

November 15 . 2013

PRESS RELEASE / PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERA FORT COLLINS PRESENTS:

WINTERSONG

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

What: Opera Fort Collins Gala & Concert

Who: Tenor **ANDREW LUNSFORD**

Soprano Stephanie Ann Ball

Baritone Tom Sitzler

When: Friday · December 20 · 2013 · 7:00 p.m.

Where: Instrumental Rehearsal Hall

University Center for the Arts

1400 Remington St · Fort Collins · CO

Tickets* \$75 advance purchase · \$90 at door

**Standard box office processing fees not included*

Purchase: UCA Box Office 970.491.2787

www.csuartstickets.com

Web: www.operafortcollins.org/

Attire: Holiday Dressy

Media Contact: Vicki Fogel Mykles, OFC Ex. Dir.

vmykles@gmail.com 970.484.2696

Summary: Opera Fort Collins proudly presents its annual holiday fundraising gala **WinterSong: Home for the Holidays**. This sparkling event features fine hors d'oeuvres & wines, fanciful auction items and a festive live concert of aria selections from Bizet, Gounod, Handel, Leoncavallo, Menotti, Puccini, Schönberg, Simon, Strauss, plus seasonal holiday favorites. OFC is pleased to showcase one of America's fastest rising tenors **Andrew Lunsford** and introduce soprano **Stephanie Ann Ball** and baritone **Tom Sitzler**, with pianist **Karen Stody**. All proceeds will benefit the OFC operating budget.



winter
song

Meet the Opera Fort Collins Artists



Colorado-born **ANDREW LUNSFORD** is shaping up to be one of opera's brightest new tenors. *Inside Magazine* describes Mr. Lunsford as having "a take your breath away high C" and Fox News described him as "quickly rising to the top due to his jaw-dropping voice." He has been interviewed on NBC and ABC, and was featured in a prime time CNN story, "The Accidental Tenor." After discovering his vocal abilities in his late 20s, he was granted a full scholarship to Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School of Music. Mr. Lunsford has since performed on some of the most distinguished stages in the world, including The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., The Valley Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. He returns to the Carnegie Hall stage in April, 2014, and will make his debut as Calaf in the Opera Fort Collins production of *Turandot* (May, 2014).

Contact: <http://andrewlunsford.com/>



With encouragement from her musical parents, **STEPHANIE ANN BALL** (*soprano*) began voice studies during high school. She discovered opera as an undergraduate at Northern Arizona University and earned her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Washington University in St. Louis. Following graduate school, Ms. Ball performed professionally with Opera St. Louis. Recently, she spent two years as a Young Artist for the Bach Society of St. Louis where she developed a passion for oratorio. She has served as the Education Coordinator for Union Avenue Opera and taught voice for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' Artist in Training Preparatory Program. Her awards include: district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in both Arizona and Kansas City. Contact: <http://www.stephanieannball.com/>



From an early age, Arizona native **TOM SITZLER** (*lyric baritone*) was passionate about classical music. While contemporaries were wild about the latest bands, he was intrigued with Bach and Rachmaninov. Mr. Sitzler has recently moved to Denver following a two-year apprenticeship with the Bach Society of St. Louis. He has performed with Mid-Ohio Opera, St. Louis City Opera, and the Union Avenue Opera. Equally at home on stage and in the studio, he loves teaching students from ages ten to seventy in both voice and piano.

Contact: <http://www.tomsitzler.com/>



OFC is a non-profit performing arts organization. *The Mission of Opera Fort Collins is to entertain, enrich and educate through the professional presentation of opera productions and community engagement programs.*

Post Office Box 503 · Fort Collins · CO · 80522 · www.operafortcollins.org · info@operafortcollins.org

Opera Fort Collins Contacts

Artistic Director

Music Director

Chorus Master /Outreach Director

Executive Director

Brian Clay Luedloff

Wes Kenney

Dr. Gerald Holbrook

Vicki Fogel Mykles

luedloff@operafortcollins.org

batons2@earthlink.net

mawaka@aol.com

mykles@operafortcollins.org