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## **Opera Colorado Surpasses Fundraising Goal; Community Support and Reorganization of Operating Procedures Part of Successful Restructuring**

Denver, CO — (September 27, 2014) In response to Opera Colorado's 2012 year-end financial challenge, the organization made significant changes to the opera company and redefined its 2013 and subsequent year budgets to become more fiscally conservative and to continue bringing world-class opera to the community. Opera Colorado accomplished this by tightening production expenses, reducing staff from 16 full-time to eight full-time and four part-time administrative staff, and aggressively raising funds through its Annual Fund Campaign and special *Stories That Sing Campaign* – which focused on raising \$1.2 million by June 31, 2013. At the 2013 fiscal year end on June 31, 2013, Opera Colorado balanced its budget with a \$98,000 surplus. With several strides yet to make before claiming victory over financial challenges, the continued support of the community will prove essential to Opera Colorado's future progress.

Fundraising efforts in the first six months of 2013 brought in \$1.9 million – an all-time record for Opera Colorado. General Director, Greg Carpenter, would like to thank all Opera Colorado supporters, **“I want to celebrate our success with you and acknowledge your role in being a Voice for Opera Colorado. You are the key to our current and future success.”**

With positive progress made in all areas of the reorganization, Opera Colorado accomplished its goal to financially stabilize the company and maintain its commitment to artistically inspired productions and innovative education and community engagement programs.

In addition to redefining several administrative positions, Opera Colorado redefined artistic positions and welcomed new Artistic Advisor, Maestro Ari Pelto.

As a result of the tremendous progress made, Carpenter states that, **“Opera Colorado has begun planning innovative productions, outstanding singing and excellent programs for the next three seasons,”** and that **“The dedication and generosity of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff and patrons gave us the strength to plot a course of action that effectively began stabilizing Opera Colorado.”**



Opera Colorado called upon the community to help answer these financial challenges, and the community responded – making it possible to continue the important work Opera Colorado does each season, reaching more than 35,000 students and community members.

As such, Opera Colorado would like to thank all of those who generously showed their support and facilitated this significant progress. The confidence and generosity of Opera Colorado’s supporters made these goals achievable.

Opera Colorado’s 2014 season is sponsored by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and media sponsors *The Denver Post*, *5280 Magazine*, *Yellow Scene Magazine* and *Luxe Magazine*.

#### **About Opera Colorado**

A cornerstone of Denver’s cultural community, Opera Colorado presents operas annually at its downtown Denver home, the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. The Company presents new works alongside standard repertoire, and reaches more than 35,000 students and community members throughout the Rocky Mountain region through a variety of education and community engagement programs. Opera Colorado Young Artists, a five-month residency for singers at the beginning stages of their careers, provides training for the next generation of American opera performers. The 2014 Season features performances of Verdi’s *Rigoletto* (March 15-23) and Bizet’s *Carmen* (May 3-11).

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