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**Opera Colorado Presents the Regional Premiere of  
Moravec and Campbell's *The Shining*, Based on the Novel by Stephen King**

**"The scariest opera you may ever experience" – *Pioneer Press***

**"A whole slew of edge-of-your-seat moments" – *Opera News***

**"It's a hell of a ride" – *Classical MPR***

**Denver, CO (January 28, 2022)**—Opera Colorado continues its 2021-22 Season with the highly-anticipated regional premiere of *The Shining*, an opera by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec and librettist Mark Campbell, February 28 through March 6, 2022, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.



*The Shining* is based on Stephen King's supernatural horror story recounting Jack Torrance's descent into madness at The Overlook Hotel, famously inspired by Colorado's own Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. Jack and his family, wife Wendy and son Danny, endeavor to remain together despite their growing isolation from the world; the hotel's paranormal activity; and Jack's abusive nature, alcoholism, and growing instability. Opera Colorado will be the first company to present *The Shining* since its 2016 world premiere by Minnesota Opera.

"It is such an honor to finally present Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell's *The Shining* after postponing it one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on an iconic novel of the 20th century and set to brilliant 21st-century music, this production is an example of the kind of

artistic risk Opera Colorado is willing to take that celebrates our vibrancy and demonstrates our commitment to building audiences of the future," says Greg Carpenter, General & Artistic Director.

**Paul Moravec**, composer of numerous orchestral, chamber, choral, operatic, and lyric pieces, is recipient of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Music. *Classical MPR* says, "Moravec has created a soundtrack to the chaos within Jack Torrance's heart, and it's truly terrifying." Librettist **Mark Campbell** has written over fifteen operas, including *As One*, which Opera Colorado presented in 2017.

Moravec says, "I love the idea that *The Shining* is 'coming home' to Colorado. While Stephen King's story has achieved an iconic status throughout the world, for me, the realization of the opera version in its natural habitat lends it a special, deeper resonance. Everything about Opera Colorado's production—the cast, conductor, director, orchestra—is a composer's dream come true."

“I was very happy to learn that *The Shining* sold more tickets than *Carmen* at the Opera Colorado box office on its first day of ticket sales. It shows that audiences are eager to see new stories, like this one, at the opera house. And while many people may be familiar with the movie, this opera, adapted faithfully from Stephen King’s gripping novel, gives audiences an exciting new perspective on the story,” says Mark Campbell.

**Edward Parks** makes his Opera Colorado debut as the volatile Jack Torrance. He is recipient of a 2019 GRAMMY® award for Best Opera Recording (Steve Jobs in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, another opera with a libretto by Mark Campbell). The *New York Times* calls Parks “a talented baritone...with a full-blooded, mellifluous voice and nuanced phrasing.” **Kelly Kaduce**, praised for “shining a bright light on operatic stages around the country” (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*), brings Wendy Torrance to life after portraying the courageous character in the world premiere at Minnesota Opera. She returns to Opera Colorado after appearing in the title role of *Rusalka* in 2011, which she “played to perfection” (*Opera Today*).

**Kevin Deas**, also making his Colorado debut, sings the role of Dick Hallorann, The Overlook Hotel’s chef who shares the “shining” ability with Danny. Other artists new to the Ellie are **Vale Rideout** (Delbert Grady, previous Overlook Hotel caretaker), and **Troy Cook** (Jack’s father, Mark Torrance). Opera Colorado favorite **Joseph Gaines** returns as Stuart Ullman. **Micah VonFeldt**, a seventh grader who lives in Highlands Ranch, makes his Opera Colorado debut as Danny Torrance.

The unique set features animations and projections design by **59 Productions**, a Tony-winning creative studio that has done work for Broadway (*Hedwig and the Angry Itch*, *Big Fish*), Salzburg Festival, the Kennedy Center, and more.

Tickets, ranging from \$35-\$215, are available at [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org). Patrons attending opening night of *The Shining* on February 26 may join us for a three-course themed dinner, including complimentary wine and beer, at Kevin Taylor’s at the Opera House for \$150 per guest (performance not included). Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

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

*Photo courtesy of Ken Howard/Minnesota Opera.*

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## ***The Shining***

Music by Paul Moravec  
Libretto by Mark Campbell  
Based on the novel by Stephen King

**February 26, March 1, 3, 4, 6 | 2022**

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

**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 | Kevin Deas\*  
Delbert Grady | Vale Rideout\*  
Mark Torrance | Troy Cook\*  
Stuart Ullman | Joseph Gaines  
Micah VonFeldt | Danny Torrance\*

### Creative Team

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

\*indicates Opera Colorado mainstage debut

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Recipient of a 2019 GRAMMY® Award for Best Opera Recording for Steve Jobs in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, baritone **Edward Parks (Jack Torrance)** made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2009-10 Season as Fiorello in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and has since appeared there as Schaunard in *La bohème* and as Larkens in *La fanciulla del West*, which was broadcast in HD worldwide. He recently joined tenor Andrea Bocelli on national tour to over twenty cities. Other notable upcoming engagements include a return to Lyric Opera of Chicago for *Proving Up*, *Songs of a Wayfarer* with New York Youth Symphony, and Marcello in *La bohème* with Michigan Opera Theater and Boston Lyric Opera. Highlights from past seasons include Steve Jobs in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* with Santa Fe Opera; the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Hawaii Opera Theatre; a return to Minnesota Opera as Audebert in *Silent Night*; revivals of his Escamillo in *Carmen* with the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival in Japan and for Atlanta Opera; Valentin in *Faust* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Portland Opera, and Opera San Antonio; Inman in *Cold Mountain* with North Carolina Opera; and Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* with Opera Oviedo in Spain. On the concert stage, Mr. Parks made his Carnegie Hall debut in an evening of songs by Charles Ives, sang Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Prague Proms International Music Festival and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, debuted with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in *The Requiem, Op. 9*, and performed Schubert's *Winterreise* at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.



For her creation of the title role in David Carlson's *Anna Karenina*, *Opera News* proclaimed that soprano **Kelly Kaduce (Wendy Torrance)** is "...an exceptional actress whose performance was as finely modulated dramatically as it was musically...and her dark, focused sound was lusty and lyrical one moment, tender and floating the next."

Ms. Kaduce's recent engagements include the title roles of *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Manon Lescaut*, and *Rusalka*, and the world premiere of *The Shining* with Minnesota Opera; *Madama Butterfly* with Florida Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and West Australian Opera; Mimì in *La bohème* with Boston Lyric Opera; and *Tosca* with Houston Grand Opera.

Among Ms. Kaduce's career highlights are several world premieres, including Rosasharn in Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* with Minnesota Opera, Carlson's *Anna Karenina* with Florida Grand Opera and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Caroline in Danielpour's *Margaret Garner* with Michigan Opera Theatre, the Chinese Actress and Zi Zhen in Sheng's *Madame Mao* with Santa Fe Opera, and two roles in the Central Park trilogy with Glimmerglass Opera.

Kelly Kaduce is a graduate of both St. Olaf College and Boston University and is a previous winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



**Kevin Deas (Dick Hallorann)** has gained international renown as one of America's leading bass-baritones. He is perhaps most acclaimed for his signature portrayal of the title role in *Porgy and Bess*, having performed it with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, and at the Ravinia, Vail, and Saratoga festivals. He recently performed in Handel's *Messiah* with the Washington National Cathedral, Boston Baroque, and the New York Philharmonic, and Nathaniel Dett's *The Ordering of Moses* with the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. A strong proponent of contemporary music, Kevin Deas was heard at Italy's Spoleto Festival in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in honor of the composer's eighty-fifth birthday, recorded on video for international release in 2020. He also performed the world premieres of Derek Bermel's *The Good Life* with the Pittsburgh Symphony and Hannibal Lokumbe's *Dear Mrs. Parks* with the Detroit Symphony. His twenty-year collaboration with the late jazz legend Dave Brubeck has taken him to Salzburg, Vienna, and Moscow in performances of *To Hope!* He performed Brubeck's *Gates of Justice* in a gala performance in New York.



**Vale Rideout (Delbert Grady)** Vale Rideout is celebrated for his "clarion" and "soaring and impassioned" tenor voice (*Opera News*). Equally comfortable with standard and contemporary repertoire, he is continually in demand on the operatic and concert stage throughout the United States, and as a distinguished recording artist. In early 2020, Mr. Rideout performed in *A Poet's Love: It's Complicated* with the New Orchestra of Washington. Highlights from other past performances include *Widow* with Florentine Opera Company, Hades in the premiere of Julian Wachner's *REV 23* with the Boston New Music Festival, Britten's *War Requiem* with Fresno Philharmonic, *Carmina Burana* with North Carolina Symphony, the U.S. premiere of Ēriks Ešenvalds' *St. Luke Passion* with Highland Park Orchestra in Dallas, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Arcadia Chorale and Wilkes University Chorus, and a Bernstein "Marathon" at the New York Festival of Song. Mr. Rideout can be heard on several acclaimed recordings of 20<sup>th</sup>-century

and contemporary opera, including two GRAMMY® -winning recordings with Florentine Opera Company: Frank in Aldridge's *Elmer Gantry* (Naxos), and Igneo in Davis' *Rio de Sangre* (Albany Records); and as Edgar in the company's GRAMMY® -nominated recording of Floyd's *Wuthering Heights* (Reference Recordings).



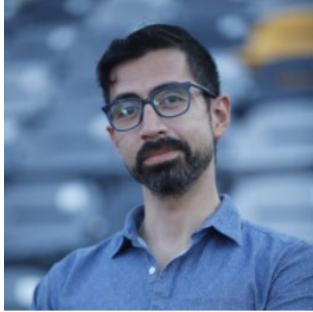
Praised for his “technically flawless performance” by *Opera News*, American baritone **Troy Cook (Mark Torrance)** has been heralded throughout his career for his vocal suaveness and vibrant stage presence. Recently, Cook appeared as Merlin in *Le roi Arthus* in a version streamed with Bard SummerScape, Tonio in *Pagliacci* with the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* for his debut with Madison Opera. In the 2019-20 Season, Mr. Cook made his house debut with Portland Opera as Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly*, followed by another house debut with Teatro San Carlo Napoli as “Watty” Watkins in Gershwin & Gershwin's *Lady Be Good*. He also performed as the baritone soloist for Handel's *Messiah* with the Indianapolis Symphony, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Athanaël in *Thaïs* and Father Palmer in *Silent Night* at Utah Opera, and Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* and Major General in the *Pirates of Penzance* with Opera Saratoga. An acclaimed interpreter of new works, he created the role of John Cree in *Elizabeth Cree* in 2017, as well as Father Palmer in *Silent Night* in 2011.



**Joseph Gaines (Stuart Ullman)** is a versatile artist who has attracted the attention of opera companies and orchestras and been recognized by audiences and critics for his beautifully sung, well-acted interpretations of character roles. He returns to Opera Colorado following performances as Monastatos in *The Magic Flute* and as Trin in *La Fanciulla del West*. Early in 2020, he performed the roles of Don Basilio/Don Curzio in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Hawaii Opera Theater and the Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas* with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Other past performances include Goro in *Madame Butterfly* with Central City Opera, Monastatos in *The Magic Flute* and the Third Jew in *Salome* with Opera Philadelphia, Pang in *Turandot* with San Diego Opera, and Pedrillo in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with Pittsburgh Opera. Grants and awards include: The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, The Anna Sosenko Assist Trust, The McGlone Award for Outstanding Young Artist at Central City Opera, and the coveted 2007-08 William M. Sullivan Foundation Award, which includes a \$10,000 career grant.



**Micah VonFeldt (Danny Torrance)** has had a passion for the theater since he was five years old. Over the past eight years, he has performed in the ensemble of several musicals, such as *The Lion King* and *Legally Blonde*. He has also had lead roles in many children's theatrical productions, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Matilda*, *Murder on the 518*, and *High School Musical 2*, as well as title roles in *Peter Pan*, *Aladdin*, and *The Music Man*. In 2019, Micah was awarded “Outstanding Male Performance” at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta for his role of Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins, Jr.* Micah is in the seventh grade, and lives in Highlands Ranch with his mom, dad, and two older brothers.



Latino American director **David Radamés Toro** applies his background in physical theater and mime to a variety musical repertoire with an affinity for baroque and 20th/21st century works. An admirer of modern era opera, David has had the privilege of directing 21st-century works such as *Three Way* (Fargo-Moorhead Opera, 2021), *Glory Denied* (Opera Fayetteville, 2020), and *Flight* (Minnesota Opera, 2020), as well as assisting on world premieres such as *Today It Rains* (Opera Parallèle, 2019), *Dinner at Eight* (Minnesota Opera, 2017), and *The Shining* (Minnesota Opera, 2016). In 2015, he directed the premiere of *Rose Made Man: An Inside Out Opera* for the Cohen New Works Festival in Austin, TX. As a director,

David is known for bringing honesty and humanity to the opera stage. In reviewing his production of *Flight*, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* wrote, “This staging showed that ‘Flight’ has a beating heart, and something to say.” The *San Diego Union-Tribune* described his 2019 production of *La Calisto* as “well sung and cleverly staged.” During the summer of 2020, David directed Opera Neo’s virtual *The Magic Flute*, a fully staged green screen opera filmed remotely from the singers’ homes and streamed in four parts.



**Paul Moravec (Composer)**, recipient of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *Tempest Fantasy*, is the composer of numerous orchestral, chamber, choral, operatic, and lyric pieces. Frequently commissioned by notable ensembles and major music institutions, Moravec’s current project is *Sanctuary Road*, an oratorio about The Underground Railroad. It premiered with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall in May of 2018 and a longer version will debut in 2022 with North Carolina Opera. In addition to *The Shining*, which premiered with Minnesota Opera in May of 2016, he composed other operas such as *The Letter* (2009), *Dance Russe* (2011), *The King’s Man* (2013), and the virtual performance of *Light Shall Lift Us* (2020). His

music has earned many distinctions, including the Rome Prize Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, three awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rockefeller Foundation. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia University, he has taught at Columbia, Dartmouth, and Hunter College and currently holds the special position of University Professor at Adelphi University.



**Mark Campbell’s (Librettist)** work is at the forefront of the contemporary opera scene in this country. A prolific writer, Campbell has created thirty-six opera librettos, lyrics for seven musicals, and the text for five song cycles and two oratorios. One of Campbell’s best-known works is *Silent Night*, which received a Pulitzer Prize in Music and is one of the most frequently produced operas in recent history. *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, an audience favorite, received a 2018 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording and his piece *As One* debuted with Opera Colorado in 2017. Other successful operas include *Stonewall*, *Later the Same Evening*, *The Nefarious*, *Immoral but*

*Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *The Other Room*, *Memory Boy*, *Empty the House*, *The Inspector*, *Approaching Ali*, *A Letter to East 11th Street*, *Dinner at Eight*, and *Volpone*. Campbell is also an advocate for contemporary American opera and serves as a mentor for future generations of writers through such organizations as American Opera Projects, American Lyric Theatre, and Washington National Opera’s American Opera Initiative.



**Stephen King** is a well-known American author. One of his first big successes was *Carrie* which was published in the spring of 1974. That same fall, the Kings left his home state of Maine for Boulder, Colorado. He and his family lived there for a little less than a year, during which Stephen wrote *The Shining*, based on a stay at The Stanley Hotel, which was released to the public in 1977. King has received numerous awards for his writing, including Audie Awards, Bram Stoker Awards, British Fantasy Awards, Hugo Awards, and Locus Awards.



Appointed in 2015 as Opera Colorado’s first-ever music director, **Ari Pelto’s** “breathtaking wizardry in the pit” (*The Denver Post*) has been widely celebrated, with Pelto in demand at opera houses and concert halls throughout the United States. At the age of 24, Pelto was appointed Assistant Conductor at the Spoleto Festival and he has since gone on to conduct worldwide. International engagements include performances with Bochumer Philharmoniker and opera productions at New National Theatre of Tokyo and the Teatro Nacional Sucre in Quito, Ecuador. In 2004 he made his highly-praised debut with New York City Opera, conducting *La Traviata*, after which he became a regular, returning for productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *La bohème*, and *Carmen*. He has also been a regular guest conductor of the Atlanta Ballet, Florida Orchestra, and Toledo Symphony. Mr. Pelto studied violin performance at Oberlin and conducting at Indiana University.



**59 Productions (Animation and Projection Design)** is a creative studio specializing in design for performance, exhibitions and live events. Recent design and video design projects include *An American In Paris* (Winner–Tony Award, Best Scenic Design of a Musical); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Big Fish* on Broadway; David Bowie is at the V&A and on a world tour; *Game* at the Almeida; *Little Dancer* at the Kennedy Center; *The Forbidden Zone* at Salzburg Festival; *Feast* at the Young Vic; *War Horse* in London, New York, China, Toronto, Australia, U.K. and U.S. tours; and *Les Misérables* world tour.

59 Productions has also been commissioned to design a number of high profile architectural projection mapping projects around the world including the United Nations Global Goals Launch at the U.N. headquarters in New York, Deloitte Ignite 2015 at the Royal Opera House, The Harmonium Project on the Usher Hall to launch the opening of the 2015 Edinburgh International Festival, Hampton Court 500 Rewind for Historic Royal Palaces, Vivid Live-Lighting the Sails for Sydney Opera House and the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony.

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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).