

PRESS RELEASE



Nashville Opera to present Daniel Catán's lush contemporary masterpiece, *Florencia en el Amazonas*

- Nashville Opera's first Spanish-language production
- Libretto is an homage to the Pulitzer-prize winning novel, *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Marquez.
- City-wide events include a visual art show at The Arts Company and educational programming through Vanderbilt University's Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)
- Collaboration with the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, The Arts Company, Vanderbilt University's Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), and Casa Azafrán.

November 18, 2014 (NASHVILLE, TN) — Nashville Opera will present Daniel Catán's romantic contemporary masterpiece, *Florencia en el Amazonas* on Friday, January 23 at 8 PM; Sunday, January 25 at 2 PM; and Tuesday, January 27 at 7 PM at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's James K. Polk Theater, located at 505 Deaderick Street in Downtown Nashville. *Florencia en el Amazonas* is directed by John Hoomes with Maestro Dean Williamson leading the Nashville Opera Orchestra. Tickets range from \$26 to \$102.50 and are available by calling Nashville Opera at (615) 832-5242, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center Box Office at (615) 782-4040, or online at www.nashvilleopera.org. Si desea comprar entradas para eventos en el TPAC y necesita ayuda en español, por favor llame al 1-800-664-8941. A limited number of "pay-what-you-can" seats may be purchased directly from Nashville Opera's main offices at the Noah Liff Opera Center in Sylvan Heights for a minimum suggested donation of \$5. Mr. Hoomes will present the popular *Opera Insights* discussion one-hour prior to curtain on the Orchestra Level. *Florencia en el Amazonas* will be sung in Spanish with projected translations in English.

"*Florencia en el Amazonas* will take the audience on a journey of discovery through the sensual world of 'magical realism,'" said John Hoomes, General and Artistic Director of Nashville Opera. "With its vibrant orchestral score inspired by the romanticism of Puccini and Debussy, Catán's Spanish-language masterpiece captures the essence of love and longing."

In 1910, seven people board a small steamboat for a voyage down the Amazon River toward an unexplored jungle paradise. But soon the characters find themselves on a surreal journey that dares to venture deep into the mysteries of the human heart. Among all the passengers, Florencia seeks the most desperate love of all: lost love. A true love she long ago let slip through her fingers, and now vows to find again. Daniel Catán, the renowned Mexican composer of *Florencia en el Amazonas* and his librettist, Marcela Fuentes-Berain, were inspired by Nobel-prize winning author Gabriel García Marquez's use of "magical realism" as a literary device, particularly in his novel *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

The cast of world-renowned principal artists includes soprano Elizabeth Caballero as Florencia, bass Keith Miller as Riolobo; Zulimar Lopez-Hernandez as Rosalba, mezzo-soprano Kirstin Chávez as Paula; tenor Javier Abreu as Arcadio, baritone Michael Corvino as Alvaro; and bass Andrew Gangestad as Captain.

Nashville Opera with the help of Anne Brown and her team at The Arts Company have commissioned local artists to create works of art infused with "magical realism," a literary device present in much of Garcia-Marquez's work and the libretto of the opera, to celebrate Nashville's vibrant Latino culture. The artists to be included are Mandy Peitz Moody, Antuco Chicaiza, Esteban Pedraza, Yuri Figueroa, Liliana Velez, Orlando Garcia Camacho, Jairo Prado, Jorge Arrieta, Jorge Yances and Mike Quinones. The works from these exceptional artists will be featured in the show to be displayed at The Arts Company, TPAC, Casa Azafrán and Nashville Opera's Noah Liff Opera Center.

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In addition, Vanderbilt University's Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and Nashville Opera will further explore magical realism and the Amazon through a series of events centered around the production, including lectures, panel discussions, and movie screenings. The schedule includes: International Lens Film Screening *The House of the Spirits* (1993) on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m., Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt University. FREE. Center for Latin America Studies (CLAS) will present the film and facilitate a post-screening discussion; *Love in the Time of Cholera* (2007) on Thursday, January 8 at 6 p.m., Noah Liff Opera Center, Frist Foundation Room. Film at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy dinner and a discussion before the movie led by Joy Calico and John Hoomes. FREE - space is limited. Reserve by e-mailing clas@vanderbilt.edu; A course on the opera through Vanderbilt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on Friday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 14 from 3:30–5 p.m. in the Noah Liff Opera Center Studio, and Wednesday, January 21 at 7 PM in the James K. Polk Theater. The course on Catan's opera will be led by John Hoomes and guests. Registration required through vanderbilt.edu/olli/; *A Journey down the Amazon* on Thursday, January 15 at 9 a.m. in the Noah Liff Opera Center's Ragsdale Lobby. Explore the Amazon through this professional development workshop led by Richard Pace, Professor of Anthropology, MTSU, and John Hoomes. FREE. Reserve by e-mailing clas@vanderbilt.edu; *Butterflies of the Amazon* on Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Noah Liff Opera Center's Frist Foundation Board Room. Professor Andrew Brower of MTSU speaks about butterflies of the Amazon River Basin. Reservations required. Call 615.832.5242.

About Nashville Opera

Nashville Opera, Tennessee's largest professional opera company, is dedicated to creating legendary productions and programs. Among the most successful regional companies in the United States of America, Nashville Opera has presented three different world premiere operas since its inception in 1981. Main stage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 13,000 people annually. Nashville Opera's extensive education and outreach touring program reaches over 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. These projects are supported by grants from the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Judy and Noah Liff Foundation, the Nashville Opera Guild, HCA/TriStar, Bridgestone Americas, and many other corporate and individual supporters.

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