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UNC Students Perform with international Opera Stars in European Summer Opera Program

Denver native Randy White will join twenty-five voice students from the College of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Northern Colorado will be spending six weeks of summer break in Germany, France and Belgium as members of a professional European opera company.

White, who grew up in Lakewood and later was choral director at Golden High School, will be singing Zuniga from "Carmen" and Sciarione from "Tosca." This is his second summer participating in UNC's unique collaboration with Opera Classica Europa.

UNC students auditioned to participate in the program, which was arranged by UNC voice faculty William Wilson, in association with Opera Classica Europa and the International Opera School in Bad Schwalbach, Germany. Prior to his position at UNC, Wilson was a career opera singer in Germany and Switzerland.

The students will not only be learning and having master classes with great artists, they'll actually be performing with them. These are some of the world's best-known artists, performing the roles they're well known for today all over the world. UNC students will be featured in key roles in their performances with the Opera Classica Europe chorus and soloists including international opera stars such as Ernesto Grisales (Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin) Keith Ikaia-Purdy (Metropolitan Opera, Vienna Staatsoper), Sue Patchell (Metropolitan Opera), Paula Romano (Arena di Verona), Boiko Svetanov (Opera House Zurich), Ignacio Encinas (Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, Vienna Staatsoper), Marcello Lippi (Teatro alla Scala, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma), John Pierce (French National Opera, Vienna Staatsoper) and Yuri Batukov (Vienna Staatsoper).

Randy White, William Wilson and Dr. Sean Teets are preparing the students musically. Professor Brian Luedloff will be preparing the students scenically. Following two weeks of intensive on-campus preparations of chorus and comprimario parts to Bizet's "Carmen", Verdi's "Aida", Puccini's "Tosca," and Orff's "Carmina Burana" the group will fly to Germany on June 20, returning to the US on August 6.

The venues as “mostly open-air arrangements, such as courtyards of castles.” Their first performance, “Carmen,” will be in Versailles, France. The group will perform at an Open Air Theater on the Famous Loreley Plateau overlooking the Rhein river, Castle Hayn Burgfestspiele Dreieichenhain, Chateaux Veves, Belgium, Klosterruine Frauenalp near Karlsruhe and others. The group will perform Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana’ in the famous abbey church in Garmisch, Germany where the texts to the work originated.

Professor Wilson will be singing the roles of Amonasro in “Aida” Escamillo in “Carmen” and Sacristan in “Tosca”. They will be accompanied by the Frankfurt Symphony and the Opera Orchestra of Plovdiv and Sophia Bugaria. The students will perform their own concert of opera arias and ensembles in the historic Kurhaus in Bad Schwalbach, Germany accompanied by the Opera Orchestra of Plovdiv and Sophia Bulgaria on August 4th.

Performances will be open to the public in Europe. Travelers in the area interested in performance schedules should contact the UNC Arts Information Office at (970) 351-1921 for more information.

***Rehearsals are open to the media: June 9 through June 19
from 9am-noon and 1-3pm
Frasier Hall Room 204, on the UNC campus***

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