

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

Martile Rowland, Founder/Artistic Director

Christopher Wilkins, Music Advisor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Cast and artistic staff announced for Feb., 2010 Pikes Peak Center performances of *The Magic Flute*

Calling it a “collection of talent ideally suited to bring fantasy to life,” Opera Theatre of the Rockies’ Founder, Artistic Director and Producer Martile Rowland has officially announced her cast for the company’s Feb. 27 and Feb. 28 Pikes Peak Center performances of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*. “I had a tremendous advantage when I chose the performers to fill these legendary roles,” she said. “I knew everyone so well—their voices and stage personas. The result is an ensemble ready to fully-inhabit the unique universe created by Mozart and his friend and librettist Emanuel Schikaneder.”

Rowland is also delighted with her artistic team. As always for Opera Theatre, Daniel Brink is Music Director and Rehearsal Pianist and this season will act as Chorus Master as well. Thomas Cockrell returns to Opera Theatre as Conductor of the production. Cockrell, who heads the James E. Rogers Institute for Orchestral and Opera Conducting at The University of Arizona School of Music, conducted the Company’s productions of *The Ballad of Baby Doe* in 2000 and the *Gianni Schicchi/Pagliacci* duo in 2001. For her Stage Director, Rowland has chosen longtime University of Northern Colorado Director of Opera Carl Gerbrandt.

“It will be exciting for everyone to work with Carl,” she said. “He brings vast experience and a great understanding of Mozart and his Magic Flute to our production. I couldn’t be happier that he was able to make this work.”

The cast is almost entirely comprised of performers who have made their mark in Opera Theatre productions and workshops in its 12 years of existence.

Soprano Amanda Raddatz (Pamina), Tenor Jason Baldwin (Tamino), Baritone Bradley Thompson (Papageno), Soprano Brittany Ann Robinson (Queen of the Night), and Bass Erik Kroncke (Sarastro) will offer *The Magic Flute*’s leading roles. With the exception of Robinson, who will be making her Opera Theatre main stage debut, each has been featured in key roles in past Opera Theatre productions. “I’ve been looking for a chance for Brittany to show off her immense talent for a number of years,” said Rowland, who teaches Robinson in her award-winning vocal studio. “I’m expecting her ‘Queen of the Night’ to be a show stealer.

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“But the rest of the ensemble will be well-equipped to garner their fair share of the accolades.” Sopranos Michelle Diggs and Shannon Kaye and Mezzo Soprano Regina Davis will be the First, Second and Third Ladies. Bass Arthur Van Dyck is a Speaker and Priest and Malcolm Ulbrick is an Armored Man. All have been Opera Theatre main-stage performers in the past. Making his formal debut for the company is Tenor Pablo Romero, who was apart of Opera Theatre’s Vocal Arts Symposium this year. He will be a Priest and Armored Man. The First and Second Spirits are to be sung by gifted children - Adelia Adam and Ariana Maloney.

Making her Opera Theatre and Colorado opera debut is Soprano Valerie Nicolosi as Papagena, the “bird woman” mate for the bird catcher Papageno. “Valerie is a great addition to our region,” said Rowland. “We’re delighted that we will be able to the first to bring her talents to opera lovers in the region.”

Through its award-winning educational program, *Opera Theatre of the Rockies Goes to School*, the Company always presents a special performance of its opera the eve of the official opening for 1,200 area high school students and their teachers. For this performance Soprano Tina Lovejoy will perform Pamina; Tenor Eric Wassenaar, Tamino; and Baritone Erik Bryan, Papageno. Each of these artists will also offer outreach previews to the public.

Tickets for The Magic Flute are 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. For information on group sales discounts for the Pikes Peak Center performances of *The Magic Flute* or to make reservations or purchase tickets for any of the *La Bohème* special presentations call (719) 633-9373 or alacarteproductions@msn.com. More information is available at www.operatheatreoftherockies.com.

CALENDAR

Who: Opera Theatre of the Rockies

What: A Grand Opera production of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* (*The MagicFlute*) with dialogue in English and all singing in German (all with English Supertitles)

When: Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 at 7:30 pm
And
Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010 at 3:00 pm

Pre-Performance Presentation will be held one hour before each show in the mezzanine lobby of the Pikes Peak Center

Location: Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, 190 South Cascade Avenue: Colorado Springs, Colorado **-MORE-**

Tickets: **On sale!** Included are *Patron Club* seats; senior citizen, military, handicapped and student discounts. Discounted group tickets are also available for purchases of 10 or more seats.

Tickets are available at Pikes Peak Center Box Office (no service charges), all TicketsWest outlets; by calling 520-SHOW (7469) or 866- 464-2626 (toll free); or online at www.ticketwest.com. Group Discount inquiries can be made at 719-633-9373 or David@operarockies.org

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