

SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**NOVEMBER
2016**

Donor Impact Report



THANK YOU

for your generosity in supporting the growth of our Education and Community Engagement programs. Our region is in a period of remarkable growth, giving us new opportunities to serve our community. With such exponential expansion, our ability to reach new audiences is critical to fulfilling our mission of drawing our community together through opera with life-enhancing experiences.

Seattle Opera introduced a new phase for community engagement in 2010, starting in earnest with developing new youth projects. Just last year, Seattle Opera reached 30,000 young people and their families with school opera tours, family-focused concerts, interactive school residencies, camps, youth choruses, and workshops for teens. We are now ready to apply principles that proved effective for young audiences to our adult programs with projects specifically designed to provide access to opera for adults from all walks of life.

In November, we will implement community projects in partnership with our LGBTQ+ neighbors and advocacy groups. With the support of The Wallace Foundation, Annie Walters, and Pride Foundation, we are presenting five performances of *As One*, by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell, and Kimberly Reed. *As One* is a short chamber opera that features two singers and a string quartet to present a single protagonist's journey as a transgender woman as she learns to be true to herself.

The sense of connection that comes from *As One* and our many other Education and Community Engagement programs is thanks to you! We are excited to continue partnering with you, the Seattle Opera donor family, to make sure our region benefits from such wonderful experiences. If you haven't already, remember to make your calendar-end gifts before the December 31 deadline to continue your meaningful support. Call us at 206.389.7669 or visit seattleopera.org/give.

With much gratitude,

Barbara Lynne Jamison
Director of Education & Community Engagement

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: REVIEWS FROM A YOUNG ENTHUSIAST

The Roberts family is a fairly new addition to the Seattle Opera donor family. After recently moving to Bellevue from Beijing, China, where they lived for 13 years, David and his wife Alice have been swift in settling into the Puget Sound's welcoming arts community with their children Marco and Sophia.

14-year-old Marco is an avid opera lover as well as an aspiring pianist and composer. His passion for opera began with a 2012 performance of *Tosca* in Beijing. Since then, he and his "partner-in-crime" little sister have enjoyed opera all over the world as they travel with their parents to places like London, Munich, and Milan. Back at home, Marco has written several thoughtful reviews on our recent productions. Below is an excerpt from his recent review of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* from October:

What could be more fun, just days before Halloween, than attending an operatic interpretation of a gruesome Grimm's fairy tale? A dark forest, a cannibal witch, evil spells and a freakishly modern gingerbread house set the stage for Seattle Opera's performance. I was very impressed with this well-executed production. Seattle Opera not only captured the excitement of the story, but did so using creative modern sets and sparkling production techniques to enhance the experience for the audience. ...

The role [of Hansel] is challenging in the sense that it is played by a grown woman, singing in an adult voice, but acting the part of a little boy. Sarah Larsen successfully balanced these contradictions with strong, confident singing combined with skillful acting of the mannerisms of a little boy. I also have to congratulate the costume designer and make-up artist who made her appear totally boyish. ...

Overall, this was a wonderful production from Seattle Opera, and one of my favorites so far. I look forward to more in the future.

We at Seattle Opera are so pleased to inspire such wonderful enthusiasm from the youngest generation. Marco is not alone. Your support fuels the programs that continue to enrich young minds with the passion of opera! Thank you Marco, and everyone else who shares a love for this art form.





AS ONE: A NEW CHAMBER OPERA EXPERIENCE

“This beautiful, brave opera is about becoming whole—becoming true to one’s self. It is one woman’s journey to becoming her authentic self; a love story—an adventure—and finally, a celebration.”

—L. Zane Jones, Stage Director for *As One*

Seattle has never experienced opera in quite this way before. Seattle Opera’s new community engagement project, *As One*, is a chamber opera presented this month in the historic Washington Hall for a poignant, intimate storytelling experience. The production consists of two singers who portray a single protagonist, Hannah, as she finds her way toward self-understanding as a transgender woman.

Throughout the course of 15 songs, the audience will experience Hannah’s challenges growing up in a small town on the West coast, her quest for knowledge and understanding, and her discovery of the trans community. The opera embraces humor and heartbreaking realities within this personal narrative. It is also presented in the round so that the whole audience stays close to the performers on stage for a stronger connection.

Works like *As One* reflect Seattle Opera’s mission: By drawing our community together and by offering opera’s unique fusion of music and drama, we create life-enhancing experiences that speak deeply to people’s hearts and minds. It is also our commitment to create safe and welcoming spaces within the arts. Through *As One* and other future productions, we hope to inspire empathy, understanding, and unity.

You can look forward to future projects that will continue to reflect the diverse communities of the Pacific Northwest in terms of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and cultural/multicultural background. Seattle Opera is working to reduce barriers that have historically made this art form inaccessible to certain groups.

COMING UP

Beginning in January 2017, Seattle Opera will present a new school tour program for students in grades K-6. *Cinderella en España* is a kid-friendly, bilingual opera that explores the Cinderella tale from a fresh, modern-day perspective. It sets the action in the culturally vibrant coastal city of Barcelona, providing a lively backdrop to this deceptively simple story about the beauty of kindness, the power of compassion, and the inherent worth of unwavering character.

This fully staged and costumed production is a fun and enriching experience for schools, libraries, and community centers across Washington state. Learn more at seattleopera.org/tour.

These programs and so much more are brought to life thanks to your amazing support! With your help, Seattle Opera does more each season to connect, engage, and inspire our wonderful community.

SEATTLE OPERA. AT THE CENTER

SO MUCH MORE

Unlocking opera
for all.

Our lease for our administration and rehearsal spaces at 1020 John Street expires in exactly two years! We are grateful to the Fred Rogers family, whose building has housed our operations for more than two decades.

It is urgent that our project for Seattle Opera at the Center stay on schedule. We have more than 120 private and public donors to thank for contributing and supporting construction permitting requirements to keep us on track!

Seattle Opera at the Center will create an upgraded environment for world-class artistry with expanded, purpose-built rehearsal space, coaching rooms, and scenic and costume facilities. The new building will include:

- Two brand-new large rehearsal rooms and two coaching rooms for artists, students, and educators.
- Almost 17,000 square feet of shop space to create dazzling new set designs for performances.
- More than 25,000 square feet solely for storage of our vast collection of costumes and props.

As of November 1, we are at 60% to our private fundraising goal of \$28,000,000.

PROJECTED TIMELINE



Photo © Alan Alabastro

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Demolition is projected to begin at the start of 2017, and that is when our fundraising campaign will shift to the exciting community phase focusing on gifts of all levels. We are seeking volunteers to assist in getting the word out! If you are interested in giving your time to support this incredible project, please get in touch today. Contact Krina Turner, Capital Campaign Manager, at krina.turner@seattleopera.org or 206.676.5579.

Visit seattleopera.org/atthecenter for more info.

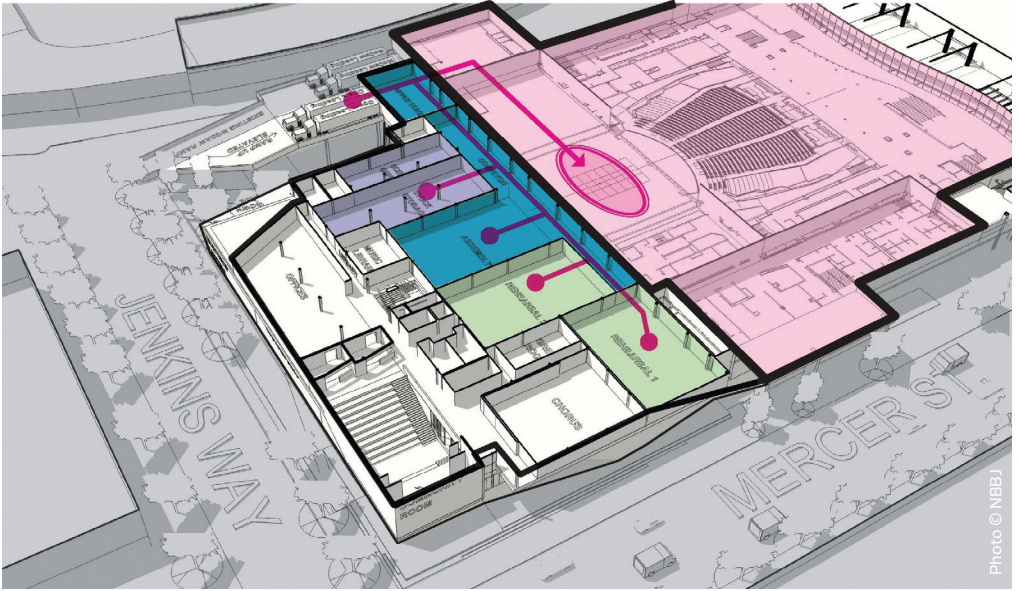


Photo © NBBJ

Above: Immediate proximity to our performance space at McCaw Hall means that, for the first time, we will be able to load in production materials (props, costumes, and set pieces), easily roll them from their shops to the rehearsal spaces, and ultimately transport them through a door that connects the new building to the stage level of McCaw Hall. Our performers will have more time rehearsing on full sized sets, which will inevitably enhance the artistic process and product.



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SAVE THE DATE:

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1020 JOHN STREET | SEATTLE, WA 98109

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SEATTLE OPERA GALA: BEYOND THE STAGE

with Zandra Rhodes

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017
FAIRMONT OLYMPIC HOTEL

RSVP by December 31 for early bird benefits!
Special discounts apply to patrons under 40.

SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/GALA