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NC OPERA RETURNS TO CARY WITH OPERA IN THE PINES IN MAY

RALEIGH, N.C. – **North Carolina Opera** will be returning to the great outdoors this coming May with a program of ***Opera in the Pines***, presented at the picturesque Koka Booth Amphitheatre in Cary on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 8:00pm.

The final program of the 2014/15 North Carolina Opera season, ***Opera in the Pines*** returns to the line-up for a second year after it's successful and popular performance last Spring. Maestro Timothy Myers will lead the NC Opera Orchestra alongside featured singers (soloists D'Ana Lombard, soprano, Sarah Mesko, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Burton, tenor, and Tim Mix, baritone) for this engaging program of popular opera favorites.

"How wonderful to return to the beautiful Koka Booth Amphitheatre for an outdoor evening of great music! We have a wonderful lineup of soloists in a fantastic program of operatic favorites. We're especially excited this year to welcome the musicians of KidzNotes to perform with us" says Eric Mitchko, North Carolina Opera General Director.

The program will also include guest performances by **Kidznotes**, a Durham based nonprofit organization inspired by "El Sistema," the international movement of music for social change hailing from Venezuela. Kidznotes changes the life trajectory of underserved K-12 students through orchestral training. Kidznotes provides 10 hours of music instruction a week free of charge to participants in grades K-7. Launched in 2010, the program now serves more than 200 students in five Durham elementary and middle schools. The Raleigh initiative which began in the fall of the 2013, has welcomed 70 Raleigh students to the Kidznotes family. For more information, visit www.kidznotes.org.

Kidznotes Executive Director Katie Wyatt adds "This side-by-side performance with the NC Opera will be a game-changer for our kids. For many of them, our partnership with the NC Opera this year has introduced opera to our kids and families for the first time. Kidznotes families attended performances of "Approaching Ali" in Durham and Raleigh, and now will experience first-hand the power of storytelling put to music. "Carmen" is a masterpiece, and our kids will experience the thrill of the "Toreador" and Carmen's beautiful arias. We can't wait."

Tickets for ***Opera in the Pines*** are available now! Lawn seating is general admission at \$28 a ticket, with covered/reserved table seating available for \$40 a ticket. With FREE admission for children under 12 years of age, this will be a fun and casual evening the whole family can enjoy. *Performance is Rain or shine*. Tickets and more information can be found online at www.ncopera.org or by calling the North Carolina Opera offices at 919.792.3850.

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA OPERA

North Carolina Opera was formed in 2010 from the merger of The Opera Company of North Carolina and Capital Opera Raleigh. It is dedicated to presenting operatic performances at

the highest level throughout the Triangle. We also have a robust education program that brings opera to schools across Wake County and surrounding counties. North Carolina Opera brings international level artists to Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and also engages the best in local Triangle talent. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NorthCarolinaOpera or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ncopera for up to date information on events in the community, news and more.

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