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NEWS RELEASE

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Opera Theatre of the Rockies presents Summer Vocal Arts Festival



Who/What: Opera Theatre of the Rockies 2017 Vocal Arts Festival (VAF) July 9-23, 2017 at Colorado College including **three "Scenes" Concerts on July 16, 20 & 23, 2017. Student Hearings are July 9, 2017.**

Festival Description: Voice students and young performers ranging in age from middle school through post-college and young professionals will participate in voice coaching and singing, acting and dance classes from July 9-23, 2017 at Colorado College.

When/Where: All Events: Student Hearings. And Three Concerts feature staged, costumed and choreographed scenes from opera and music theatre performed by Vocal Arts participants and guest artists. All events are at Packard Hall, Colorado College, SW corner of Cascade Ave. & Cache La Poudre.

- Sunday, July 9, 1:15-5:00 pm: "Student Hearings" Each Vocal Arts participant sings one aria or song
- Friday, July 14, 5:00 pm: Buckaroo Barbeque sponsored by Pikes Peak Opera League at Gold Hill Mesa
- Sunday, July 16, 3:00 pm: "Let's Make a Scene" opening concert
- Thursday, July 20, 7:00 pm: "Scene Stealers" concert with a Reception at Intermission sponsored by the Tiemens Foundation and Wells Fargo Private Bank
- Sunday, July 23, 3:00 pm: "Abominable Showman" A Salute to David Merrick: The Maverick of Broadway is grand Finale Concert

Cost: Three Concerts are \$15 for Adults; \$10 for Students. Hearings cost \$5 per person.

Tickets: Online at www.operatheatreoftherockies.org or call 719-646-3127. Or, purchase them at the door.

Web Site: For more detailed information, visit www.operatheatreoftherockies.org

VOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL

July 9 – 23, 2017

Opera Theatre of the Rockies announces its 16th annual summer “**Vocal Arts Festival**,” two weeks of musical activities and events featuring young singers ranging in age from middle school through post-college/young professionals who come from all over the U.S. to participate in intensive training sessions with voice, acting and dance coaches. Coaching and classes given by expert faculty run from **Sunday, July 9 to Sunday, July 23** at Colorado College. Several gifted local artists participate as teaching staff. Festival Concerts feature scenes from opera and music theatre performed by Vocal Arts Festival (VAF) participants and guest artists.

Kicking off this year’s Festival will be the student **Hearings**, open to the public on **Sunday, July 9 at 1:15-5 pm** held at Packard Hall. Each talented participant will present one aria or song. Then, a family fun event to benefit the Vocal Arts Festival and sponsored by the Pikes Peak Opera League follows on **Friday, July 14 at 5 pm**. This second annual “**Buckaroo BBQ**” will be held at Gold Hill Mesa, 142 So. Raven Mine Drive, Colorado Springs 80905. It is a casual event open to the entire community and features kids’ games and crafts, a wine pull and silent auction and western American music and legends provided by Major Pikes Pete (Keith Franzen). A scrumptious BBQ dinner will be served with complimentary wine and beer. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students. Kids under 10 are free. To purchase tickets, go to **www.pikespeakoperaleague.org or call 719-237-5720**.

Vocal Arts Festival performances include three Scenes Concerts held at Packard Hall, featuring 40 program participants and guest artists. These summer concerts greatly enhance the region’s arts scene in Colorado Springs and have proven to be extremely popular. The opening “**Let’s Make a Scene**” concert will be held on **Sunday, July 16 at 3 pm**. The program includes scenes from *Hansel and Gretel*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Aida*, *Carousel* and *Wicked*. The second performance is called “**Scene Stealers**” and is scheduled for **Thursday, July 20 at 7 pm**. It features music from *Dead Man Walking*, *Rigoletto*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Into the Woods*. A reception sponsored by the Tiemens Foundation and Wells Fargo Private Bank will be held at Intermission. The Grand Finale concert, “**The Abominable Showman**” **Salute to David Merrick, Producer: Maverick of Broadway** will be presented on **Sunday, July 23 at 3 pm**. All forty young artists will sing from *Hello, Dolly*, *Oliver*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint*, and *110 in the Shade*, to name a few.

All three scenes concerts are held at Packard Hall and tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. The **Hearings** on **July 9 at 1:15 pm** when each of the forty students presents one aria song each cost \$5 per person. **To purchase tickets, visit www.operatheatreoftherockies.org or call Opera Theatre’s ticket line at 719-646-3127 or buy them at the door.**

Established in 1998, Opera Theatre of the Rockies’ summer Vocal Arts Festival (previously known at the Vocal Arts Symposium) and the Young Artists Intensive Training Program are well known to Pikes Peak area audiences and throughout the U.S. Opera Theatre is proud to cooperate with Colorado College to provide this exceptional program for

the 16th year where emerging artists receive professional training and stage experience. Many of the program's students have gone on to worldwide opera careers and attribute part of their career development and success to their Vocal Arts Festival experience. One nationally recognized Festival singer wrote, *"I spent four summers working with Martile Rowland at the Vocal Arts Festival at Colorado College. It was where I first learned stagecraft, movement and preparation of a role...which later became very important in my singing career. I got so much individual attention; I got to perform in opera scenes carefully selected to work on my voice. I got to know different operas and was exposed to so much music. I learned who I was as a performer, and cannot say enough about what a gift that has been to me in my career!"*

Now in its 19th year, Opera Theatre of the Rockies is dedicated to advancing opera throughout southern Colorado through education, training and performance. The organization supports young aspiring Colorado singers by offering professional training and performance opportunities in main stage opera productions, smaller one-act operas and opera concerts. Audiences also enjoy Opera Theatre's wonderful ensemble singers at events year-round across the region.

This year, Opera Theatre presented Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* to rave reviews in collaboration with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. The company looks forward to its 20th anniversary season, featuring three performances of Verdi's masterpiece *Aida* in May 2018 at the new ENT Center for the Performing Arts Center at UCSC as well as several performance of Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* in collaboration with Theatreworks set for February 2018 also presented at the ENT Center, in the Chapman Recital Hall.

We hope that people will be inspired to attend the popular Vocal Arts Festival concerts set for **July 9, 16, 20 and 23, 2017** to experience the amazing talent that these singers gift to the community. It is sure to be unforgettable this year once again. For more detailed information or tickets, visit www.operatheatreoftherockies.org or call **Opera Theatre's ticket line at 719-646-3127**. Tickets are also available at the door.

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We are grateful to our generous 2017 Vocal Arts Festival sponsors: Anna Keesling Ackerman Fund, Bee Vradenburg Foundation, CC Cultural Attractions Fund, CC Music Department, Colorado Creative Industries, Denver Lyric Opera Guild, El Pomar Foundation, EOS Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, KCME 88.7 Classical Radio, Pikes Peak Opera League, Shivers Fund, Tiemens Foundation, Wells Fargo Private Bank.