

opera columbus



Annual Report

2016–2017

Dear Friends of Opera Columbus

Thank you for being one of over 23,000 individuals who supported Opera Columbus as an audience member, program participant, volunteer, or contributor—or all of the above!—in the 2016–2017 season. Whether you attended one of our mainstage productions or a performance of Opera on the Edge, or know a child who participated in our Opera Goes to School education programs, you've seen first-hand the results of your incredible support of Opera Columbus: our focus on nurturing young talent and sharing the love of opera throughout central Ohio leads to exceptional performances, rave reviews and standing ovations, and young people's lives changed through enriching educational programming.

In 2016–2017, we hope you enjoyed our collaboration with BalletMet and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in *Twisted 2*. We hope you laughed alongside Belmonte in *Mission: Seraglio*—our first production featuring artists from our collaboration with Juilliard's ADOS program. And we hope you fell in love and cried along with Juilliard's Avery Amereau (cover photo) in *Carmen*.

Every exquisite moment and note of the 2016–2017 season was made possible by our generous donors, and we are so grateful for your support. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you this season as we continue to transform regional opera through innovative programming, unique collaborations, and a commitment to emerging talent.

Sincerely,



Patty Morrison

Patty Morrison
President



Peggy Kriha Dye

Peggy Kriha Dye
Artistic Director

(left) *Carmen*, May 2017



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 our cultural economy, and make central Ohio a great place to live, work and play.



Carmen, May 2017

2016–2017 Opera Season

Twisted 2

collaborated with BalletMet and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in September 2016

Mission: Seraglio

(Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*)
performed with the Columbus Symphony in January 2017

Bizet's Carmen

performed with the Columbus Symphony and BalletMet 2 in May 2017

The Cooper-Bing Competition

showcased and rewarded young operatic talent with cash prizes in May 2017

OPERA on the Edge

Opera on the Edge featured abridged performances of *La Bohème* in October and November 2016

Opera Goes to School

Opera Goes to School featured *Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Magic Flute* and the popular Improv Opera from February–April 2017



Artist Excellence & Emerging Artists

Carmen, May 2017

Our 2016–2017 mainstage season featured three original productions: *Twisted 2*, *Mission: Seraglio*, and Bizet's *Carmen*. All three enjoyed strong attendance and positive reviews.

Twisted 2, the sequel to the 2014 smash hit, *Twisted*, was the second collaboration between Columbus' flagship performance organizations—BalletMet, Opera Columbus and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. The collaboration also featured young artists from Momentum and the Columbus International Children's Choir.

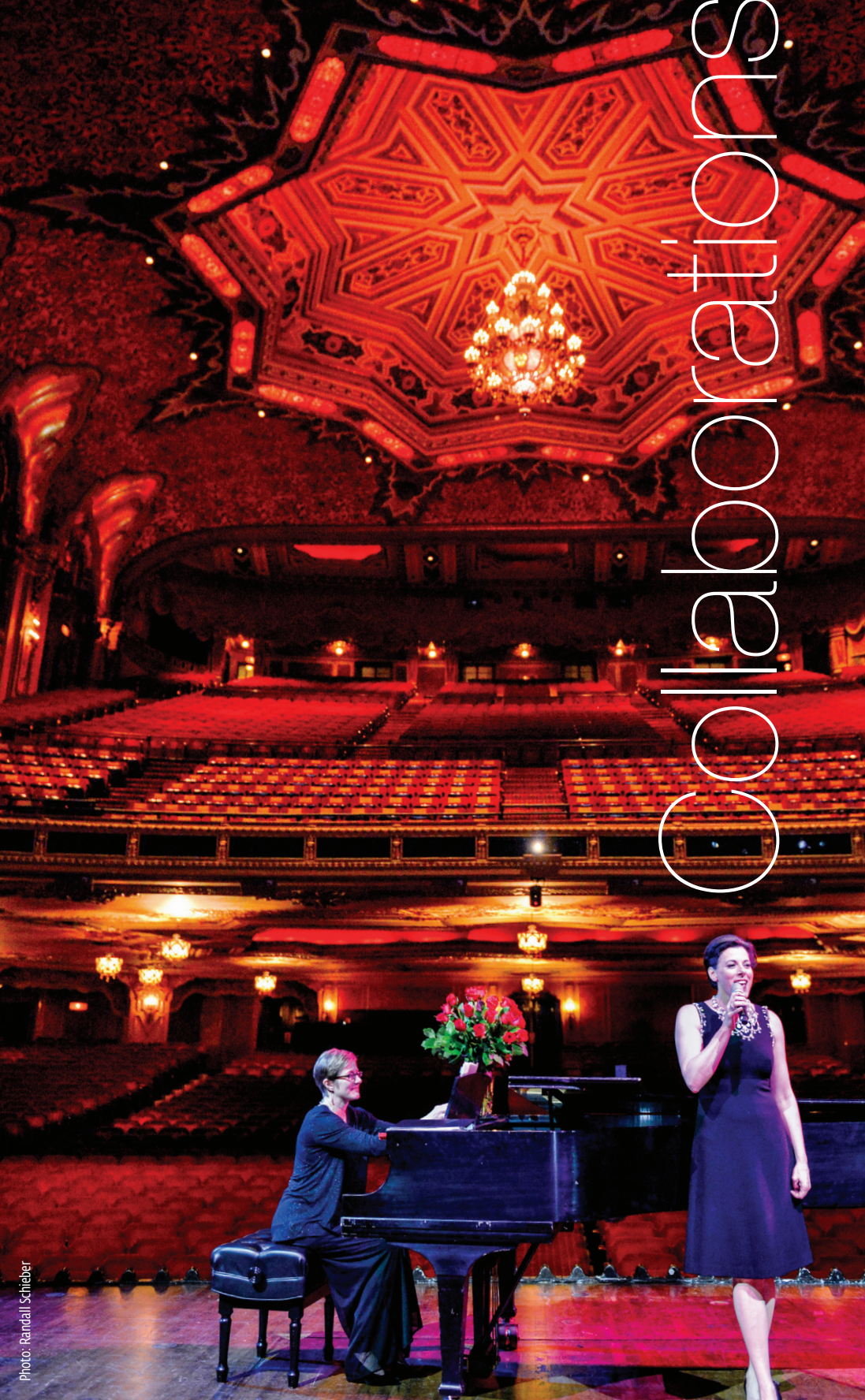
Mission: Seraglio, a reimagined version of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, delighted audiences with a James Bond-inspired comic spy theme. Miles Mykkanen, an artist from our partnership with Juilliard's Advanced Diploma in Opera Studies program, played the lead character of Belmonte.

Our all-women creative team production of *Carmen* presented a reduced version set during the early 20th century era of civil war. The titular character was played by another ADOS artist, Avery Amereau. It was praised by the *Columbus Dispatch*, stating that it "offers a feast for the senses: Sterling singing, masterful musicianship and deft direction work in concert to tell the story of the Spanish gypsy Carmen and her litany of lovers."

We launched our new collaboration with the Juilliard School's Advanced Diploma in Opera Studies (ADOS) program, which has drawn attention and praise throughout the American opera industry. Our collaboration with Juilliard is nurturing emerging artists of exceptional talent, gives local audiences direct access to some of the world's best upcoming opera talent, and is furthering Columbus' reputation as a catalyst of artistic excellence and creative innovation.

Students from The Ohio State University Opera & Lyric Theatre perform in our in-school education programs, as part of the OSU Vocal Music curriculum. This collaboration helps strengthen the education of student artists and provides them with performance experience, critical to the career path for any aspiring opera artist.

Local artists are cast in our Opera on the Edge productions, which provide audiences with new ways to enjoy opera. This program is modern, casual, one hour and in English. We are also proud to support emerging artists in other disciplines. Young dancers from Momentum performed in *Twisted 2* and *Mission: Seraglio* and young dancers from BalletMet 2 performed in *Carmen*.



collaborations



BalletMet

A key collaborator in *Twisted 2*; BalletMet 2 performed in *Carmen*; partnership to design and create costumes for mainstage productions

CATCO

Designed and built sets for mainstage productions

Columbus City Schools

Education and Community Programming partner

Columbus College of Art and Design

Education and Community Programming partner

Columbus International Children's Choir

Performed in *Twisted 2*

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Education and Community Programming partner

Columbus Symphony Orchestra

A key collaborator in *Twisted 2*; accompanies most mainstage performances

Juilliard School's Advanced Diploma in Opera Studies

Artists Miles Mykkanen and Avery Amereau performed as leads in *Mission: Seraglio* and *Carmen*, respectively

KIPP Columbus

Education and Community Programming partner

Le Meridien Joseph Hotel

Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge:
La Bohème

The McConnell Arts Center

Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge:
La Bohème

Momentum

Performed in *Twisted 2* and *Mission: Seraglio*

The Ohio State University

Students performed as troupe for Opera Goes to School; Education and Community Programming partner; Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *La Bohème*

The Refectory

Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge:
La Bohème

Shadowbox Live

Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge:
La Bohème

Education and Community Programming



55 performances
28 schools & libraries
12,747 students served

Opera Goes to School

In 2016-2017, our "Opera Goes to School" education programs offered 55 performances at 28 schools and libraries, reaching 12,747 central Ohio K-12 students. Programs included two children's operas, *Billy Goats Gruff* and a special adaptation of *The Magic Flute*, 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 facing challenges and learning to forgive (*The Magic Flute*) and dealing with bullies (*Billy Goats Gruff*).

Opera on the Edge (OOTE)

The sixth season of Opera on the Edge (OOTE) saw 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, reaching a younger, more diverse demographic.

Women in Arts

Leadership Luncheon

On Monday, May 1, Opera Columbus hosted a Women in Arts Leadership Luncheon in tandem with the all-women creative team for *Carmen*. The insightful panel consisted of conductor Kathleen Kelly, artistic director Peggy Kriha Dye, director Crystal Manich, and choreographer Susan Van Pelt Petry, led by moderator Lisa Courtice. The luncheon engaged new individual and corporate patrons with Opera Columbus and gave a deeper understanding of the process that went into creating *Carmen*.



Photo: Randall Schieber

The purpose of the Cooper-Bing Vocal Competition is to discover, recognize and encourage young operatic talent.

(left) 2017 Cooper-Bing Competition Winner
Kidon Choi, baritone

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2017

2017

Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$229,596
Other Current Assets	\$455,970
Total Current Assets	\$685,566
Total Non-current Assets	\$512,407
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,197,973
Total Liabilities	\$108,431
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$225,030
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$464,259
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$400,253
Net Assets	\$1,089,542
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,197,973

Statement of Operating Activities

For the Year ended June 30, 2017

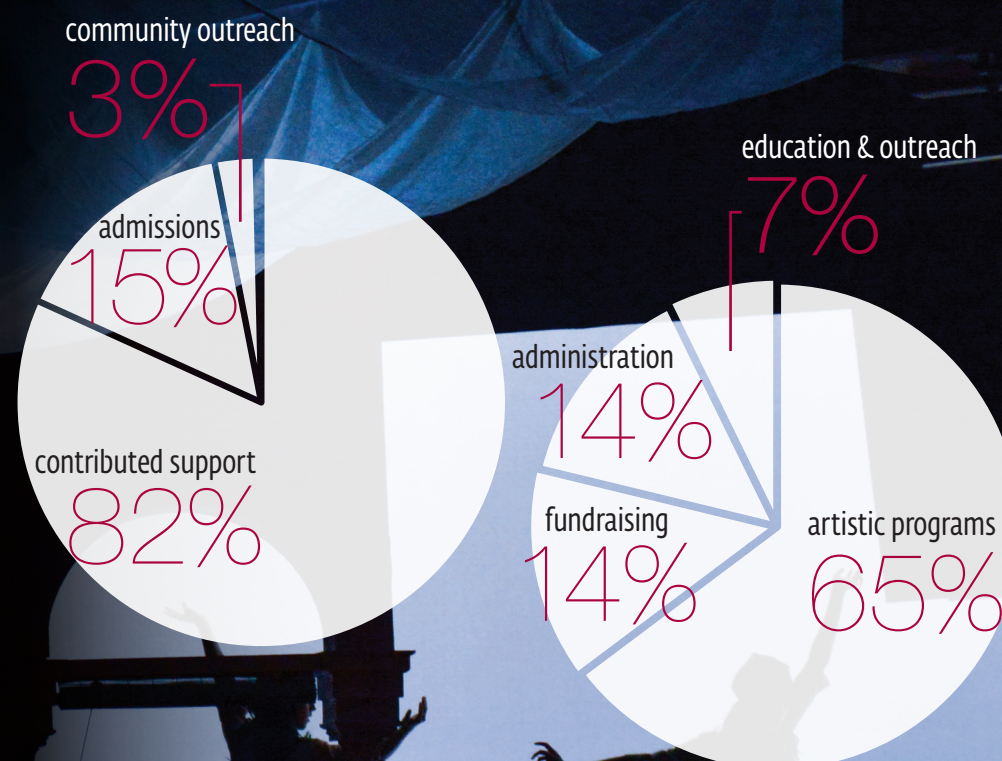
2017

Revenue	
Contributed Revenue	\$1,046,136
Earned Revenue	\$233,049
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,279,185
Expenses	
Productions	\$819,929
Education and Community Programs	\$91,898
Management and General	\$176,742
Fundraising & Special Events	\$177,610
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,266,179

Change in Operating Net Assets **\$13,006**

Operating Revenue

\$1,279,000



Operating Expenses

\$1,266,000

Financial Highlights

- The operating gain for the year ended June 30, 2017 was \$13,006. Unrestricted net assets increased from \$212,000 to \$225,000.
- Operating revenue increased \$67,000, or 6%, to \$1,279,000 in Fiscal Year 2017. The major contributor to the revenue growth was a 13% improvement in public support.
- Eighth consecutive year with a realized operating surplus

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2017 Opera Columbus Gala

Photo: Randall Schieber

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Please contact the Development Office at 614-221-5249 if an error has occurred in compiling this information.

\$100,000+



Greater Columbus Arts Council

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Photo: Randall Schieber

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In the current and future seasons of Opera Columbus, you will see the continuation of our partnership with Juilliard in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*; collaborations with the Columbus Symphony as well as The Ohio State University Marching Band Trumpet section and exotic animals of the Columbus Zoo in Verdi's *Aida*; and an innovative view of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* through collaborations with Toronto's Against the Grain Theatre and NYC's Company XIV. Future seasons will include new advances in opera production for sets, costumes and lighting; and a brand-new work commissioned in collaboration with ProMusica.

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Photo: Randall Schieber

Mission: Sergallo, January 2017



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