

# Opera Theatre of the Rockies

Martile Rowland, Founder/Artistic Director

Christopher Wilkins, Music Advisor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **La Bohème and The Magic Flute herald Opera Theatre's 2009-2010 Season** Three free public presentations will lead to the Bohème performances

For the first time in its history, **Opera Theatre of the Rockies** presents a season in which it will be a part of two productions in the spacious confines of Southern Colorado's premier concert venue, The Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts. On Sat. Sept. 26 at 8 pm and Sun. Sept. 27 at 2:30 pm, Opera Theatre will join the **Colorado Springs Chorale** as guest artists to open the season for the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra**. The entire performance will be given over to a semi-staged concert version of Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* and will be conducted by the Philharmonic's Music Director, Lawrence Leighton Smith. Then on Sat. Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm and Sun. Feb. 28 at 3 pm, Opera Theatre will present fully-staged performances of Mozart's final opera, *The Magic Flute*.

"We are very clear why we are in this business," said Opera Theatre's Founder and Artistic Director Martile Rowland. "When we began our organization in 1998, the goal was to provide the exceptional training and invaluable experience young aspiring opera singers must receive to launch successful careers. As the regional artistic landscape altered in the new millennium, we added the mission to cultivate the operatic art in Southern Colorado. In this, our 12<sup>th</sup> season, I believe that we are going to reach more people than ever while providing our core group of performers tremendous stage experience."

This will be the second time Opera Theatre will join the Philharmonic as a guest artist. In the orchestra's debut season in 2003, *A Night at the Opera* was huge audience and critical success. This performance marks the first time that the orchestra's Executive Director, Nathan Newbrough, has played a part in choosing a season opener. "I think the hardest part was picking the opera," he said. "Once we settled on Bohème, it was an obvious thing to call Martile Rowland, (Colorado Springs Chorale Artistic Director and Conductor) Donald Jenkins and (Opera Theatre Music Director and Chorale Associate Music Director) Daniel Brink as collaborators. They are three of the sharpest, most creative minds we know of, and it's been a huge pleasure for the Philharmonic to partner with them. Puccini's masterpiece is the biggest artistic statement of the Philharmonic season, and we couldn't be in better hands."

Conductors Smith and Jenkins along with Rowland and Brink were presented with the task of casting the principals for Bohème. They chose Soprano Désirée Dodson a marquee performer for Opera Theatre, last seen as Micaëla in 2008's *Carmen*, as Mimi. Tenor Yang Bo, who is in Boulder as a

performing artist with Colorado University's opera program, will perform Rodolfo, Mimi's new-found love and will be making his Colorado Springs debut. **-MORE-**

Soprano Tina Lovejoy, a Colorado-based artist who has a growing success on the national and international operatic scene, makes her Opera Theatre/Colorado Springs Philharmonic debut as the coquettish Musetta and Baritone Thomas Eric Angerhofer is Musetta's jealous lover Marcello. He is also making his Colorado Springs debut. Other featured roles are filled by two Opera Theatre stalwarts, Baritone Bradley Thompson as Shaunard and Bass Arthur Van Dyck in the comic roles of Benoit and Alcindoro. Bass Wu Wei is Colline and will be making his Philharmonic and Opera Theatre debut.

La Bohème stage presentation will arise from the shared efforts of Rowland and Jenkins. Brink, who works for both Opera Theatre and the Chorale, will be the musical coach for the principals. Opera Theatre continues its commitment toward audience education by offering three presentations leading up to the performances of La Bohème. Reservations are required to attend these free events and details appear in the calendars at the conclusion of this release.

After assisting the Philharmonic in the opening of their 2009-2010 season, Opera Theatre will turn its attention to one of the most beloved operas ever written. *Die Zauberflöte*, the German title of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, is renowned for providing an unequaled operatic entertainment that appeals to viewers of all ages. Its blend of comedy, fantasy, romance and spirituality made it an instant operatic legend, a position it has not relinquished since its premiere in 1791. It was the final success in the remarkable career of its composer, who died shortly after its debut.

The production will feature a cast and chorus comprised of the area's best regional talent, a professional orchestra, costumes, set and lighting. "I can promise that our "Flute" will be of superb quality and of memorable presentation," said Rowland.

Tickets for both La Bohème and 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](http://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](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com). More information is available at [www.operatheatreoftherockies.com](http://www.operatheatreoftherockies.com).

## CALENDAR #1

**Who:** The Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Opera Theatre of the Rockies and the Colorado Springs Chorale

**What:** A semi-staged concert version of Puccini's *La Bohème*

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 at 8:00 pm  
And  
Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009 at 2:30 pm

*Pre-Performance Presentation one hour before each show  
in Studio Bee (north door of the Pikes Peak Center)*

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

**Tickets:** \$16-\$56 (students \$12) and 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.cspilharmonic.org](http://www.cspilharmonic.org).

## CALENDAR #2

**Who:** Opera Theatre of the Rockies in association with The Colorado Springs Philharmonic with audio and video equipment provided by the Sound Shop Audio/Video

**What and When:**

Two free special presentations leading up to the Sept. 26 and 27 Pikes Peak Center performances of Puccini's *La Bohème*:

1) Wed. Sept 16, 7 pm —**Bohème at the Movies**— excerpts from numerous film versions of the opera

2) Sat. Sept 19, 2:30 pm – **Bohème on the Record**—a survey of this great opera's recordings from the last 100 years hosted and compiled by Opera Theatre Marketing Consultant David Sckolnik

**Location:** The Village at Skyline Administration Building's *Skyline Room*, 2365 Patriot Heights in Colorado Springs

**Reservations:** All events are free and open to the public, but reservations are required as seating is limited. Reservations can be made at 719-633-9373 or [David@operarockies.org](mailto:David@operarockies.org)

## CALENDAR #3

**Who:** Opera Theatre of the Rockies

**What:** A Grand Opera production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* or *The Magic Flute* performed in German 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

**Tickets:** **On sale to the general public on Mon. Sept 21: \$25-\$80 (Students \$15).**  
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](http://www.ticketwest.com). Group Discount inquiries can be  
made at 719-633-9373 or David@operarockies.org**

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