



## **2015 SANTA FE OPERA SEASON ANNOUNCED**

**World premiere of *Cold Mountain* by Pulitzer Prize-winner Jennifer Higdon; five new productions; three “firsts” planned.**

### **WORLD PREMIERE**

**COLD MOUNTAIN**

Jennifer Higdon

Libretto by Gene Scheer

Commissioned by The Santa Fe Opera, Opera Philadelphia and Minnesota Opera

### **FIRST SANTA FE OPERA PERFORMANCES**

**THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT**

Gaetano Donizetti

New Production

**LA FINTA GIARDINIERA**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

New Production

### **IN HONOR OF THE 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPOSER’S BIRTH**

**SALOME**

Richard Strauss

New Production. Last performed by the Company in 2006.

**RIGOLETTO**

Giuseppe Verdi

New Production. Last performed by the Company in 2000.

**May 6, 2014. Santa Fe, NM** – *Cold Mountain*, the first opera by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, will receive its world premiere in The Santa Fe Opera’s 2015 Summer Festival Season. Announcement of the five-opera repertory was made today by General Director Charles MacKay at a press conference in Santa Fe. The season opens Friday, July 3 with Donizetti’s *The Daughter of the Regiment* and ends Saturday, August 29 with the same opera.

“*Cold Mountain*, the novel by Charles Frazier, won the National Book Award, was a major best seller, and an Academy Award-winning film,” commented Mr. MacKay in his opening remarks. “It is a magnificent story that has touched readers throughout the world, and we here at The Santa Fe Opera are honored to add an opera to its distinguished provenance.”

The season is in keeping with the Company’s mission to present operas that may be familiar to the general public, *Rigoletto*, *Salome* and *The Daughter of the Regiment*; one less known and not often performed, the riotous comedy written when Mozart was eighteen, *La Finta Giardiniera*, (sometimes known as *The Pretend Gardener*), and a world premiere, *Cold Mountain*.

The roster of principal singers includes many Santa Fe favorites: Emily Fons, Nathan Gunn, Isabel Leonard, William Burden, Susanna Phillips, Bryan Hymel, Alek Shrader, Anna Christy, Heidi Stober, Judith Christin and Kevin Burdette. Returning are conductors Miguel Harth-Bedoya and David Robertson. The Company also welcomes directors Ned Canty, Lee Blakeley and Daniel Slater; scenic and costume designers Allen Moyer, Adrian Linford, Hildegard Bechtler and David C. Woolard; lighting designer Rick Fisher and choreographer Seán Curran.

Important debuts include two Italian conductors; Speranza Scappucci, who was a member of the Company music staff in 2005 and 2006 and Jader Bignamini in his American debut. It welcomes a number of young Americans including baritone Quinn Kelsey, bass-baritone Ryan McKinny, soprano Georgia Jarman, mezzo-sopranos Cecelia Hall, Nicole Piccolomini, Canadian bass Robert Pomakov and Spanish tenor Joel Prieto.

Other debuts include Leslie Travers, scenic and costume designer for *Salome*; Thomas C. Hase, lighting designer for *La Finta Giardiniera*; *Cold Mountain* creative team members, director Leonard Foglia, scenic designer Robert Brill, lighting designer Brian Nason and projection designer Elaine J. McCarthy.

#### DEBUTS

SINGERS: Cecelia Hall, Georgia Jarman, Quinn Kelsey, Ryan McKinny,  
Phyllis Pancella, Nicole Piccolomini, Robert Pomakov, Joel Prieto

CONDUCTORS: Jader Bignamini, Speranza Scappucci

DIRECTOR: Leonard Foglia

SCENIC DESIGNERS: Robert Brill, Leslie Travers

COSTUME DESIGNER: Leslie Travers

LIGHTING DESIGNERS: Brian Nason, Thomas C. Hase

PROJECTION DESIGNER: Elaine J. McCarthy

#### RETURNING ARTISTS

SINGERS: Robert Brubaker, Judith Christin, Anna Christy, William Burden,  
Kevin Burdette, Emily Fons, Nathan Gunn, Joshua Hopkins, Bryan Hymel, Brian Jagde,  
Isabel Leonard, Michaela Martens, Jay Hunter Morris, Alex Penda, Susanna Phillips,  
Alek Shrader, Andrea Silvestrelli, Heidi Stober, Laura Tatulescu  
CONDUCTORS: Harry Bicket, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, David Robertson  
DIRECTORS: Tim Albery, Lee Blakeley, Ned Canty, Daniel Slater  
SCENIC DESIGNERS: Adrian Linford, Hildegard Bechtler, Allen Moyer  
COSTUME DESIGNERS: Adrian Linford, Jon Morrell, Allen Moyer, David C. Woolard  
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Rick Fisher  
CHOREOGRAPHER: Seán Curran  
CHORUS MASTER: Susanne Sheston

\*Debut

+Former Apprentice Artist

#### THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT

Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in French

First Performances by The Santa Fe Opera. New Production.

July 3, 8, 11, 17, 24, August 3, 8, 12, 20, 26, 29

CONDUCTOR	*Speranza Scappucci
DIRECTOR	Ned Canty
SCENIC AND	
COSTUME DESIGNER	Allen Moyer
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Rick Fisher
CHOREOGRAPHER	Seán Curran
CHORUS MASTER	Susanne Sheston

MARIE	Anna Christy
MARQUISE OF BIRKENFELD	*Phyllis Pancella
DUCHESS OF KRAKENTHORP	Judith Christin
TONIO	Alek Shrader
SULPICE	Kevin Burdette

As an infant, the now beautiful and vivacious young Marie was found abandoned on the battlefield and raised by a regiment of soldiers. She loves the regiment and all the men in it, especially Tonio, a shepherd who has become a soldier to be near her. Taken away by wealthy relatives, she pines for her former life and her lover. She is finally rescued by the regiment led by Tonio and all ends happily.

This wonderfully delicious confection brings together director Ned Canty, scenic and costume designer Allen Moyer, singers Anna Christy and Kevin Burdette, who gave audiences the screwball comedy *The Last Savage* in 2011. *The Daughter of the Regiment* has long been a vehicle for coloraturas, here Ms. Christy, and for tenor Alek Shrader and the nine high C's required in his first act aria. Audiences will remember him as the hapless Albert Herring in 2010. Long-time Santa Fe favorite Judith Christin returns after an absence of several years. She was last heard as Albert Herring's mother in 2010. She has appeared 36 times in 25 different operas in Santa Fe. Making her Company debut is American mezzo-soprano Phyllis Pancella who has performed with international opera, concert and recital stages in repertory ranging from the Baroque to the twentieth century. Speranza Scappucci has an international career as pianist, coach, and most recently, as conductor. She has worked closely with Ricardo Muti, Zubin Mehta and other leading conductors as musical assistant. She has led productions at Salzburg, Scottish Opera, Yale Opera, Glimmerglass and Juilliard Opera.

# RIGOLETTO

Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian

New Production. Last performed by the Company in 2000.

July 4, 10, 15, August 4, 10, 15, 19, 25, 28

CONDUCTOR	*Jader Bignamini
DIRECTOR	Lee Blakeley
SCENIC AND	
COSTUME DESIGNER	Adrian Linford
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Rick Fisher
CHORUS MASTER	Susanne Sheston
RIGOLETTO	*Quinn Kelsey
DUKE	Bryan Hymel
GILDA	+*Georgia Jarman
MADDALENA	*Nicole Piccolomini
SPARAFUCILE	Andrea Silvestrelli
MONTERONE	*Robert Pomakov

The staging of *Rigoletto* has been done many different ways; but no matter how it is presented it is an enduring story of love and betrayal and their consequences. The tragic Rigoletto, a court jester, tries to protect his young daughter, Gilda, from the world. She is a complete innocent who gives her love to the callous Duke only to become the victim of his treachery.

The young Italian conductor Jader Bignamini will make his American debut in these performances. He is currently associate conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica la Verdi in Milan, having been chosen by Riccardo Chailly as his assistant in 1998. He has conducted both the operatic and symphonic repertory in Italy's most famous opera houses and concert halls as well as in Japan, Russia and South America. Three young American singers head the cast of this much-loved opera. In the title role is Quinn Kelsey, making his company debut. He has been hailed as one of this generation's great Verdi baritones. The Duke is Bryan Hymel, who scored a huge success in the 2011 production of *Faust* here. He made a sensational last-minute debut at the Metropolitan Opera in *Les Troyens* in 2012 and now has a busy schedule of performances in this country and abroad. Gilda will be sung by Georgia Jarman, a former apprentice, who recently won praise for singing all four heroines in the English National Opera's production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Andrea Silvestrelli (*The Magic Flute*, 2010) will sing Sparafucile, and Nicole Piccolomini, in her Company debut, Maddalena. The Canadian bass Robert Pomakov is Monterone. Director Lee Blakeley and scenic designer Adrian Linford brought *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein* to life here in 2013.

## SALOME

Richard Strauss

Sung in German

New Production. Last performed by The Santa Fe Opera in 2006.

July 18, 22, 31, August 6, 11, 18, 27

CONDUCTOR	David Robertson
DIRECTOR	Daniel Slater
SCENIC AND	
COSTUME DESIGNER	*Leslie Travers
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Rick Fisher
CHOREOGRAPHER	Seán Curran
SALOME	Alex Penda
HERODIAS	Michaela Martens
HEROD	Robert Brubaker
JOCHANAAN	*Ryan McKinny
NARRABOTH	Brian Jagde

The operas of Richard Strauss have long been prominent at The Santa Fe Opera and *Salome* has been performed no fewer than ten times since 1962. The searing one-act drama of obsession has mesmerized audiences since its premiere in 1910. *Salome* will be sung by Alex Penda, Leonore in the 2014 production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Herod, who is consumed by lust for *Salome*, will be sung by Robert Brubaker, last seen here in 2011 as the Captain in *Wozzeck*. The rising American bass-baritone Ryan McKinny, in his Company debut sings Jochanaan, the object of *Salome*'s lust. A product of Houston Grand Opera Studio, he sings in leading opera houses in this country and Europe. Herodias, Herod's vengeful wife, will be sung by Michaela Martens. Brian Jagde, 2012's Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), is Narraboth, who loves *Salome*. The production is set at the time of the opera's premiere, 1910. Both sets and costumes will be designed by the well-known British designer, Leslie Travers in his Company debut. Conductor David Robertson, director Daniel Slater and lighting designer Rick Fisher, who were together for the 2011 revival of *Wozzeck*, will do the honors for *Salome*. Robertson, one of the busiest and most highly acclaimed conductors today, is music director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

LA FINTA GIARDINIERA  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Sung in Italian  
First Performances by The Santa Fe Opera. New Production.  
July 25, 29, August 7, 13, 21

CONDUCTOR	Harry Bicket
DIRECTOR	Tim Albery
SCENIC DESIGNER	Hildegard Bechtler
COSTUME DESIGNER	Jon Morrell
LIGHTING DESIGNER	*Thomas C. Hase
CHORUS MASTER	Susanne Sheston
SANDRINA	Heidi Stober
ARMINDA	+Susanna Phillips
SERPETTA	Laura Tatulescu
RAMIRO	*Cecelia Hall
PODESTA	+William Burden
COUNT BELFIORE	*Joel Prieto
NARDO	Joshua Hopkins

Chief Conductor Harry Bicket, who is a long-time admirer of *La Finta Giardiniera*, leads performances of the work, one of the young Mozart's lesser known early comedies. It is sometimes called *The Pretend or Phony Gardener*; however, it is primarily known by its Italian name. It is a wildly improbable story about love, double identities, the hero and heroine believing they are Greek gods, and finally everyone revealing their true selves. Jon Morrell, who designed the sets and costumes for the Company's highly

praised *Maometto II* in 2012, is the costume designer; scenic designer, Hildegard Bechtler, served in that capacity for the 2009 production of *The Letter*.

The production will be directed by Tim Albery who gave Santa Fe Opera audiences the delightful *Beatrice and Benedict* (1998, 2004), *The Magic Flute* (2006, 2010), and in 2012, *Arabella*. Several favorites are in the cast: Susanna Phillips, Heidi Stober, William Burden and Joshua Hopkins. They will be joined by Romanian-American soprano Laura Tatulescu, in the cast of the 2014 *Don Pasquale*. Making their Company debuts are Cecelia Hall in the trouser role of Ramiro and Joel Prieto as Count Belfiore. American mezzo-soprano Cecelia Hall is a member of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Program. She recently received critical acclaim for her performance of the title role in Handel's *Teseo* at Chicago Opera Theater. Mr. Prieto was born in Spain and grew up in Puerto Rico. The young tenor, who has an international career, sang the role of Count Belfiore in a production of *La Finta* at the Berlin Staatsoper. He was a winner of the 2008 Operalia Competition.

#### COLD MOUNTAIN

Jennifer Higdon

Libretto by Gene Scheer

Sung in English

#### WORLD PREMIERE

Commissioned by The Santa Fe Opera, Opera Philadelphia and Minnesota Opera

August 1, 5, 14, 17, 22

CONDUCTOR	Miguel Harth-Bedoya
DIRECTOR	*Leonard Foglia
SCENIC DESIGNER	*Robert Brill
COSTUME DESIGNER	David C. Woolard
LIGHTING DESIGNER	*Brian Nason
PROJECTION DESIGNER	*Elaine J. McCarthy
CHORUS MASTER	Susanne Sheston
ADA	Isabel Leonard
RUBY	+Emily Fons
TEAGUE	+Jay Hunter Morris
VEASEY	TBA
INMAN	Nathan Gunn
MONROE/SOLDIER/GUARD	*Robert Pomakov
STOBROD/BLIND MAN	Kevin Burdette

Anticipation is high for the world premiere of *Cold Mountain*. Three years in the composition and planning, this compelling story of love, honor and determination is ready for the stage. The novel sold three million copies, and the movie was a huge popular success. The story, now well known, is about Inman, a Confederate army deserter who walks from his hospital room in Raleigh, North Carolina, across the state to his home at Cold Mountain. The journey is arduous and recalls Homer's *Odyssey*. Inman continues in spite of many hardships and is reunited with his love, Ada. The opera will be performed in Philadelphia in February, 2016 and in Minnesota at a date to be determined. The Opera is pleased to collaborate with the Civil War Trust in the development of education activities for the premiere of *Cold Mountain*.

Nathan Gunn, who sings the protagonist, Inman, has won accolades for his lyric baritone voice and his compelling stage presence. He has appeared as leading man on opera and musical theater stages worldwide. He was Benedict in the Company's original *Beatrice and Benedict* in 1998. He created the role of Clyde in the world premiere of Tobias Picker's opera, *An American Tragedy*, at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005. Isabel Leonard, who will sing the role of Ada, is one of the most popular and highly sought-after mezzo-sopranos on stage today. She has sung with the company twice, as Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* (2008), and as Costanza in *Griselda* (2011). Jay Hunter Morris, a former apprentice who appeared as the Drum Major in the 2001 production of *Wozzeck*, has been in the international spotlight for his portrayal of Siegfried in the Metropolitan Opera's current production of Wagner's *Ring*. Former apprentice Emily Fons is Ruby. She was Cherubino in the 2013 production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Miguel Harth-Bedoya will be remembered as the conductor of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* in 2005.

Leonard Foglia is one of the most important stage directors working today. His work has been seen in theaters and on opera stages nationally and internationally. He is also a librettist and writer of five books. He has directed three operas by Jake Heggie, the latest being the highly acclaimed *Moby-Dick*. Scenic designer Robert Brill, lighting designer Brian Nason and projection designer Elaine J. McCarthy created the highly acclaimed set, computer and video projections for *Moby-Dick*. All three, and director Leonard Foglia, are making their Company debuts.

Performance Start Times

July 3 – August 1, 8:30 PM

August 3 –29, 8:00 PM

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**Family Nights.** Special performances during the season are designated Family Nights, providing opportunities for families to attend mainstage performances. The prices, one for adults, the other for accompanying children, are well below the regular admission prices. Dates and prices to be announced.



**Apprentice Scenes.** Scenes from the operatic repertory showcasing the remarkable talent of apprentice artists and technicians are given on two consecutive Sunday evenings; dates are August 16 and 23.

**Rush Tickets.** Available to students and senior citizens 48 hours in advance of a performance at half price. They must be ordered by telephone or in person. IDs are required.

**2015 Tickets.** May be ordered beginning June 27, 2014 by telephone: 505 986 5900; toll free: 800 280 4654, or in person. On-line sales begin in September.

Support for The Santa Fe Opera comes from the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax; New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs; and the National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works. American Airlines is the Opera's official airline.

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