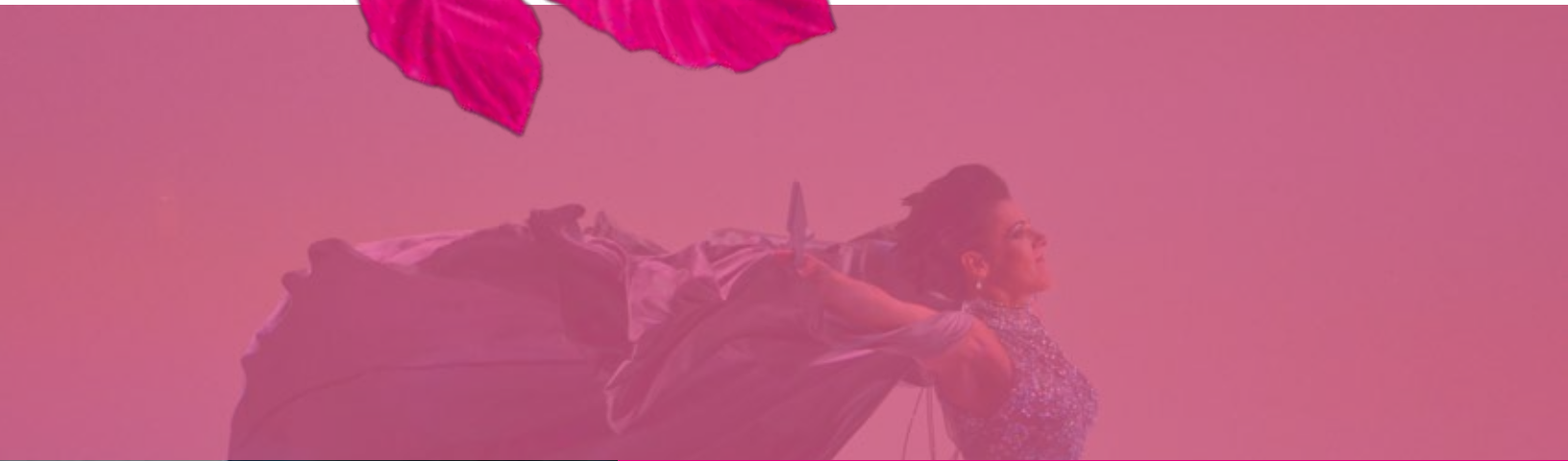




OPERA
Columbus



Annual Report

2015–2016



Dear Friends of Opera Columbus



Patty Morrison
President

Thank you for the incredible 2015–2016 season. Your continued support allowed us to produce incredible productions like *Armide*, sell out three shows of *La Bohème* and feature CSO Music Director Rossen Milanov's Opera Columbus debut in *La Traviata*. Our education and community outreach programs also had a fantastic season, reaching more than 12,000 students through Opera Goes to School and building opera audiences through Opera on the Edge. We are pleased to share our 2015–2016 Annual report with you, and hope you see how important you are to our success.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of Opera Columbus, we thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at the Opera this season!



Peggy Kriha Dye
Artistic Director

Sincerely,

Patty Morrison
President

Peggy Kriha Dye
Artistic Director

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Top: Lully's *Armide* performed with BalletMet 2 and Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, September 2015

Left: Cooper/Bing Vocal Competition, May 2016

Middle: Verdi's *La Traviata* performed with The Ohio State University School of Music and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, June 2016

Right: Puccini's *La Bohème* performed with the Columbus Symphony, March 2016

Opera Columbus Mission Statement

The mission of Opera Columbus is to enrich central Ohio by producing high quality opera, nurturing emerging talent, and cultivating exposure to opera in ways that feed the souls of our residents, bolster the cultural economy, and make central Ohio a great place to live, work and play.



2015-2016 Season

Lully's Armide

performed with BalletMet 2 and Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra in September 2015

Puccini's La Bohème

performed with the Columbus Symphony in March 2016

Verdi's La Traviata

performed with The Ohio State University School of Music and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in June 2016

OPERA on the Edge

featured abridged performances of *La Traviata* in October and November 2015

Opera Goes To School

featured *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Cinderella* and Improv Opera February-April 2016

Artistic Excellence & Emerging Artists

Our 2015-2016 mainstage season featured three original productions: Lully's *Armide*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, and Verdi's *La Traviata*. All were major successes, with rave reviews and strong ticket sales.

- *Armide* featured Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye in the title role, a couture-inspired production designed by visual artist Sarah Fairchild, choreography by BalletMet Artistic Director Edwaard Liang, dancers from BalletMet 2, and accompaniment by Cleveland's world-renowned Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra.
- Our modern production of *La Bohème*, set in post-Katrina New Orleans, sold out all three performances, including the dress rehearsal preview. One local opera lover described it as "one of those nights of magic, of legend, of intense energy to split another Grand Canyon through the earth."
- For *La Traviata*, we went beyond the usual definition of semi-staged opera with a production that did not have a set, but made creative use of furniture and props to give a full operatic experience. CSO Music Director Rossen Milanov made his Opera Columbus debut in *La Traviata*, conducting the Columbus Symphony Orchestra performing onstage.

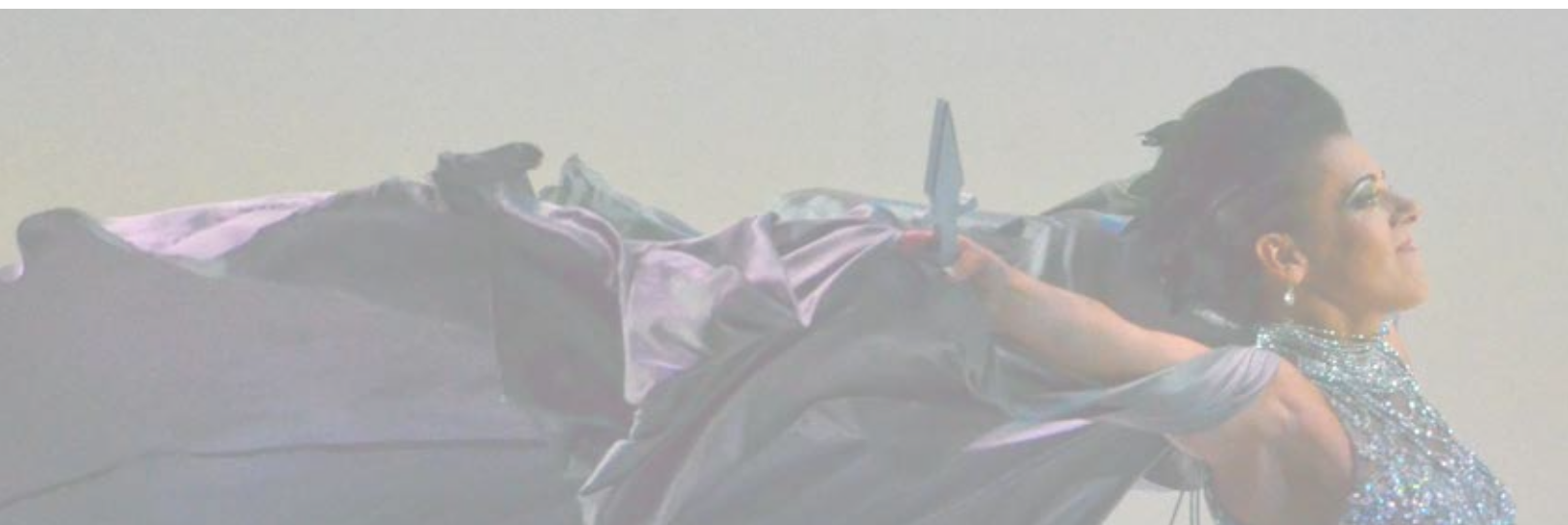


Cooper-Bing Competition, May 2016

A major objective of our organizational mission and artistic vision is supporting the development of emerging artists. Our new collaboration with The Juilliard School's ADOS program will take Opera Columbus' commitment to young artists to a new level, bringing world-class young artists to perform in our mainstage productions.

Students from The Ohio State University School of Music perform in our in-school education programs, as part of the OSU Vocal Music curriculum, and sing in the chorus for Opera Columbus' mainstage productions. This collaboration provides OSU students with the experience of performing with a professional opera company, critical to the career path for any aspiring opera artist.

Local artists perform nearly all roles in Opera on the Edge, sing in the chorus and comprimario roles in our productions. We are also proud to support emerging artists in other disciplines. For example, young dancers from BalletMet 2 performed in our 2015 production of *Armide*, and will return to perform in *Carmen* in 2017.



Armide, September 2015

Collaborations



Opera Columbus will begin an artistic collaboration with Juilliard's Artist Diploma in Opera Studies (ADOS) program in 2016–2017. Peggy Kriha Dye will observe ADOS artists' development, working closely with ADOS Director Stephen Wadsworth, and ADOS artists will perform in Opera Columbus productions.

Our ongoing partnership with OSU strengthens the education of student artists, providing them with professional rehearsal/performance experiences singing in our education programs and mainstage productions.



Above: The Columbus Symphony Orchestra accompanies most mainstage performances.

Collaborations in 2015–2016 included:

Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra (Cleveland): Performed in *Armide*

BalletMet: BalletMet2 dancers performed in *Armide*, with new choreography by Artistic Director Edwaard Liang; partnership to design and create costumes for mainstage productions

CATCO: Designed and built sets for mainstage productions

Columbus Children's Choir: Appeared as children's chorus in *La Bohème*

Columbus Metropolitan Libraries: Education & Community Programming partner

Columbus Symphony Orchestra: Accompanies most mainstage performances

The Ohio State University: Students performed as troupe for Opera Goes to School

The Refectory: Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *La Traviata*

Shadowbox Live: Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *La Traviata*



Armide, September 2015

Education & Community Programming



Above: Students performing under the direction of Opera Columbus

Opera Goes To School

In 2015–2016, our “Opera Goes to School” education programs offered 42 performances at 27 schools, libraries, and theatres, reaching 12,358 central Ohio K–12 students. Programs included two children’s operas, *Cinderella* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, and the popular Improv Opera, which uses a fast-paced, interactive format to introduce students to operatic voices, terminology, and story structure. Our children’s operas set engaging tales to operatic arias, teaching valuable life lessons such as the rewards for being a good person (*Cinderella*) and the importance of honesty, integrity, and respect for commitment (*Pirates*).



Opera on the Edge (OOTE)

continued successfully in its fourth season, with strong attendance for the 10 performances at Shadowbox Live’s Backstage Bistro, two sold-out performances at The Refectory Restaurant and Bistro, and well attended performances at the OSU Wexner Medical Center and the new hotel in the Short North, Le Meridien, The Joseph. We have seen that audiences introduced to opera through OOTE frequently return to experience our mainstage performances, resulting in a widely-observed transformation of Opera Columbus’ audience.

Opera Columbus Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

<i>June 30, 2016</i>		<i>2016</i>
Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments		\$171,334
Other Current Assets		\$310,862
Total Current Assets		\$482,196
Total Non-current Assets		\$506,781
TOTAL ASSETS		\$988,977
Total Liabilities		\$110,787
Unrestricted Net Assets		\$212,024
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		\$269,534
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		\$396,632
Net Assets		\$878,190
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$988,977

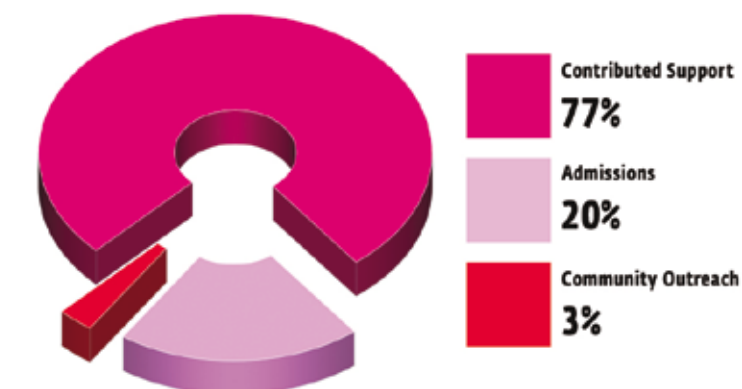
Statement of Operating Activities

<i>For the Year ended June 30, 2016</i>		<i>2016</i>
Revenue		
Contributed Revenue		\$926,541
Earned Revenue		\$285,291
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE		\$1,211,832
Expenses		
Productions		\$795,505
Fundraising and Special Events		\$166,376
Management and General		\$152,527
Education and Community Programs		\$89,480
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$1,203,888
Change in Operating Net Assets		\$7,944

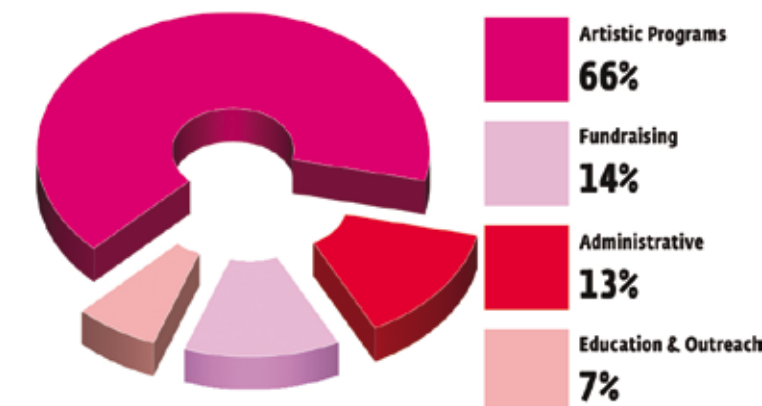
Financial Highlights

- The operating gain for the year ended June 30, 2016 was \$7,944. Unrestricted net assets increased from \$204,000 to \$212,000.
- Operating revenue increased \$99,000, or 9% to \$1,212,000 in Fiscal Year 2016. The major contributor to the revenue growth was a 36% improvement in ticket revenue.
- 7th consecutive year with a realized operating surplus.

Operating Revenue \$1,212,000



Operating Expenses \$1,204,000



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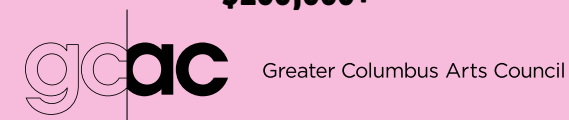
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Future of Opera Columbus

In the current and future seasons of Opera Columbus,

you will see the debut of our Juilliard artists in *Mission: Seraglio* and *Carmen*; an all-women creative team in *Carmen* and collaborations with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and BalletMet in *Twisted 2*.

Future seasons include new advances in opera production for sets, costumes, and lighting; and a continuation of our partnership with Juilliard and a brand new work commissioned in collaboration with ProMusica.



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Arline Dimitri
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