

SEATTLE OPERA

2014/15 ANNUAL FUND **HOLIDAY REPORT**





Happy Holidays!

It's the season of sharing and gratitude. **And I'm grateful for you.**

Right now there are many worthy causes vying for your generosity, and you choose opera.

Your support for Seattle Opera brings worldclass singers like Mary Elizabeth Williams to our stage. You bring timeless dramas like *Tosca* to our city. And you connect children who've never seen a live performance with opera for the first time.

You are one of our best supporters. Thank you for making a difference for opera, a cause we share. See you soon at *Tosca*.

Warm wishes for the holidays,

Aidan Lang
General Director

Why do you support Seattle Opera?



Tim and Kari Dreyling at last season's Opening Night Celebration. That season ended with Tim's all-time favorite opera, *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

"I just flat out love the music, and I love the productions, and I love the stories. Opera is the background music of my life—it's in my work, it's in my car. The quality of the people and the productions here just begged for me to support them. I can't imagine not supporting Seattle Opera."

-Tim Dreyling, 17 year donor and subscriber

Your Support Creates *Tosca's* World of Passion

Rehearsals for *Tosca* have begun, and your gifts are hard at work! Below is an example of what a To Do List for our Costume and Prop Shops might look like right now. Beneath each item are your donations: you are helping to build, sew, and check off every task! It's easy to see how gifts of every size play a crucial role in producing *Tosca*.



Youth Opera Chorus Promising Young Talent



Did you know that your support brings 16 Youth Opera Chorus members to our stage for *Tosca*? We caught up with one of them, Ava, to hear how she's looking forward to the experience:

Ava Messinger, age 11

Previous Seattle Opera Programs: Opera Camp (2012 and 2013), *La Bohème* (2013), *Das Rheingold* (2013).

Why do you love to sing? I like to sing because I can express my feelings. I can just melt into the music, and I come out feeling a lot better than when I went in.

What's the most fun part of being in the Youth Opera Chorus? Working with the other kids, playing, and forming the deep connection of friendship you form when spending so much time together.

What does it feel like when you're onstage? It's exhilarating to see the faces in the audience, and to see them watching the whole scene. That I'm part of it is unbelievable!

What are you looking forward to about singing in *Tosca*? I'm really looking forward to learning new music, and working with the important people behind the scenes like the director and maestro. I also can't wait to meet the other kids in the chorus!

The Journey We Go On Together

Your Tosca, Mary Elizabeth Williams

How did you become an opera singer?

I came from a family who expressed themselves musically by singing. Singing was always something I did—at school, at church, at home—but for a long time I didn't think it was something I could make a living doing. **I just kept studying it and doing it because I loved it**, and doors kept opening.

What does it feel like to come back to sing at Seattle Opera?

Mostly, it feels humbling. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to be a young artist at such a wonderful theater, and then to have been given such fantastic main stage roles in *Il Trovatore* and *Porgy and Bess* as an emerging professional. Now, I am thrilled that my story with Seattle Opera is continuing into the prime of my career. **Seattle Opera has been with me at every stage.**

What do you love about *Tosca*?

***Tosca* is one of my favorite operas** because it doesn't drag even for one second, and the music adds beauty and tension to the already excellent story line.

What does it feel like to sing onstage?

I once said to my mother that the stage was the place I felt the most comfortable in the world. Although I may be playing a part and telling a story that is not mine, the emotions I transmit ARE very much mine, as is the voice I use to do it. **The journey we go on together, as players and audience, is also real.** So, I guess there is a great deal of truth in this make-believe world we create. When I am onstage, I feel like I am where I am supposed to be.



Thanks to your support, Mary Elizabeth Williams returns in January to sing Floria Tosca.

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Opera Ball

PATRICIA CAVES AND MILKANA BRACE, CO-CHAIRS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015
POST-PERFORMANCE

You won't want to miss this evening of dancing and dinner backstage with the fabulous artists of *Tosca*.

Individual tickets: \$250 and \$500
Tables of 10: \$2,500 and \$5,000

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