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Highlights from “Carmen” Close Arapahoe Philharmonic’s 60th Anniversary Season

*With the Colorado Chorale and soloists mezzo-soprano Jennifer DeDominici,
tenor Javier Gonzalez and baritone Steven Taylor*

Denver – The Arapahoe Philharmonic presents highlights from Georges Bizet’s opera *Carmen* for its final Diamond Jubilee Season concert on **Friday, May 9, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.** The Colorado Chorale will perform Bizet’s beloved choruses alongside some of opera’s most famous arias and ensembles sung by mezzo-soprano Jennifer DeDominici, tenor Javier Gonzalez and baritone Steven Taylor. Arapahoe Philharmonic Music Director and Conductor Devin Patrick Hughes leads these musical forces at Mission Hills Church, 620 SouthPark Drive, Littleton. Tickets are \$25 (adults), \$20 (seniors), and \$5 (students/children) and are available online at www.arapahoe-phil.org, by phone at 303-781-1892 or at the door.

Each Arapahoe Philharmonic concert also provides a Classic Children’s Corner at 7:15 p.m. in the lobby offering a casual introduction of classical music to the next generation of arts advocates.

The Colorado Chorale, directed by Dr. Frank Eychaner, is a premier choral organization reaching out through innovative and diverse programming, excellence of performance and eclectic, enriching experiences for its membership and audiences alike. The ensemble of 15-20 singers presents four concerts annually, as well as collaborations with local orchestras, bands, soloists and other choral groups. The Chorale has developed a program called “Music for Life” that encourages high school students to continue singing after they graduate.

Jennifer DeDominici, American lyric mezzo-soprano, is gathering impressive reviews for her work on some of our region's finest stages. For her portrayal of the title character in Bizet's *Carmen* with Opera Theatre of the Rockies (OTR), the *Colorado Springs Gazette* stated: “DeDominici was indeed as beautiful, fiery, and sexy a Carmen as the preshow buzz ...[she] has a sultry lower register and a smooth, silky tone

that can turn angry and shrill when the drama requires it. In 2014, DeDominici was the soloist for "An Elegant Evening" on behalf of the National Repertory Orchestra (NRO) in Breckenridge, CO; performed in *South Pacific* at the Lone Tree Arts Center; and Piedmont Opera's *South Pacific*. Upcoming engagements include "Baroque in the Garden" with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and *Gran Pianola Music* by John Adams; concerts with the NRO and Music in the Mountains this July; the role of Angharad in the premiere of *How Green Was My Valley*, a co-production of Central City Opera, the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and the Colorado Springs Conservatory; and Berlioz's beautiful *Les Nuits d'été* with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs.

Javier Gonzalez was recently described in the Albuquerque Journal by music critic and composer Daniel S. Crafts as "a young star on the rise" who is a "...bold arresting tenor... with a shining lyricism." Gonzalez has performed in concert and opera productions playing the roles of Javier in *Luisa Fernanda*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Canio in *I'Pagliacci*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Don José in Bizet's *Carmen*, Edgar in Puccini's *Edgar* and Roberto in Puccini's *Le Villi*. He has performed with world-renowned tenor Plácido Domingo on the Kennedy Center opera stage. In April 2010, Gonzalez sang the role of John the beloved apostle on the stage of Carnegie Hall in the world premiere of the newly acclaimed operatic tableau, *Oh My Son*, by young Spanish composer, Marcos Galvany. For ten years, he served as the assistant choral director of the Georgetown Presbyterian Chorale in Washington DC and has also been a guest choral and vocal clinician for the Vocal Arts Society of Washington. He recently completed his Master's degree in vocal performance and choral conducting at the University of New Mexico.

Currently serving as Dean of the School of Music at Colorado Christian University, baritone **Steven Taylor** is known to audiences throughout the Rocky Mountain region both for his beautiful, expressive singing, and his dramatic interpretations. Taylor is a graduate of the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. He has been a guest artist/faculty member at the Vocal Arts Symposium of Colorado College and a former member of the voice faculty at the University of Northern Colorado. His versatile singing career ranges from opera and oratorio to musical theatre, gospel and jazz. Appearing with major symphonies throughout the west, he has also been seen onstage in multiple productions with Central City Opera, Opera Fort Collins, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Boulder's Dinner Theatre, the Denver Brass, Aspen Theatre, Crested Butte Theatre, and sixteen seasons with Opera Colorado. Along with his singing career, Steven has received acclaim as a narrator, vocal instructor, clinician, and judge.

About the Arapahoe Philharmonic

Founded in 1953, the Arapahoe Philharmonic is among the longest established, continuously operating musical resources in Colorado. After thriving under just two conductors between 1953 and 2012, T. Gordon Parks and Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr., we celebrate our 60th anniversary season with an exciting new conductor, Devin Patrick Hughes. The orchestra's musicians are primarily volunteers playing for the love of music, with a core of compensated section principals who provide technical leadership and support the excellence of performance.

Concerts in our home of Mission Hills Church in Littleton feature repertoire spanning the centuries, from the great masters to composers of the current day. The Philharmonic is invested in future generations, presenting annual children's concerts, sponsoring outreach to schools, and presenting two collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Memorial Collegiate Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Collegiate Conducting Competition.

About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic in summer 2013. He had previously held conducting posts with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Denver Contemporary Chamber Players, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Denver Young Artists

Orchestra and Lamont Symphony Orchestra. He is also currently Music Director of the Boulder Symphony. Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy. More information may be found at www.arapahoe-phil.org.

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