

Contact: Amanda Weston, Media Relations and Outreach Manager 719-477-4316; <u>aweston@csfineartscenter.org</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A musical odd-couple for the ages at the Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS (April 18, 2017) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) is thrilled to present Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins starring local favorite Sally Hybl and directed by Nathan Halvorson April 28-May 21.

For more than half a century, the name Florence Foster Jenkins has been guaranteed to produce explosions of derisive laughter. Not unreasonably so, as this wealthy society eccentric suffered under the delusion that she was a great coloratura soprano when she was in fact incapable of producing two consecutive notes in tune. Nevertheless, she received extraordinary fame, and the climax of her career was a single concert at Carnegie Hall in 1944. Famously, it sold out in two hours. *Souvenir*, by turn hilarious and poignant, tells her story.

"A wildly funny and surprisingly touching portrait." -Time Out NY

The cast includes Sally Hybl and Jerry McCauley II.

Sally Lewis Hybl is a lifelong resident of Colorado Springs and has been an active part of the music theatre community in Colorado Springs since childhood. Sally is a proud Cum Laude graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has appeared in productions for the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre Company, UCCS THEATREWORKS, The Colorado Festival of World Theatre, the Pikes Peak Center, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic – earning such honors as Best Actress (PPAC), Best Supporting Actress (Denver Post), Readers Choice Best Actress Bronze (The Gazette), and nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress (Theatre Colorado). Some of her most memorable FAC shows include *Putting it Together, Mary Poppins, Into the Woods*, and *Sweeney Todd*. A tireless advocate for the arts and winner of the first THEATREWORKS Community Art Award (CAW), Sally combines her Masters in Public Administration with her nonprofit leadership experience and serves on the Board of Directors for COPPeR, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, and UCCS THEATREWORKS.

Jerry McCauley II relocated to Colorado Springs from the San Francisco Bay Area in 2015. He grew up in musical theater in San Diego, has a degree in music, and had a 15 year career in church music and production. In the last year and a half, Jerry has been part of several productions at the FAC. He directed the music for: *Peter and the Starcatcher, Ivy and Bean, The Stinky Cheese Man,* and *Shrek: The Musical.* He acted in *9 to 5: The Musical* and *June B. Jones: The Musical.* In addition to his theatrical endeavors, Jerry is as a non-profit executive focused on messaging and product development.

Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins

When: April 28-May 21, 2017 | Fri, Sat at 7:30p and Sun at 2p Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St. Admission: \$20 (\$18 FAC members) **Something else:** Theatre patrons receive FREE admission to the FAC Museum on the day of ticketed performance.

Fine Arts Center

In 1919 the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) was established in the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose. After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof. And that's how the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) came to be. The FAC, built in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, professional theatre company and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious BAA, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Alliance of Museums, the FAC offers the best in visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, as a TCG member theatre company, and through arts education with the FAC's Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural treasure in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org

###