

# SEATTLE OPERA

SEATTLE OPERA ANNUAL FUND **IMPACT REPORT 2014/15**



Dear Friends,

As we move from winter into spring, 2015 continues to bring us amazing performances on the stage. *Tosca* was an emotional thrill, *Semele* an ethereal flight of fancy, and the upcoming *Ariadne auf Naxos* will be an absolute delight for the close of our 2014/15 Season!

Subscriptions for our 2015/16 Season are available now, and I invite you to join me on this operatic adventure. With six operas available to explore, including a world premiere, there is much to be excited about at Seattle Opera.

Of course, none of these productions would be possible without your steadfast support and enthusiasm. Donors like you help bring to life the many stories that are brought to the McCaw Hall stage. I am grateful for you, and the rest of our donor family, for investing in the arts so that we might share it with our great community.

See you at McCaw Hall!

Sincerely,

  
Aidan Lang  
General Director



Front Cover: *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Seattle Opera © 2003 Rozarii Lynch. Left: © Brandon Patoc 2013

## Donor Spotlight: Building Artistic Relationships



© Brandon Patoc 2014

It's a thrill to get up close and personal with the artistic stars at Seattle Opera. **Dick and Mary Beth Gemperle** do just that by sponsoring mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey—a sponsorship they've renewed over the past five years. The Gemperles enjoy an insider's look into Kate's behind-the-scenes work as a singer, and they've become friends as the seasons continue. Kate has performed several starring roles at Seattle Opera since her 2010 debut in *Amelia*, and you'll see her again this May when she performs the role of The Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

This sponsorship goes a long way to directly support the fine artistic talent we all enjoy on stage. Thank you, Dick and Mary Beth, for your caring relationship with Kate and with Seattle Opera! Visit [seattleopera.org/sponsorship](http://seattleopera.org/sponsorship) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

"Our artist sponsorship has given us an enriched perspective of the passion and dedication our singers bring to the stage. We look forward to seeing Kate again and witnessing how her brilliant career continues to grow!"

— Dick and Mary Beth Gemperle



# Captivating the Community!

## Opera Connects with Frost Fest

The afternoon of Saturday, January 24 was a noteworthy occasion—Seattle Opera’s first-ever **Frost Fest!** This community event brought over **400 children and adults** to the Cornish Playhouse for an afternoon of winter cheer. The delightful collection of performers included Seattle Opera’s Youth Opera Chorus, Teen Opera Players, and a host of Seattle Opera’s professional singers. Plus, pre-concert activities allowed children to explore the world of costuming, percussion instruments, and onstage snow effects.

Thanks to your gifts, Frost Fest was such a **big success** (with standing room only crowds) that you’ll see it again next season. You help Seattle Opera make a growing impact on our community—thank you!



Frost Fest © Jonathan Vanderweit 2015



© Seattle Opera

## Engaging through Dress Rehearsals

Seattle Opera dress rehearsals are open to donors, volunteers, as well as students. **Thanks to your support**, 30 different school groups attended *Tosca* dress rehearsals on January 7 & 8. With newly-arranged seating areas, this incredible opportunity allowed students to sit closer to the stage action on the main floor.

Sharing these behind-the-scenes experiences brings audiences closer to the opera AND closer to each other. THANK YOU for making such an impact for our young audiences!

## Tosca Dress Rehearsal Fast Facts:

- 30 30 school groups (middle school through college)
- 64 Up to 64 miles traveled to attend (from Olympia High School!)
- 200 200 students attended the free opera preview
- 1,246 1,246 total students in the house

*“My students and I just wanted to let you know how much we really enjoyed the change in seats this last performance. Students talked about how the closer seats allowed them to engage more emotionally with the performance.”*

– M.G., Northshore School District

*“Since 1992 I have brought students to Seattle Opera productions.... They have consistently enjoyed these performances and will go on to their adult lives with a love for opera.”*

– P.G., University Prep Academy



# Looking Forward to *Ariadne auf Naxos* (May 2-16)



Sarah Coburn © Dario Acosta



Kate Lindsey © Dario Acosta

What a fun production to close Seattle Opera's 2014/15 season! This opera-within-an-opera provides a satirical look behind the scenes as a serious artistic team shares their breakthrough production with a zany comedy troupe. The resulting mish-mash is a surprisingly well-rounded study of human relationships, not to mention a beautiful presentation of Richard Strauss's expressive musicality.

**Sarah Coburn** and **Kate Lindsey** return to Seattle Opera for this production as Zerbinetta and The Composer (respectively). Sarah just recently performed as the carefree and spunky Marie in *La fille du régiment* in 2013. Kate first debuted with Seattle Opera as the title role in the world premiere of *Amelia* in 2010.

It is **thanks to your support** that we continue to bring the greatest stars to our stage! Season after season, the warm welcome of Seattle's audience and donors attracts talent that we witness growing from exuberant young artists to distinguished international performers.

You have made *Ariadne auf Naxos* possible, so be sure to join us for the fun in May!

*Ariadne auf Naxos* © 2003 Rozarri Lynch



**S E A T T L E O P E R A**  
1020 JOHN STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98109-5319

**SAVE THE DATE:  
ENCORE SOCIETY LUNCHEON**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015  
11:00 AM | FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

VISIT **SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/ENCORE**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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