

# SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**FALL 2022**

Donor Impact Report

Photo © Jake Hanson



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



## doing good work!

I invite you to enjoy Seattle Opera's Fall 2022 Impact Report, where you'll see results of your collective generosity to the company and the community that surrounds us. Through your investment, we are debuting more internationally renowned artists, forging deeper and more meaningful partnerships, and supporting artists both locally and globally. Combined, gifts at every amount can do exceptionally good work!

Always deeply grateful,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina Scheppelmann".

Christina Scheppelmann  
General Director



## OPERA ON THE BIG SCREEN

Larger than life was the reaction to our outdoor screening of Seattle Opera's 2021 film production of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. Presented free to the community, the film was seen on a super-size screen at Seattle Center's Mural Amphitheater, not far from the Space Needle.



# LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Throughout the season many new artists and several familiar ones are making their way to the McCaw Hall stage. During their time in Seattle, they've expressed their impressions of the company as well as Seattle Opera audiences.



Conductor Giampaolo Bisanti (left) and stage director Stephen Lawless (right) discussing our production of *The Elixir of Love*.

The Seattle audience was enthusiastic beyond belief every night. People reacted emotionally as I had rarely witnessed. They were the real stars of this exceptional season opening.”

—Stephen Lawless, Stage Director, *The Elixir of Love*

A live show is a constant exchange of emotions between the performer and the audience, so being able to see such positive reactions made for thrilling shows.”

—Luca Pisoni, *Dulcamara*, *The Elixir of Love*

The audience was energetic, vocal, and expressive. Their enthusiasm left me eagerly anticipating the next show!”

—Morris Robinson, *King Marke*, *Tristan and Isolde*

Seattle Opera is one of my favorite places to work...From the top down, the positive energy throughout the company makes me want to do my best work and to come back often.”

—Ryan McKinny, *Kurwenal*, *Tristan and Isolde*

Every time is different, because in between my visits to Seattle I change, Seattle changes, and the opera changes. My relationship with Seattle Opera has always been collaborative and honest. Every time, and for every role, I come with what I have to give, and this company always manages to help me make it better. I think this time, debuting *Isolde* was my scariest assignment yet...but the welcome I feel and the genuine affection I am afforded here made everything possible. Seattle Opera gives me artistic wings.

—Mary Elizabeth Williams, *Isolde*, *Tristan and Isolde*

I was very much looking forward to coming back to Seattle. I love the city and the Pacific Northwest, and I have had the best memories about the company. Returning, my expectations were completely fulfilled. Like nine years ago when I was here to sing the role of Siegfried in the green *Ring*, Seattle Opera still has a very focused way of working, which I appreciate.”

—Stefan Vinke, *Tristan*, *Tristan and Isolde*



# OPERA LAUNCH PAD CREATION LAB 2022/23

Members of the 2022/23 Jane Lang Davis Creation Lab—twelve local, up-and-coming composers and librettists—are on the launch pad to create new operas. The newest class of young Washington State artists have formed creative teams to write 20-minute operas that will be performed in concert later this season. They are being mentored and coached by librettists Jerre Dye and Kelley Rourke and composers Damien Geter and Kamala Sankaram.

“This group of creators is very talented,” said Dennis Robinson Jr., Seattle Opera’s Director of Programs and Partnerships. “I’m looking forward to witnessing their journey as artists and experiencing the next generation of Seattle Opera Creation Lab productions.”

Creation Lab is made possible by the Jane Lang Davis Creation Fund, an endowed fund at Seattle Opera Foundation. Stay on the lookout for news on their progress and premiere concerts of their new works.

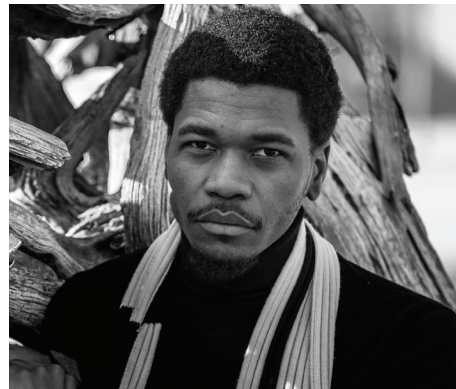
## 2022/23 PARTICIPANTS



Kassey Castro, Composer



Mieke Johanna Doezema, Composer



Mikhail Johnson, Composer



Kristin McCarthy, Librettist



Grace Oberhofer, Composer



Hannah Nikka Odsinada, Librettist



Mike Powers, Composer



Althea Rao, Librettist



Spencer Edgers, Composer



Elizabeth Howell, Librettist



Hannah Schoettmer, Librettist



Darby Sherwood, Librettist



# OPERA CENTER OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

The September 24th Open House was amazing! More than six hundred visitors toured the costume and prop shops; listened to a music demonstration with Sheila Silver, composer of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; heard a performance by Ragamala, a Hindustani music group; and took part in other activities.



*Ragamala, a Hindustani music group, demonstrated Indian musical styles that composer Sheila Silver incorporates in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.*



*Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell shared his thoughts about the importance of arts and culture in Seattle.*



*Visitors of all ages toured the costume shop. Some even got to try one on!*



# GLOBAL IMPACT

Your contribution to Seattle Opera supports artistic success right here in the Pacific Northwest and abroad. The money raised from last spring's "Unity: A Concert for Ukraine," our joint benefit concert with Pacific Northwest Ballet, is housing and providing rehearsal space and performing opportunities for these four outstanding Ukrainian artists now living in Poland. They are deeply grateful for your kindness.



Iryina Ushanova, Soprano



Eugene Lavrenchuk, Stage Director



Liliia Lashko, Soprano



Vitalii Lashko, Baritone

# LOCAL IMPACT

What's more, gifts made to our educational program are making a difference much closer to home. That's why we are really proud of sopranos **Madison Zantello** and **Hallie Schmidt**—both graduates of Teen Vocal Studio.



**Madison Zantello** has launched her college career as a scholarship recipient at Pacific Lutheran University, where she is studying vocal performance. She's earned top awards at the Washington State Music Educators Association and was named Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen for 2022. As part of the Miss America Organization, Madison will be performing her favorite opera pieces and promoting her social impact initiative "Choose Kindness First" across the state for the next year.



**Hallie Schmidt** has earned a vocal performance degree from Oklahoma City University and an artist diploma from William Jewell College. As a Gerdine Young Artist at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, she sang First Spirit and covered the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*. Most recently, Hallie performed Zerbinetta in Vashon Opera's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Next spring, she will tour the state singing in our School Opera Tour production of *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*.

congratulations  
madison & hallie!



# SUMMER CAMP OUT

Summer campers were enjoying themselves throughout the Opera Center for a week of singing, acting, and being kids. The youngest campers (ages 7–13) worked together to create their own original operas, which they performed for friends and family. They composed songs and designed and painted backdrops for their productions. During Teen Performance Workshop, high school-aged singers received individual voice lessons and learned, rehearsed, and performed fully staged scenes from the youth opera *Odyssey*. They also participated in workshops and masterclasses covering topics such as lyric diction, auditions, and social impact through the arts.





# LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

Through your gift to Seattle Opera we're investing in the community that surrounds us—building lasting partnerships that make the Pacific Northwest a vibrant place to live. At the same time, we're expanding the joy and reach of opera's outstanding music and dynamic stories. We're working hand-in-hand with senior living centers and social service agencies, schools, and many other community organizations. Here's a list of recent collaborators.

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ORQUESTA NORTHWEST

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PLYMOUTH HOUSING

RAGAMALA INDIAN  
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SEATTLE SYMPHONY

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

SEATTLE YOUTH  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SKYOPERA AT SKYLINE

SOUND HEALTH

THE DOWNTOWN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
GERMAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

YOUNG WOMEN EMPOWERED

VELOCITY DANCE CENTER

...AND MANY MORE



For many years, Classical KING FM 98.1 has been our partner. In addition to airing recordings of our mainstage productions, they have joined us in several community activities, such as our recent Opera Center Open House.



Being a good neighbor means offering a helping hand when needed. Working in partnership with the Refugee Women's Alliance, Refugee Artisan Initiative, and Jewish Family Service, your food donations during our run of Tristan and Isolde aided Afghan refugee families.



# SEATTLE OPERA.

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