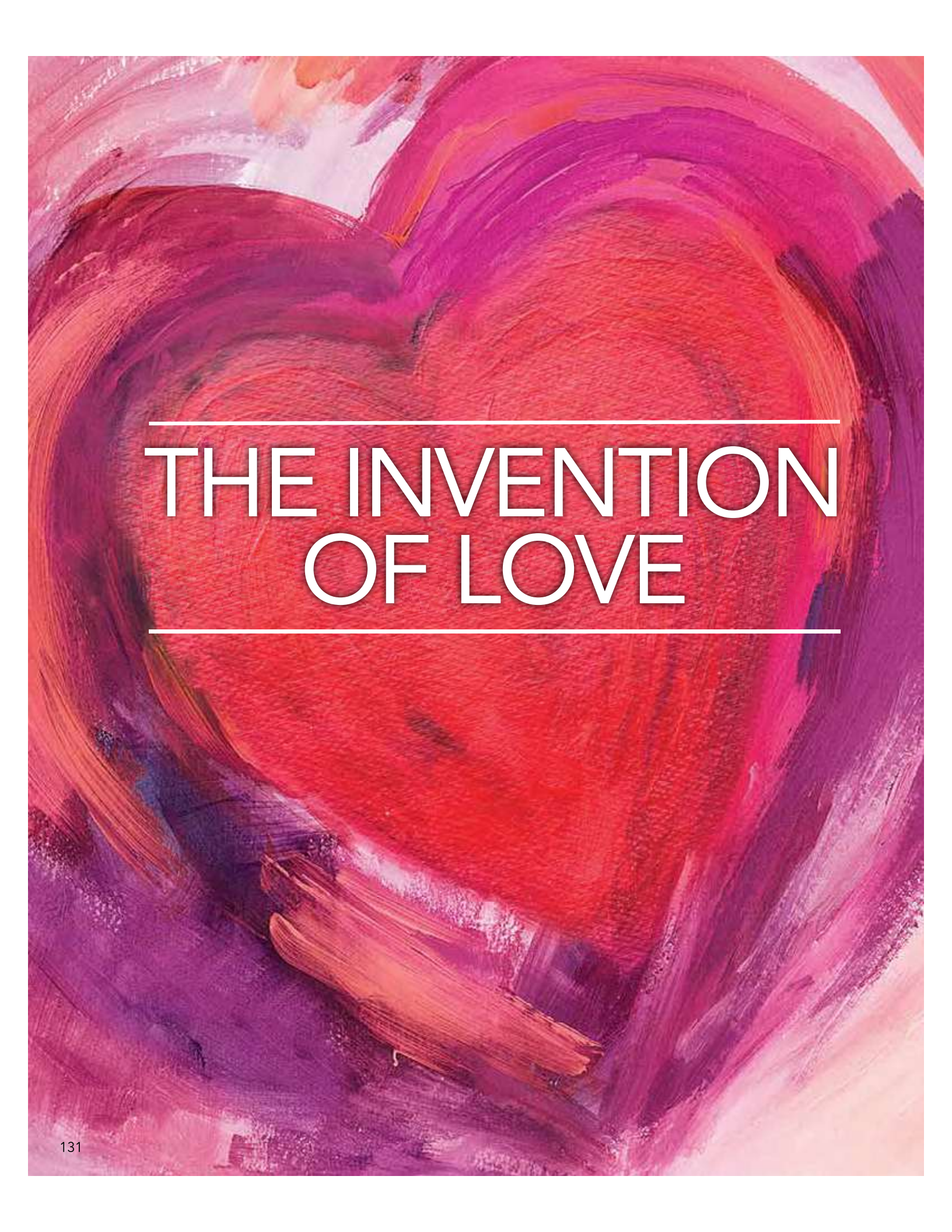


An abstract painting featuring a large, textured heart shape in the center. The heart is primarily red, with various shades of purple and magenta swirling around it. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, giving the artwork a sense of movement and emotion. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the heart shape being the focal point.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE

Sat.
APR. 3
at 7:30pm

Sun.
APR. 4
at 2:30pm

Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS

Chloé Dufresne *conductor*
Max Shulman *director*
Birgitta De Pree *actor*
Mark Rubald *actor*

Where does love come from, and what does it cost? Counterpoint closes its first season with a meditation on love across the ages — its origins, its trials, its joys. Through words, music, and a cast built for the occasion, we are taught how to fall in love again and again.

Music:

Camille Pepin *Vajrayana*

- I. Ratna (Earth)
- II. Vajra (Water)
- III. Padma (Fire)
- IV. Karma (Wind)

Jules Massenet *Thaïs Méditation*

Hector Berlioz *Romeo and Juliet: Love Scene*

Excerpts from:

"Symposium" **by Plato**

"Eurydice" **by Sarah Ruhl** (2003)

"Romeo and Juliet" **by William Shakespeare** (1597)

"Cyrano de Bergerac" **by Edmond Rostand** (adapted by Martin Crimp, 2019)

"Counting the Ways" **by Edward Albee** (1975)

"The Real Thing" **by Tom Stoppard** (1982)

"Stop all the Clocks" **by W.H. Auden** (1936)

Season presented by:



Series sponsored by:

**GARBEE
FAMILY**

Lodging provided by:



Sally Sharpe in honor of John R King III
Bee Vradenburg Fund at the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Foundation

John Carter and Virginia Snow Fund at the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Foundation

Christina Martinez



CONDUCTOR

Chloé Dufresne

See page 6 for biography

DIRECTOR

Max Shulman

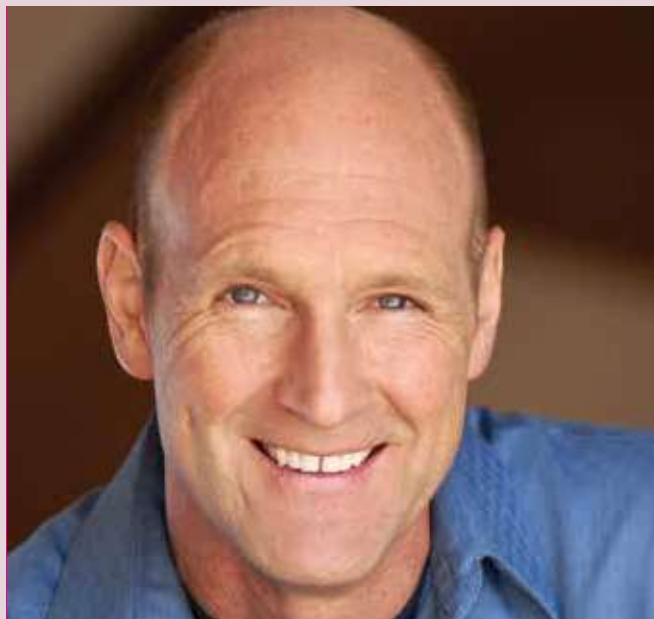
See page 125 for biography



ACTOR

Birgitta De Pree

Birgitta De Pree has spent the last four decades working as a theatre performer, director, and educator. She's served as co-Artistic Director of the Millibo Art Theatre since its founding in 2001 and is currently an assistant professor of Theatre at UCCS. Birgitta performs regularly throughout the region, most recently as Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Theatreworks, and in various iterations of her alter-ego, Babette Matdiva, at the Millibo. Developing new work is at the heart of her practice and last season she co-created *Myths, Mops, and Mischief* for young audiences and developed an original adaptation of *Macbeth* with her university students.



ACTOR

Mark Rubald

Mark Rubald has been seen at the Ent Center as Friar Laurence in Theatreworks's *Romeo And Juliet*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into The Woods*. He has also performed at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center as JD in *Hands On A Hardbody*, Walter Hobbs in *Elf*, General Waverly in *White Christmas*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, Sergeant Toomey in *Biloxi Blues*, also *Cinderella*, *Working* and *Vera Stark*. Mark worked for many seasons and dozens of shows at the Denver Center Theatre Company, including Bob Cratchit in *Christmas Carol*, Gabe in *Dinner With Friends*, both Dromios in *Comedy Of Errors*, Truffaldino in *Servant Of Two Masters*, Valene in *Lonesome West*. Mark has also worked at The Old Globe in San Diego (*Taming Of The Shrew*), Central City Opera (*West Side Story*), SilCo in Silverthorne (*Rock Of Ages* and *Mama Mia*), Off Center Theatre in Jackson Hole (*Annapurna*), Arvada Center (over 40 shows), Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, Lone Tree Arts Center, Theatre Aspen and the Snowmass Repertory Theatre. He has numerous film and commercial credits including two movies shot in Colorado Springs, *The Incident* with Walter Mathau and *The Engagement Plot*.

A Note from Max

Nary a story from antiquity to today can eschew the subject of the human heart and its leanings. This Counterpoint performance explores the many dimensions of love as considered by some of the giants of music and literature. From the thrill of first love to the pain of heartbreak, *The Invention of Love* paints a tapestry of the life of this crazy little thing called love. Audiences will be treated to some of the greatest love stories, poetry, and letters from lovers past and present.



Chloé Dufresne

Music Director

"Chloé Dufresne endeared herself with a rare combination of humility and authority... Chloé took control of the piece, telling its story, picking at its colours, literally 'conducting' its magic."

- Andrew Mellor, Gramophone.

With her clear technique, calm authority and imaginative palette, Chloé Dufresne has made her mark as a conductor only a few years since graduating from the Sibelius Academy. In 2025, she was appointed Music Director of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and serves as Associate Artist of the Orchestre National de Bretagne and Artistic Director of Orchestre Ostinato.

A background in singing and choral conducting has led Dufresne naturally to opera, and in the 2024–25 season she conducted *Carmen* at Theater Magdeburg, *Orphée aux enfers* with Opéra national du Capitole de Toulouse, *L'Elisir d'amore* with Opéra national de Lorraine, and a new production of Leonard Evers' *Humanoid* at Semperoper Dresden. Earlier productions include *Don Giovanni*, *Norma*, *Albert Herring* and Offenbach's *Pomme d'Api* for Opéra Rouen, Opéra de Toulon, Opéra de Nice and Opéra National de Lorraine, as well as a Bayreuth production of Wagner's *The Ring for children* at the Helsinki Festival. Alongside her commitments in Colorado, this season Dufresne conducts Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz and Kuopio Symphony Orchestra.

In France, she returns to Orchestre National de Bretagne, Opéra Grand Avignon (with Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*) and Opéra national de Paris for Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*. As well as specializing in core repertoire by composers such as Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Dvořák and Beethoven, Dufresne is a strong advocate for new music and won a prize for her interpretation of music by Camille Pepin at the Besançon Conducting Competition.

Dufresne studied viola, singing and choral conducting before completing her Masters in conducting from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki in 2020, where her teachers included Atso Almila, Sakari Oramo and Alain Altinoglu. She was a Conducting Fellow at the 2022 Lucerne Festival and a Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.