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Media Contact: Susan Hennessy | 303.778.7086 | shennessy@operacolorado.org

OPERA COLORADO MARKS START OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH GALA
Exclusive concert showcases soprano Kelly Kaduce, mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook,
and the 2012-2013 Opera Colorado Young Artists

Opera Colorado presents its
30th Anniversary Gala

Ellie Caulkins Opera House,
Denver Performing Arts Complex,
14th and Curtis, downtown Denver

Saturday, September 22, 5:30 pm

Tickets online:
OperaColorado.org/gala

Tickets by phone:
303.778.7086

The 30th Anniversary Gala supports
the Education and Community
Programs of Opera Colorado, which
serve over 35,000 students and adults
throughout the state.

Denver, CO—Opera Colorado kicks off its 30th Anniversary Season with a celebratory Gala at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at 5:30 pm. The evening begins with champagne in the Ellie's elegant lobby, followed by a private concert and silent and live auctions on the stage. The event concludes with an exquisite 3-course dinner in the Chambers Grant Salon and dancing on the stage of the Ellie.

Soprano Kelly Kaduce and mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook return to Opera Colorado after their stellar 2011 performances in Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Ms. Cook will also sing in the upcoming 2013 season as Mistress Hibbons in the world premiere performance of Lori Laitman's *The Scarlet Letter* (May 4, 7, 10, 12, 2013). Also featured are the 2012-2013 Opera Colorado Young Artists, a group of five rising opera stars selected to participate in a seven-month residency with the company. During their time with Opera Colorado the Young Artists participate in Education & Community programs and special events, as well as perform roles in the season's main stage productions.

The live and silent auctions will feature a selection of stay-cations, extensive restaurant packages, exclusive experiences for groups, works from local artists William Matthews and Stephen Batura, whose tapestry is featured in the lobby of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and culminates with a Paddle Raise.

30th Anniversary Gala Chairs, Mike and Julie Bock are inspired by philanthropists like Ellie Caulkins, their love of opera, and the importance of arts education. The Bocks have been ongoing supporters of Opera



Colorado as annual production sponsors and Mike Bock currently serves on Opera Colorado's Board of Directors.

Proceeds from the 30th Anniversary Gala support Opera Colorado's Education and Community Programs, one of the leading arts education programs in the state. During the 2011-2012 school year over 35,000 students and adults from all corners of Colorado and southern Wyoming were reached, many of whom would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience opera. The program's offerings include:

- **Backstage Workshops** where small groups of students visit a variety of stations at the opera house to learn about topics such as lighting and set design, costume construction, and fight choreography
- **Student Matinees and Dress Rehearsals**, private student performances of the main stage operas followed by talk backs with performers and Opera Colorado staff
- **Opera in a Trunk**, a trunk full of costumes, props, and activities presented by Opera Colorado Education Staff
- **Opera on Tour**, abridged (one hour) versions of well-known operas sung in English performed by the Young Artists; *Carmen* and *The Barber of Seville* in 2013
- **POpera**, a 45-minute program geared toward younger audiences that explores the influence of opera and musical theater on popular culture using samples from film, television, and cartoons

Tickets for full Gala packages start at \$350 per person and include the entire evening's entertainment. Table packages are also available starting at \$5,000, offering many added benefits and an excellent corporate entertaining opportunity. At the \$10,000 level and above, guests are also invited to the exclusive Gala Patron Party. Detailed information may be found on the Opera Colorado website at www.OperaColorado.org/gala or by calling Susan Hennessy at 303.778.7086.

THE PERFORMERS

Kelly Kaduce

Kelly Kaduce is swiftly gaining national recognition for her "plangent, amber-toned soprano, glamour girl looks and artless, affecting dramatic style." (*Opera News*) Ms. Kaduce has garnered thunderous praise for her stage portrayals, most recently for her star-making turn in Lee Blakeley's production of *Madame Butterfly* at Santa Fe Opera. The *Huffington Post* called it "a performance to treasure" and the *Santa Fe New Mexican* stated "Soprano Kelly Kaduce, as Cio-Cio-San (the "Madame Butterfly" of the title), stood at the head of the cast in every way. Her singing, never less than impressive, assumed mounting intensity as the evening unfurled." Other recent performances include *I Pagliacci* with Arizona Opera, a



house debut at Opéra de Montreal in *Rusalka*, *Madama Butterfly* with the Portland and Minnesota Operas, and *Nixon in China* with Eugene Opera.

Catherine Cook

American mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook has excelled in a wide range of roles with leading companies throughout the United States. The *Cincinnati Post* wrote that she “more than once recalled the great mezzo Marilyn Horne: her luxurious voice showed remarkable flexibility.” Her exciting characterizations garner acclaim as well. Following recent performances of *La Cenerentola*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* exclaimed, “As Tisbe, the younger of the two stepsisters, mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook continued her seemingly endless streak as one of the company’s great underused treasures, combining forceful singing and sly comic charm into an irresistible package.” Recent engagements include performances with Houston Grand Opera (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), San Francisco Opera (*Le nozze di Figaro*, *Il Tabarro*, *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Faust*, *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*), and *Rusalka* with Opera Colorado.

The Opera Colorado Young Artists

The Young Artists are a group of five talented professional singers who bring opera directly to schools and other community venues throughout Colorado and surrounding states. These young professionals come to Denver for a seven-month residency to perform in education programs, touring operas, and a student matinee of a main stage production. The singers receive training and coaching from Opera Colorado staff and guest artists, and will perform roles in the three main stage productions.