

# Opera Theatre of the Rockies

Martile Rowland, Founder/Artistic Director

Christopher Wilkins, Music Advisor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Two major events:

**Carmen Collection** kicks off with *Stars of Carmen* on Jan. 6  
and *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala* on Jan. 27

*Six events lead directly to Pikes Peak Center grand opera performances on March 1 and 2*



Desiree Dodson, Peter Tuff and Regina Davis at last July's Carmen Auditions. Daniel Brink is at the piano

The 2007-2008 season is an historic one for the **Opera Theatre of the Rockies**. When an arts organization is able to celebrate 10 years of existence- all without ever going into the red - it is surely a time for rejoicing. In addition to the two **Pikes Peak Center** grand opera presentations of the Bizet's operatic Masterpiece, *Carmen*, on March 1 and 2, Opera Theatre is offering six special events- *The Carmen Collection*- to help commemorate this significant accomplishment.

"This is a tremendous milestone for all of us at Opera Theatre," said Martile Rowland, the organization's Founder and Artistic Director. "To now be able to say we have reached our first decade is not only satisfying, but lends a genuine credibility to the mission we set out to accomplish."

Of the six special events, four are free and open to the public and all are scheduled in Jan. and Feb., 2008. First up is a concert on Jan. 6 at 3 pm: *The Stars of Carmen* at **The Colorado Springs School's Louisa Performing Arts Center**, 21 Broadmoor Avenue. Admission is \$20 per person. **-MORE-**

Nine of the eleven Carmen principals will be on hand as they offer a close-up and intimate performance, one that will put on display the essence of the operatic art.

“This is where an opera singer has to really shine,” said Rowland, who retired from an international operatic career to concentrate on the company she founded. “Making artistic magic while standing before an audience without costume and with only a piano is where it all starts. From this ability comes opera and concert roles, awards, scholarships, grants and educational opportunities. Our principals are all spectacular at this part of the art form. It is exactly how they won their roles in Carmen.”

Performers on Jan. 6 (and the roles they will perform in the March 1 and 2 productions of Carmen) include Jennifer DeDominici (*Carmen*), Sarah Barber (*Carmen Cover*), Jason Baldwin, *Don José on March 1*), Brian Stinar, *Don José on March 2*), Desiree Dodson (*Micaela*), Sarah Stone (*Micaela Cover*), Peter Tuff (*Escamillo*), Annamarie Zmolek (*Frasquita*), Regina Davis (*Mercedes*), Erik Bryan (*El Dancairo*), And Antonio Albores (*El Remendado*). Christopher Roselli (*Zuniga*) and Christopher Ervin (*Morales*) will not be performing. Musical selections will include opera arias, duets and ensembles. The concert is a co-presentation of The Colorado Springs School and Opera Theatre of the Rockies.

But no Opera Theatre event this season will have more excitement and glitz than the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: *La Fiesta Carmen*, scheduled for Sun, Jan 27 at 5 pm in the **Business of Art Center’s Venue 515** on Manitou Ave. in Manitou Springs. “We’ll be pulling out all the stops for this one,” promised Kathleen Fox Collins, President of the Opera Theatre’s Board of Directors. “Carmen is such an exciting opera that we’ve decided to ride its coattails and spice our Gala with a Spanish theme: decorations, fashion, music and of course, cuisine. I can’t wait to see what Martile comes up with for our entertainment.”

The evening is open to the public at a cost of \$125 per person. Besides dinner and a complete program of entertainment, there will also be a silent auction. The proceeds from the evening will benefit the operations of Opera Theatre. Sponsors for Carmen and all the *Carmen Collection* events leading to the production include the Gazette, News First 5&30, KCME-FM 88.7, The Colorado Springs School, the Sound Shop and Patsy’s Candy. Foundation supporters include Bee Vradenburg Foundation, the Hester E. and Edwin W. Giddings Foundation, the Cowan-Fouts Foundation, and the Pikes Peak Opera League

Reservations and information for *Stars of Carmen* and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: and for all the Carmen Collection activities can be made by calling (719) 633-9373 or by email at [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com). Tickets for the Pikes Peak Center performances of Carmen are currently on sale at all TicketsWest outlets including Pikes Peak Center Box Office (no fees), by calling 520-SHOW or (866) 464-2626 or online at [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com). More information is available at [www.operatheatreoftherockies.com](http://www.operatheatreoftherockies.com).

### **The Carmen Collection**

Sunday, Jan 6, 3 pm

*Stars of Carmen* : Concert featuring Carmen’s principal performers

The Colorado Springs School’s Louisa Performing Arts Center, 21 Broadmoor Ave \$20

Sunday, Jan 27, 5 pm

10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Gala: *La Fiesta Carmen* : Music, Food, Drink and Surprise Guests

Business of Art Center Venue 515 (Manitou Ave.) \$125

Thursday, Jan 31, 7 pm

*Carmen Film night #1*: The powerful live-action 1984 movie featuring Domingo and Migenes

The Sound Shop, 7 East Cimarron St. Free (Reservations Required)

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Thursday, Feb 14, 7 pm

*Carmen Film night #2*: The fabulous contemporary flamenco version of Carmen from Antonio Gades  
The Sound Shop, 7 East Cimarron St. Free (Reservations Required)

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 pm;

*Carmen as Opera and History*: Presented by Donald P. Jenkins with music from the Carmen cast  
The Trianon at The Colorado Springs School, 21 Broadmoor Ave. Free (Reservations Required)

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 pm

*The Recordings of Carmen*: Recorded history's great *Carmens* compiled and hosted by David Skolnik  
The Sound Shop, 7 East Cimarron St. Free (Reservations Required)

*For information on group sales discounts for the Pikes Peak Center performances of Carmen or to make reservations for any of the Carmen Collection presentations call (719) 633-9373 or [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com)*

## CALENDAR #1: Stars of Carmen

- Who:** The principal cast members from the **Opera Theatre of the Rockies** March, 2008 production of *Carmen* and Music Director and pianist Daniel S. Brink
- What:** *Stars of Carmen*: A concert of opera arias, duets and ensembles presented by **The Colorado Springs School** and Opera Theatre of the Rockies
- When:** Sunday, January 6 at 3:00 pm. A free public meet-the-artists reception follows immediately after the performance
- Where:** The Colorado Springs School's Louisa Performing Arts Center, 21 Broadmoor Ave
- Tickets:** \$20 - information and reservations available by calling 719-633-9373 or by email at [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com). Additional information available at [www.operatheatreoftherockies.org](http://www.operatheatreoftherockies.org)

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## CALENDAR #2: Opera Theatre of the Rockies' 10th Anniversary Gala:

- Who:** Opera Theatre of the Rockies and guest entertainers
- What:** *10th Anniversary Gala: La Fiesta Carmen* : a Spanish-themed evening of food, drink and entertainment to celebrate and raise funds for Opera Theatre of the Rockies
- When:** Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 pm.
- Where:** Business of Art Center Venue 515 - 515 Manitou Ave. in Manitou Springs
- Admission:** \$125 – a portion of this price is tax deductible. Information and reservations available by calling 719-633-9373 or by email at [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com). Additional information available at [www.operatheatreoftherockies.org](http://www.operatheatreoftherockies.org)

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