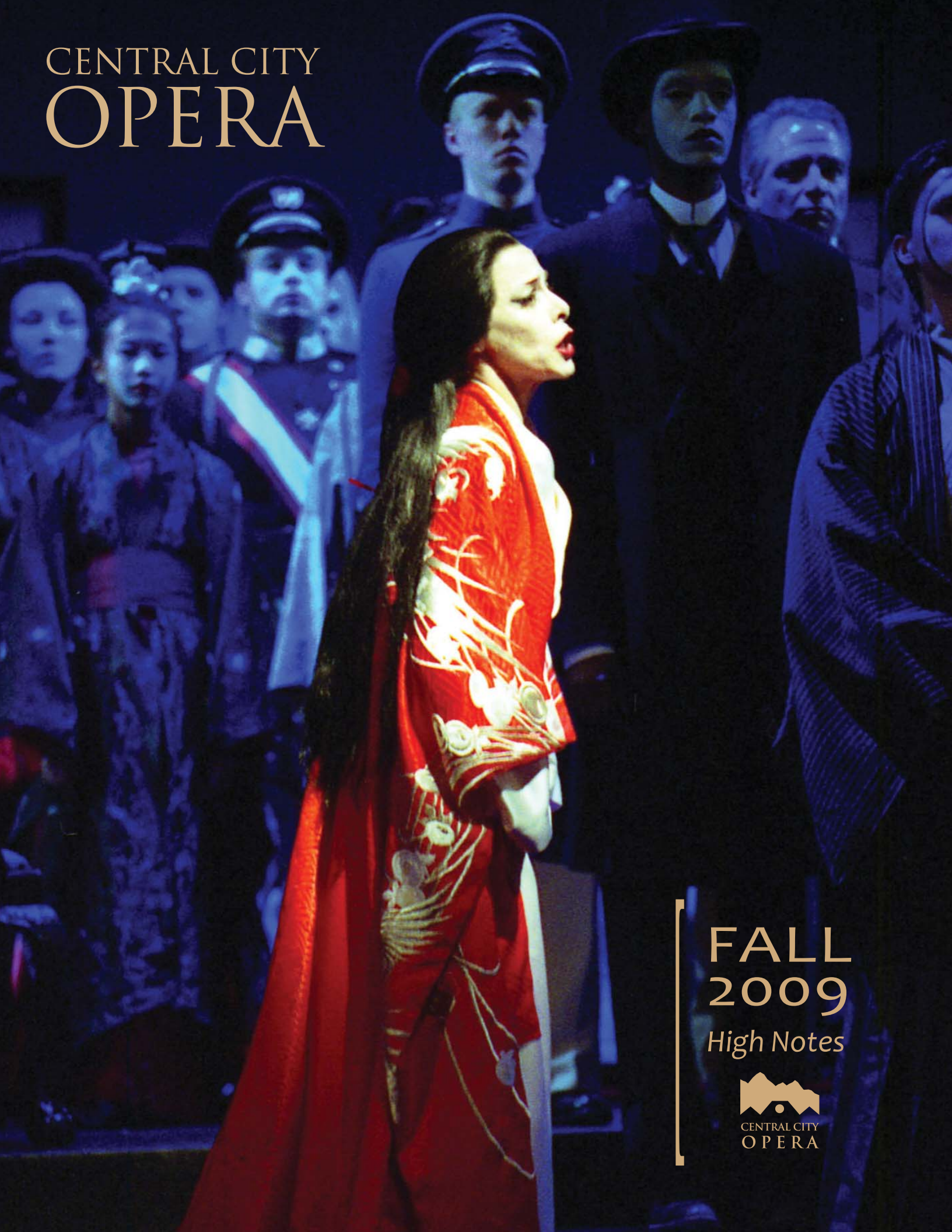
CENTRAL CITY OPERA



FALL 2009

High Notes

CENTRAL CITY OPERA

Photos by Mark Kiryluk

Dear Friend of Central City Opera,

As a critical part of Central City Opera's mission, each year we strive to create a summer festival that not only presents works of the highest artistic quality to our audience, but also enriches the field of opera by introducing new and revitalized repertory to the canon of works enjoyed on stages throughout the world. During a time of lows in the national psyche and morale, the 2009 Festival overcame these hurdles and elevated spirits in a way that only great works of opera can. I want to take a moment and share with you some of our recent critical acclaim:

> "As it was at its outset in 1932, the company is again a major player on the American opera scene and well on its way toward becoming the destination festival that it was in pre-Santa Fe days."
> - Wes Blomster, *Boulder Daily Camera*

> "This offering is, quite simply, one of the company's best all-around productions of the past five years or more."
> - Kyle MacMillan, *Denver Post*, in reference to *Rinaldo*

After the end of another incredible season, it is now time to look forward to the 2010 Festival Season. As a continuation of our artistic vision, the season will offer a traditional masterpiece, a work in the operatic repertoire that is rarely performed, and a piece from an American composer.

Building upon our high standard of artistic excellence, we are thrilled to offer a re-staging of the 2005 top-selling production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*; a new production of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*; and Jake Heggie's latest full-length opera, *Three Decembers*.

As we continue to plan another incredible season, I am already looking forward to next summer. Until then, please join us for several of our "off the hill" events - year round community and education programs by our Central City Opera Ensemble, L'Espirit de Noel Holiday Home Tour, the Denver Antiques and Art Show, and more.

Sincerely yours,

Pat Pearce
General/Artistic Director

p.s. Please help us preserve and continue to grow our artistic accomplishments by making a gift to our annual fund. For information visit our website at www.centralcityopera.org.

[2010 festival: *A Season Overview*]

Choose your own experience

With more twists and turns than the mountain roads leading to our summer home, the operas of the 2010 Festival offer plenty of drama. From longing for lost love in wartime Japan to dancing the infernal can-can with Greek gods, and fighting within a showbiz family, exotic exploits abound. The escape begins with...

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

From the beautiful music to the poignant plot, discover why millions of people are still falling in love with *Madama Butterfly* year after year. A devastating clash of East vs. West ideals in turn of the century Japan leaves the heroine with only one tragic solution to restore honor in her life. A revival of Central City Opera's top-selling 2005 production, the original stage director, Catherine Malfitano, will lead the re-staging of this CCO milestone. After receiving critical acclaim for his company debut in 2009's *Rinaldo*, Matthew Halls returns to conduct.

BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

PERFORMANCES June 26, 30; July 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 24, 27, 30; August 1, 7

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

Evoking the days of the Moulin Rouge and Toulouse-Lautrec, *Orpheus in the Underworld* promises not only plenty of tulle, but plenty of tunes as well. Famous for its "can-can", the operetta performed in English takes a satirical look at the Greek mythological story of Orpheus and the meddling gods who send him on a journey to hell and back. Central City Opera veteran, Marc Astafan will direct this all-new production after recent accomplishments with 2009's *Rinaldo*, 2007's *Cendrillon* and 2006's *Don Giovanni*. Making his CCO debut in 2007's production of *La Traviata*, Martin André returns to conduct.

BY JACQUES OFFENBACH

PERFORMANCES July 3, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 28, 30; August 3, 8

THREE DECEMBERS

At the center of the modern opera *Three Decembers*' brilliant score and captivating family drama is the famous actress, Madeline Mitchell. Logging long hours on stage, the perpetually absent mother now faces the scorn of her adult children. As family secrets are unraveled, it is proven that mother really does know best. This production will commemorate mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle's 40th career anniversary in opera. With an extensive repertoire of 132 roles from Strauss and Wagner to Bernstein and Sondheim, Ms. Castle's recent portrayal of roles in contemporary opera has earned her critical acclaim. Ms. Castle returns to Central City Opera after notable appearances as Augusta in 2006's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* and Elizabeth in the highly acclaimed 2001 production of Britten's *Gloriana*. After his recent credits for 2009's *A Little Night Music* and the sold-out *West Side Story* in 2008, Stage Director Ken Cazan will direct this new production. CCO Music Director John Baril will serve as conductor after garnering accolades for 2009's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

BY JAKE HEGGIE

PERFORMANCES July 10, 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31; August 4, 6

2010 SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW – CALL 303-292-6700

2009 FESTIVAL SPONSORS:
Citizens of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, CCOHA Endowment Fund and Lanny and Sharon Martin

[donor profile: *Jeanne Richards*]

By Barbara Walton, Major Gifts Officer

SHE'S KNOWN TO EVERYONE who participates in our summer opera festival as the dear, sweet woman who sits front and center for each and every performance all summer long. Jeanne Richards wins the ultimate loyalty award for attendance!

Jeanne and her mother, Iris Richards, began the practice of coming to all of our opera performances more than 50 years ago. When Iris passed away, Jeanne continued to purchase both seats and she now invites a friend to join her, always. This past summer, Joey Peoria, 12 year old son of orchestra members Kim and Ingrid, had the pleasure of sitting with her several times. Sometimes Joey had to decline, providing another lucky person the opportunity, because Maybel walking duty called (those who saw *A Little Night Music* will remember Maybel, Sylvia McNair's black and white cocker spaniel, who as Sylvia put it was "the true star" of the show.)

For more than twenty years, Jeanne and Iris very generously funded several of the coveted Apprentice Awards given on stage after the final performance of the season. In 2009, Jeanne sponsored half of the awards presented, including the Iris Henwood Richards Award in honor of her mother. Each year we receive more than 800 applications for approximately 30 places in our Bonfils Stanton Foundation Artists Training Program. This career-entry program integrates daily training in diction and movement, individual coaching and performance opportunities each season.

Every member of the orchestra also knows Jeanne. On one occasion, a violinist handed Jeanne a small foil package after the show. It was a homemade Chinese dish for Jeanne's dinner that evening. Everyone knows her, the Apprentices (as you can see in the pictures of her with them in this article) love her, and understandably so. Supporters like Jeanne and Iris make Central City Opera such a unique and exciting experience.

Top Left: Jeanne with tenor Andrew Owens, the recipient of the Irish Henwood Richards Award for 2009. Photo by Deb Hruby. Top Right: Jeanne with members of the 2009 Bonfils-Stanton Artists Training Program. Left: Jeanne with Lyubov Petrova. Photos by Andrew Owens.

central city opera needs your support!

CENTRAL CITY OPERA'S impact reaches well beyond the stage. As an international summer festival, CCO plays an important role in advancing the field of opera and developing promising young artists. Each year, the festival attracts international talent who embrace the opportunity to take a risk and try something new, sing a role they've never sung, or create beautiful sets and costumes for one of the smallest professional opera stages in the world in our fully restored historic theatre.

Ticket revenues cover less than 40% of the cost of producing an opera. Central City Opera's artistic and historic preservation achievements are immense. To sustain and continue to grow them, we need support from you. Please consider making an annual fund gift this year through our secure website at **www.centralcityopera.org** or by calling **303-292-6500.** *Preserve a Colorado legacy, please contact us today.*

[education: *Young Artists Sing Out!*]

By Deborah Morrow, Director of Education and Community Programs

FOR SIX YEARS CENTRAL CITY OPERA AND THE COLORADO SPRINGS CONSERVATORY have joined forces to offer 20 talented teens the best (and most demanding) learning experience of their young lives. Students from Colorado Springs, the Denver metro area and around the state (and nation) audition to participate in the two week Performing Arts Intensive. Those who are selected to attend are actively immersed in dance, literature, theater and music. For ten days they live and work on the Colorado College campus in Colorado Springs, followed by four days in Central City participating in the CCO summer festival.

Photo by Erin Joy Swank

Music, dance and drama faculty members develop a program around a selected theme – in 2009 the theme was "Rags to Riches, the 150th anniversary of the Colorado Gold Rush." Previous themes have included "Shakespeare and the Ages of Man," "War and Peace through the Eyes of Teens" and other significant subjects. The students learn scenes from drama, opera, musical theater and literature for performance while also studying dance and composition. While in Central City, they attend opera performances and receive master classes from CCO artistic personnel in voice, stage combat and stage production. For the past two years, students have created an original musical drama based on the given theme under the guidance of Central City Opera teaching artist and composer, Roger Ames. With the exception of the composition component, the program is essentially a junior version of Central City Opera's Bonfils-Stanton Artists Training Program.

While a performing arts "camp" might seem to attract a certain type of well-adjusted, high achieving student, there were plenty of troubled teens and troubling stories among the 19 youths who participated in the 2009 Performing Arts Intensive. One young man lost a brother in Iraq, one girl suffers with an eating disorder, another student was orphaned in a particularly distressing way, while another boy (who just received a full-ride music scholarship to DU) has lived on the street – in fact every student had a story and many were heartbreaking. Yet, every one of them rose to the challenge of an incredibly intense schedule, in a new place, with a group of people they didn't know.

This year's Gold Rush theme inspired activities for students in addition to arts studies and opera attendance including conducting research at the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, performing at the Pikes Peak Rodeo, attending sessions on Colorado history and touring the Hidee Gold Mine. After their research, the group chose Winfield Scott Stratton, a Colorado Springs citizen and philanthropist who made his fortune from gold mining, as the subject for their original music drama *The Worth of a Man.* The other scenes they learned all had to do with wealth, poverty or Colorado history and included selections from *The Ballad of Baby Doe, The Grapes of Wrath, Pygmalion/My Fair Lady, The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and *Richard the Third*. They performed the scenes and their original opera in Colorado Springs and twice in Central City at the Williams Stables.

Linda Weise, the director of the Conservatory, is brilliant at giving these kids all the encouragement they need while still holding them to the highest standard. She surrounds herself with instructors with the same abilities and expectations, which is why I thought it would be a natural match to bring Roger Ames into the picture – and it was. Between Roger, Linda and five other instructors, those students were nurtured, drawn out and made demands of at a level most of us never experience – let alone at the age of 15 or 16. They transformed before our eyes into creative, collegial professionals. It is a profound thing to be a part of and I am proud that Central City Opera is able to add such depth to the experience. These are the artists (and audience) of our future.

Planning of the 2010 Performing Arts Intensive is underway. The dates will be July 11-25, 2010 with a performance at Williams Stables on July 25 at 10:30 a.m. The proposed theme is "Through the Eyes of a Child." If you know of potential high school participants, either local or from out-of-state, please direct them to our website for a link to audition requirements and additional information. If you wish to contribute to the scholarship fund for this worthy endeavor, please designate your contribution as "High School Scholarship" and send to:

Central City Opera, 400 S. Colorado Blvd. #530
Glendale, CO 80246

[mark your calendar: *Upcoming Events*]

2009 L' ESPRIT DE NOEL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2009
Presented by the Central City Opera Guild
Chairs: Carolyn O' Donnell and Christine Nicholson

Get in the holiday spirit with this year's home tour, featuring the historic and newly developed areas of Lowry. Dressed for the holidays by Denver's top florists and table designers, on the tour this year are homes of Crescent Park, the Steam Plant Lofts and on 6th Ave. Parkway. Attendees will also have the chance to see the historic Eisenhower Chapel. Featuring all local businesses, the tour also boasts an expanded boutique with more than 35 vendors located at Stanley British Primary School Gymnasium. Home tour tickets are just $20 and the Boutique is FREE. For an exclusive sneak peek at the homes and an elegant buffet and cocktails, make sure to attend the Preview Party on November 19th. For tickets and information on both the Preview Party and the tour, contact the Central City Opera Box Office at 303-292-6700 or go to www.centralcityopera.org. Home tour tickets are also available at King Soopers stores and at the tour.

2009 L'Esprit de Noel Holiday Home Tour Sponsors are Coldwell Banker Devonshire, Re Max of Cherry Creek, GE Johnson, Megastar Financial and Lori Rickert, State Farm Insurance, The Villager and Denver Newspaper Agency.

Thank you TO OUR SPONSORS OF THE 2008 L'ESPRIT DE NOEL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Presenting Sponsor
Perry & Co. Real Estate Professionals

Gold Sponsors
Stevinson Lexus of Lakewood
Pamela and Louis Bansbach

Sterling Silver Sponsor
Matrix Design Group, Inc.

Bronze Sponsor
Rickert State Farm Agency

Media Sponsors
Colorado Homes & Lifestyles
Denver Newspaper Agency
The Villager

Special Thanks
City Wine
Framed Image

L'Esprit Stars
Barbara and Charlie Ferguson Foundation
Margot & M. Allan Frank
Susan & Bill Hiatt
Betsy & Michael Huseby
Sharon & Lanny Martin
Julie & Rich Rose
Ellen & Don Scott
George Ann & Buzz Victor

Angels
Elizabeth & Evan Anderman
Nancy P. Brittain
Erna Butler
Sharon & Don Ferlic
Alexis & John Fischer
Nancy & Ned Minor
Liz Lynner & Jim Palenchar
Judy & Jack Pogge
Pam & Korvin Powell
Nina Saks & Richard Robinson
Nancy & Bernard Schotters
Patrice & Gordon von Stroh
Jean Cole, Artist

Zane Moss Antiques

THE DENVER ANTIQUES & ART SHOW AND SALE

INVESCO FIELD at Mile High
United Club Level
Show Dates: APRIL 16, 17 & 18, 2010
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Preview Party: Thursday evening, April 15
Barbara Knight, Chairman

Make plans to attend the 2010 Show at a spacious and luxurious new venue! A beautiful selection of unique antiques and art from national and international dealers will be showcased. All proceeds benefit the Central City Opera. Free Parking will be available during the Show and at all Special Events. Garden Café will be open daily.

[training for an opera marathon]

A look at the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists

SINGING, LEARNING CHOREOGRAPHY, PRACTICING DICTION, REHEARSING FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS: the 29 members of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists Training Program do it all. Founded by Central City Opera's Artistic Director Emeritus John Moriarty in 1978, the rigorous 10-week program is now a national model for the professional development of young singers. It integrates daily training in diction and movement, individual coaching, and sessions in career management with rehearsals and performance opportunities in the summer's main stage and surrounding productions.

In 2009, members were featured as the chorus of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and in 18 different supporting roles in all three Festival productions. In addition, the young artists presented 14 performances of Opera à la Carte, an arrangement of scenes excerpted from various operas and performed in Williams Stables. Also, seven young artists were featured in the Salon Recitals, a lunchtime concert of arias performed at the Teller House.

As a component of the training program, 12 scholarships were awarded to young artists based on criteria including the artistic quality of performances given during the Festival season, a demonstration of a strong work ethic during training activities and career potential as a performing artist: **Amanda Russo** – The McGlone Award; **Sarah Mesko** – The Shoshana Foundation Award; **Annamarie Zmolek** – The Apprentice Artist Award; **James Baumgardner** – The Studio Artist Award; **Andrew Owens** – The Iris Henwood Richards Award; **Jonathan Cole –** In Memory of William Russell, Jr. Award; **Alisa Jordheim –** In Honor of the 75th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Henwood Award; **Scott Johnson** – The Young Artist Award; **Stephanie Washington** – The E. Atwill Gilman Award; **Nicholas Nelson** – The Ginney and John Starkey Young Artist Award; **Tai Oney** – The John Moriarty Award; and **Tara Faircloth** – the first recipient of the inaugural Adelaide Bishop Award.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Touted to be the "opera stars of tomorrow", many former members of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists Training Program are now the "opera stars of today". While we can't list all of the achievements of former participants, we have compiled a sampling of Training Program alumni of the past 10 years that can be seen around the world in the 2009-2010 season:

Erica Brookhyser (2007) is performing the role of Waltraute in *Die Walküre*, as part of LA Opera's 2010 *Ring Cycle.* During the 2009-2010 Season, **Jean Broekhuizen** (2006) will be a festival singer at Oper Leipzig in Germany. Now known as Zachary James, **Zachary Poholek** (2006) will originate the role of Lurch in the Broadway-bound musical, *The Addams Family***.** Having completed the Seattle Young Artists Program, **Teresa S. Herold** (2006) performed as a Novice in *Suor Angelica* with the Metropolitan Opera in February of this year following her debut with the Met in *War and Peace* in 2008. After appearing as Kitty Oppenheimer in the Metropolitan Opera's *Dr. Atomic* and its subsequent national telecasts, **Sasha Cooke** (2005) will reprise the role at English National Opera. Making his Metropolitan Opera debut, **Liam Bonner** (2004) will portray Morales in *Carmen*. At Chicago Opera Theater, **Sara Jakubiak** (2004) will take on the role of Beatrice in Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*.

Jeffrey Behrens (2003) made his Metropolitan Opera debut this year in Shostakovich's *The Nose*. A finalist in the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, **Kiera Duffy** (2003) was recently featured in a documentary about the process, *The Audition*, and this season can be seen in the role of Florestine in *The Ghosts of Versailles* at the Wexford Opera Festival. A graduate of the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship, **Sean Panikkar** (2003) will also be featured on the Metropolitan Opera stage as Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Portraying a total of six lead roles with Deutsche Oper Berlin this season, **Heidi Stober** (2003) will also be featured stateside as Atlanta in Houston Grand Opera's *Xerxes*. **Richard Cox** (2002) will return for a second year to Oper Frankfurt as member of the ensemble for the upcoming season. In the title role of *Billy Budd*, **Lucas Meachem** (2002) will perform with Paris Opera-Bastille. In next summer's festival, **Timothy Oliver** (2002) will portray the role of Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte* at Santa Fe Opera. Also a graduate of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, **Christian Van Horn** (2001) will be featured as Brander in Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Faust*. No stranger to international stages, **LaTonia Moore** (2000) will perform the role of Amelia in Hamburgische Staatsoper's *Un ballo in maschera*.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists Training Program alumni of the 1980s and 1990s also continue to enjoy extremely successful careers in the field internationally. Some of these include mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** (1986-87), who has received popular and critical acclaim on four continents with her signature portrayals of the title roles in *Carmen* and *Samson et Dalila* at the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden and Vienna Staatsopera to name a few ; bass-baritone **Alan Held** (1986), who is known for his portrayals of Wotan in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, the title role in *The Flying Dutchman*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and others with major opera houses worldwide; and tenor **Matthew Polenzani** (1991-92), who was recognized by the Metropolitan Opera with the 2008 Beverly Sills Artist Award and continues to perform often on both coasts and in between.

centralcityopera.org: *stay connected*

Now it's possible to keep in touch with Central City Opera **all year long** by joining us on the web! By utilizing the latest social media tools, Central City Opera has created an on-line community of like-minded opera lovers and we invite you to join us on the following programs:

YOUTUBE

View videos about Central City Opera's productions straight from the source on YouTube! Past videos have included insightful commentary from General/Artistic Director Pat Pearce and Stage Directors Marc Astafan and Ken Cazan, first looks at sets and costumes for Festival productions, and more! Visit www.youtube.com/user/centralcityopera to subscribe to our very own channel and receive updates when new videos are added.

FACEBOOK

Want exclusive images from past year's productions, discount offers for year-round events, and promotions for free tickets? Become Central City Opera's "fan" on Facebook. Visit our homepage at www.centralcityopera.org for a link to our Facebook page. From there, simply click "Become a Fan" to begin receiving the latest updates.

TWITTER

Gain an insider's look into Central City Opera by following us on Twitter! You will no longer have to wait to hear about the latest Central City Opera events. When you become our "follower" you will receive real time updates on everything from ticket promotions to event announcements. Visit www.twitter.com/ccityopera to begin following us.

Not using any of these tools, but want to receive timely Central City Opera updates?

E-NEWSLETTER

Please call the administrative office at **303-292-6500** to be added to our mailing list or visit www.**centralcityopera.org** and click on the "Join Email Club link" under our Web Exclusives section to be added to our monthly e-newsletter list.

CENTRAL CITY OPERA

Central City Opera House Association
400 S. Colorado Boulevard, Suite 530
Denver, CO 80246

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 907
Denver, Colorado

"Each year we enjoy your productions as much as the operas we see in New York at the Met..."

- Peter VanEtten

2010 subscriptions
start at just $90.
Buy now for the best seats!

Cover Photo by Mark Kiryluk. Central City Opera's *Madama Butterfly* (2005).