

# *à la carte productions*

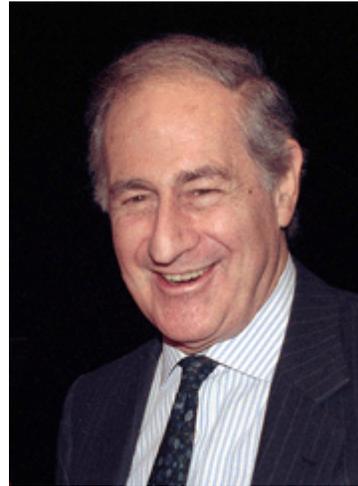
## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### *The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore!*

Historic benefit-collaboration honors one of  
America's greatest artistic visionaries



Colorado Springs will be the site of one of the nation's most impressive artistic presentations in this current year – and it's taking the efforts of five organizations to make this possible. Three of the organizations will be needed to bring Giancarlo Menotti's masterpiece *The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore* to life: the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**, **Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet** and the **Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble**. But the performance would not be possible without the efforts from its two presenters: **The Colorado Springs School** and the **Colorado College Summer Festival of the Arts** who are holding the event as a special benefit for the performing organizations on Sat., June 9 at 7:30 pm and Sun., June 10 at 3 pm in the Louisa Performing Arts Center on the campus of the Colorado Springs School, 21 Broadmoor Ave.

"The opportunity to be a part of a fully produced presentation of the "Unicorn" was all any of us could have dreamed of," said Thomas Wilson, music director of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs who will serve as conductor for the concert. "But when Menotti passed away this past Feb. at the age of 95, this project took on a whole other dimension. We're getting to pay homage to this great composer with a signature work that exemplifies who he was as a creative spirit."

The "Unicorn" was first performed by the New York City Ballet in 1956. To be properly presented, it requires virtuosic instrumentalists (principal players from the Chamber Orchestra) a small choir with stalwart vocalism and musical excellence (the Vocal Arts Ensemble) and dancers that can parlay classical ballet movement into a modern sensibility (Classical Youth Ballet faculty and company members). The story, an engaging parable of the abuse of power, the tyranny of fashion and the

neglect of the artist, is set in a fictional kingdom originally of Renaissance vintage. It is rarely performed with all three artistic disciplines.

“This is such a timeless story that there are scenarios that allow it to be placed in almost any era,” said Holly Marble, co-artistic director of Colorado’s Classical Youth Ballet and its parent organization – the **Ballet Society of Colorado Springs**. “So, we chose Victorian England, a little closer to home but just distant enough so that the ‘storybook’ aspect of Menotti’s tale remains unaltered.”

The program will also include performances by **the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs Wind Trio** (Alexander von Kreisler: *Three Pastels* and Malcolm Arnold: *Divertimento*) and the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble (Morten Lauridsen: *Madrigali: Six "Fire Songs" on Italian Renaissance Poems*).

“We are so excited to be able to bring our three groups together for the people of Southern Colorado,” said Deborah Teske, founder and artistic director of the Ensemble. “There is a great affinity between us all as we share a common vision and a commitment to excellence. Already, plans have been laid for future collaborations, an occurrence we’d like to see happen annually.”

The **Pikes Peak Arts Council** will act as the “umbrella” for all the participating organizations. Additional sponsors include KCME-FM, 88.7, the Clifford Creative Group, and the Colorado Springs Gazette. Tickets are \$25. VIP seating and a special pre-performance reception available for the Saturday night concert. For additional information or to purchase tickets, please call (719) 633-9373 or email [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com).

## CALENDAR

**Who:** Colorado’s Classical Youth Ballet (faculty and company members); Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble; and Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

**What:** Giancarlo Menotti’s *The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore* - presented as a benefit for the performing organizations by **The Colorado Springs School** and the **Colorado College Summer Festival of the Arts**.

**When and Where-** *Two performances:*

Saturday, June 9 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 10 at 3:00 pm

The Louisa Performing Arts Center, 21 Broadmoor Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80906 on the campus of The Colorado Springs School

**Tickets:** \$25 (VIP seating and a special pre-performance reception available for the Saturday night concert only) available by calling (719) 633-9373 or by email at [alacarteproductions@msn.com](mailto:alacarteproductions@msn.com) - Reservations accepted.



