nationwide audition process. The Artist in Residence program music staff also includes voice teacher Daniel Belcher and Music Director Ari Pelto.

“I am thrilled to welcome Nathan Salazar to our family of great musicians and to sharing the benefit of his talent and expertise with our Artists in Residence and our patrons,” says Greg Carpenter, General & Artistic Director.

“I am so honored and excited to be joining the team at Opera Colorado. The minute I began rehearsals for *Canciones de Nuestras Tierras* with their team last spring, I felt appreciated, valued, and respected. The words ‘Be Creative’ greet you as you walk into the rehearsal space, and I truly felt free to be my most creative and authentic self. Opera Colorado sees in me not only the ability to lend my skills to further refine the artistry of Opera Colorado’s amazing singers, but to learn and explore further as an artist myself. I am most excited to delve deeply into that explorative process with the Artists in Residence. There’s so much we want to say through the unique magic of the unamplified human voice, and I can’t wait for audiences to hear just how thrilling the next generation can be,” says Salazar.

For more information about current and future programming at Opera Colorado, visit [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org) or contact Jennifer Colgan at [jcolgan@operacolorado.org](mailto:jcolgan@operacolorado.org).

*The Opera Colorado Artist in Residence Program is sponsored by Ken & Donna Barrow, with additional support from Patrick Spieles, and Dr. Stephen L. Dilts.*

*Nathan Salazar's and Daniel Belcher's coaching positions are sponsored by Chris & Joy Murphy.*

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## Artist Biography



Nathan Salazar is a native of Santa Cruz, New Mexico, and holds a master's degree in collaborative piano from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Martin Katz. He received his vocal and piano performance degrees from the University of Kansas, where he studied with Julia Broxholm and Jack Winerock. Salazar has performed in England, Scotland, Italy, Russia, and in major performance venues throughout the United States. He performed in the International Festival of Spanish and Latin American Music with renowned mezzo-soprano Teresa Berganza and has been featured at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Michigan; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.; Boston's Symphony Hall; and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

He received a fellowship to Songfest in Los Angeles where he studied with pianists Margo Garrett and Graham Johnson. Salazar has worked with composers Jake Heggie, John Musto, Libby Larsen, and William Bolcom. In 2014, he was invited to be part of Marilyn Horne's 80th birthday celebration at Carnegie Hall, where he worked with Ms. Horne, Martin Katz, and the legendary Christa Ludwig. Salazar has worked with such singers and teachers as Julia Faulkner, Maria Zifchak, Stephen King, Susanne Mentzer, Luis Ledesma, Wolfgang Brendel, Joyce Castle, Neil Shicoff, Stanford Olsen, George Shirley, Angela Meade, Jennifer Johnson Cano, and Susan Graham. He has worked and performed with Serenata of Santa Fe, New Mexico Performing Arts Society, Skylark Vocal Ensemble, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Santa Fe Opera, The Handel and Haydn Society, The Boston Symphony, and the Boston Lyric Opera, where he most recently worked on the company's monumental 2019 production of Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Most recently, Salazar performed with soprano Cecilia Violetta Lopez in recital for Austin Opera, Opera Idaho, Orlando Opera, Opera Las Vegas, Opera Southwest, Opera America, Madison Opera, and Opera Colorado.

Salazar has also served as a voice faculty member at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and at the University of New Mexico. Nathan is currently based in Santa Fe, where he enjoys taking care of several chickens and goats.

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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).