

#### CSU STUDENT FEATURED IN OPERA FORT COLLINS PRODUCTION OF *LA BOHÈME*



Fort Collins Opera begins its 29th season with one of opera's most popular and beloved classics, Puccini's *La Bohème*. The production will take place on the Fort Collins Lincoln Center Main Stage on Friday, August 22, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 24, 2:00 p.m. Visit the Opera Fort Collins website to purchase 2-for-1 tickets: [www.operafortcollins.org](http://www.operafortcollins.org)

This timeless story has been retold throughout history, most recently with the hit musical *Rent*. So what makes this story so popular? "The characters in this story are ones that we can identify with, characters that we want to be like," says Artistic Director Todd Queen. "There is a part of all of us that would like to live a simple, bohemian life - spontaneous and carefree."

Singing in this quality, family friendly production, and as part of the OFC Apprentice Artists Program, are current CSU Master's of Music in Vocal Performance student Tracy Kaufman and 2008 Master's Graduate, Devon Shaff. Members of the Fort Collins Centennial Children's Choir are also in the production.

#### About the Opera Fort Collins Apprentice Program

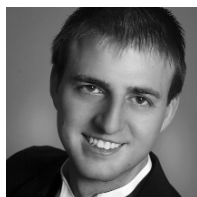
The roles of Musetta and Schaunard will be sung by OFC Apprentice Artists mezzo-soprano Tracy Kaufman and baritone Deven Shaff. Last year the Apprentice Artist program was established between OFC and CSU where students can earn a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at CSU while singing in the main stage productions and the Educational Engagement program with OFC. This is a highly competitive program, and is the only one like it in the state, and one of only a handful in the nation.



#### About Tracy Kaufman

Tracy Kaufman graduated magna cum laude from Boston University, where she attended on a vocal performance scholarship, with a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance and Music Education, and is a second year Master of Music student at Colorado State University.

Kaufman recently returned from a summer assignment with the Amato Opera in New Jersey where she played Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Last year Kaufman played the role of Meg Page in Colorado State Opera Theatre (CSOT) production of Verdi's *Falstaff* and sang the title role in the CSOT production of *The Rape of Lucretia*, was a guest soloist with the Edison Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey, and appeared with Opera Fort Collins as Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.



#### About Devon Shaff

A native of Idaho, Deven Shaff is a graduate of The College of Idaho where he received his Bachelor of Arts in vocal performance and secondary music education. Deven recently graduated with Master in Music at Colorado State University.

This spring Devon played Ford in *Falstaff* with Colorado State Opera Theater and Ping in *Turandot*. After receiving high praise for his internship with Central City Opera in 2007, he was Production Coordinator/Scheduler with during Central City Opera's 2008 summer festival. Previous roles include Junius in *Rape of Lucretia*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium*, Mr. Lindquist in *A Little Night Music*, St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Top in *The Tender Land*, Saint Peter in *Too Many Sopranos*, and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*.

In 2006, he won first place in the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition.

[Visit the CSU School of the Arts Website](http://www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com)

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