

Meet Me at the UCA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
FALL 2009 STUDENT RECITAL SCHEDULE



The Magic Flute by W. A. Mozart

Directed by David Malis, Conducted by Wes Kenney

Friday, October 16, Saturday, October 17, Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2 p.m.

Griffin Concert Hall, UCA

\$10/CSU students, \$1/youth (ages 2 – 17), \$20/public

Colorado State's Opera Theatre will present four performances of The Magic Flute, an opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart which has enchanted young and old alike for over two centuries. The production is the CSU Opera Theatre directorial debut of CSU Opera Director and former Metropolitan Opera baritone, David Malis, and is conducted by CSU maestro, Wes Kenney.



Alexandra Diessner – playing the part of the Queen of the Night

Could you give us a little background information into your life, especially when and how you decided to become a performer? I grew up playing piano and continued playing in jazz band and vocal jazz groups in high school. I wanted to be an orthodontist, so naturally, I thought CSU was a wonderful place to get my chemistry degree, and continue a music education, however, being a chemistry major made it difficult to take music classes. After going to a symphony concert and seeing my husband on stage, I realized that's where I needed to be. Now, here I am after 2 and a half years of hard work, performing one of the greatest roles Mozart ever composed for a soprano. I never imagined I would be singing classical music at this level. There is something about being on stage with lights shining on your face, a gorgeous orchestra in the pit, and an audience listening to music that has been around for hundreds of years.

What is your favorite part about being in "The Magic Flute?" My favorite part is that I get to learn from my peers and directors. The directors here at CSU have a desire for their students to succeed. The show is absolutely beautiful. The music is Mozart at his finest. The show is full of drama, comedy, laughter, the battle of good and evil, heroes, villains, and of course love.

What is it like to perform one of the most difficult roles in the play? I started working on the Queen of the Night's arias last spring. The Queen of the Night is so difficult because you are stretching your limits as a vocalist. There are only certain voice types that are capable of singing this role. Why? Because the Queen hits high F's and maintains constant agility in the voice throughout the arias. I really love this role. She is such a great character, clever, charismatic, cunning and evil. It's fun to play the "bad guy" especially if you get to sing a famous aria to go along with it.

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