

Annual Report

2017-2018



Opera
Columbus



Dear Friends of Opera Columbus

The 2017-2018 season was filled with unforgettable moments and more than a bit of artistic risk. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we did creating it.

The season opened with a haunting production of Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, and continued with *Aida in Concert* in the Ohio Theatre, in collaboration with the Columbus Symphony, Columbus Zoo, and The OSU Marching Band. We closed the mainstage season with our most daring production to date: *Orphée et Eurydice*, in collaboration with Against the Grain Theatre and Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity. Orphée blended the avant garde with the Baroque, in a visionary interpretation that challenged traditional boundaries and expanded the possibilities for operatic production, integrating elements such as video projections, recorded music mixed with a live orchestra, aerial artistry, and live performance blended with a "virtual" chorus of global singers. This production went on to win five DORA awards in Toronto in June!

The final event of the 2017-2018 season was the annual **Cooper-Bing Competition** on May 6. This year's competition boasted a new format, with a top prize of \$10,000 that attracted incredibly vibrant and exciting young artists. The winner was mezzo-soprano Anne Marie Stanley, who sang a beautiful rendition of "All'afflitto è dolce il pianto" from Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* at the finals.

In March, we unveiled a new logo and slogan: **Make It Yours**. This new brand boldly states our commitment to make opera that is exciting, accessible, and relevant to everyone, whether you prefer jeans or black tie, love the grand opera classics or edgy modern works. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre very soon.

We accomplished so much this season, but it would be meaningless without you—our subscribers, donors and friends who cheer us on with your applause and your gifts, both of which enable us to transform the arts community in central Ohio and across the world.

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,



Patty Morrison
President



Peggy Kriha Dye
General & Artistic Director



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



Photo: Randall L. Schieber

2017-2018 Opera Season

The Turn of the Screw

This production was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. *The Turn of the Screw* featured Juilliard Artists in September 2017

Aida

Aida in Concert with the Columbus Symphony, the Columbus Zoo and The Ohio State Marching Band in February 2018

Orphée et Eurydice

This production was supported in part by awards from PNC Arts Alive and the Columbus Performing Arts Prize of The Columbus Foundation. *Orphée et Eurydice* was a unique collaboration with Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Alberta, Canada) and Against the Grain Theatre (Toronto) in April 2018

The Cooper-Bing Competition

Showcased and rewarded young operatic talent with a new top prize of \$10,000 in May 2018

Opera on the Edge

Opera on the Edge featured performances of *#UncleJohn* (Don Giovanni) in October and November 2017

Opera Goes to School

Opera Goes to School featured *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Concerts in the Classroom*, and the popular Improv Opera in February through April 2018

Artist Excellence &

We opened our season with Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, featuring Juilliard artists Felicia Moore, Miles Mykkanen, and Christine Taylor Price. Our season continued with a collaboration with the CSO, Columbus Zoo, and The Ohio State University Marching Band for *Aida* in Concert in the Ohio Theatre. Audiences applauded the music and the pageantry of Verdi's magnificent opera, and the animals – especially the penguins and the camel – were a huge hit.

We closed our season with our most daring production to date: *Orphée et Eurydice*, in collaboration with Against the Grain Theatre and Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity. *Orphée* blended the avant garde with the Baroque, in a visionary interpretation that celebrated the phenomenal artistry of the cast and creative team. This incredible production challenged traditional boundaries and expanded the possibilities for operatic production, integrating elements such as video projections, electric guitar and synthesizer mixed in with the CSO, aerial artistry, and live performance blended with a “virtual” chorus of global singers. This production went on to win five Dora Mavor Moore awards, including Best Production in June 2018.



Orphée et Eurydice, April 2018

c Emerging Artists

We continued 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.

The purpose of the Cooper-Bing Vocal Competition is to discover, recognize, and encourage young operatic talent, with a new top prize of \$10,000.

Students from The Ohio State University Opera Lyric Theatre perform in our Opera Goes to School Program and mainstage chorus, 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.

2017-2018 Collaborations





Partnership to design and create costumes for mainstage productions



A key collaborator for *Orphée et Eurydice*



Designed and built sets for mainstage productions



Education and Community Programming partner



Education and Community Programming partner



Education and Community Programming partner



A key collaborator for *Aida*; accompanied the mainstage performances of *The Turn of the Screw* and *Orphée et Eurydice*



Collaborator for *Aida*



Artists Felicia Moore, Miles Mykkanen, and Christine Taylor Price all performed in *The Turn of the Screw*



Education and Community Programming partner



Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *#UncleJohn*



Students performed as troupe for Opera Goes to School and chorus members in *Orphée et Eurydice*; Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *#UncleJohn*; Education and Community Programming partner



Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *#UncleJohn*



Hosted performances of Opera on the Edge: *#UncleJohn*

Education and Community Engagement



35 PERFORMANCES

36 SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES

13,367 STUDENTS SERVED

OPERA GOES TO SCHOOL

In 2017-2018, our “Opera Goes to School” education programs offered 35 performances at 36 schools and libraries, reaching 13,367 central Ohio K-12 students. Programs included two children’s operas, *Little Red’s Most Unusual Day*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*; Concerts in the Classroom; 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 bullying and acceptance of others.

OPERA ON THE EDGE

The seventh season of Opera on the Edge (OOTE) saw strong attendance for their five performances at Shadowbox Live’s Backstage Bistro, four 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.

NEW BRAND MESSAGE OF OPERA COLUMBUS

In March 2018, we unveiled a new logo and slogan for Opera Columbus: *Make It Yours*. This new brand boldly states our commitment to make opera that is exciting, accessible, and relevant to everyone, whether you prefer jeans or black tie, love the grand opera classics or edgy modern works, or sit in the front row or the upper balcony.

FUTURE OF OPERA COLUMBUS

The 2018-2019 mainstage season will include three productions in the Southern Theatre: Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (Sept. 28-30), featuring an all-women creative team, diverse casting, and a modern, politically conscious interpretation. *The Flood* (Feb. 8-10), a world premiere co-commissioned by Opera Columbus and ProMusica, composed by Korine Fujiwara with libretto by Stephen Wadsworth, exploring the impact of the 1913 Great Flood on three generations of a Columbus family. *Opera Swings Jazz* (Apr. 12-14), a concert collaboration with Jazz Arts Group, combining opera with jazz. Our season will finish with the Cooper-Bing Competition on May 5, attracting a new generation of opera talent to Columbus to compete for the top prize of \$10,000.



COOPER-BING COMPETITION

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

2018 Cooper-Bing Competition Winner
Anne Marie Stanley

FINANCE

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2018

2018

Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$185,363
Other Current Assets	\$489,927
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<i>\$675,290</i>
 <i>Total Non-current Assets</i>	 <i>\$512,324</i>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,187,614
 Total Liabilities	 \$203,951
 Unrestricted Net Assets	 \$231,532
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$350,535
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$401,596
Net Assets	\$983,663
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	 \$1,187,614

Statement of Operating Activities

For the Year ended June 30, 2018

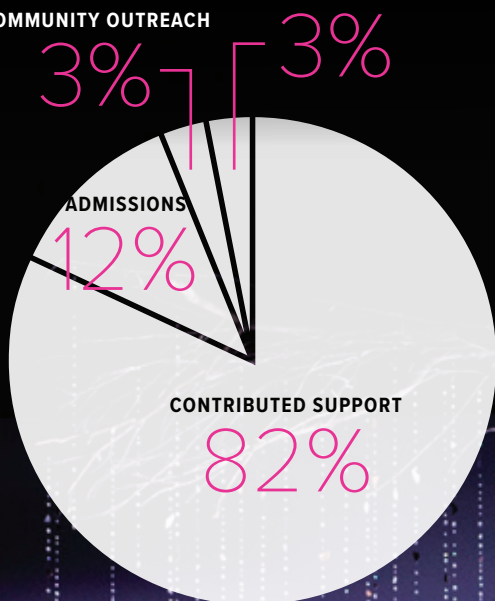
2018

Revenue	
Contributed Revenue	\$1,157,297
Earned Revenue	\$246,909
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,404,206
 Expenses	
Productions	\$880,043
Education and Community Programs	\$106,977
Management and General	\$243,956
Fundraising & Special Events	\$166,728
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,397,704
 Change in Operating Net Assets	 \$6,502

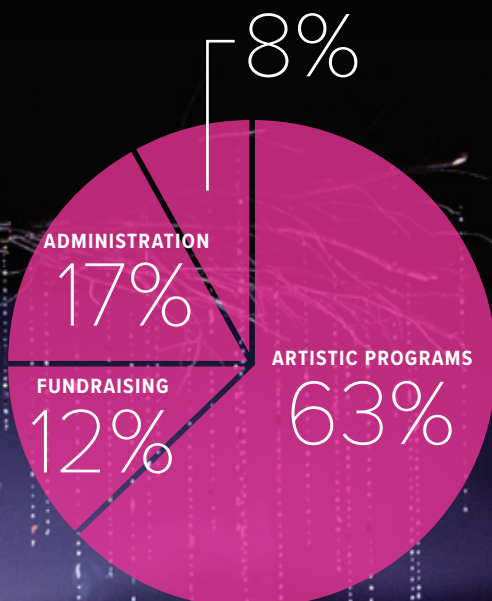
Operating Revenue

\$1,404,000

INVESTMENT & OTHER
COMMUNITY OUTREACH



EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Operating Expenses

\$1,398,000

Financial Highlights

The operating gain for the year ended June 30, 2018 was \$6,502. Unrestricted net assets increased from \$225,000 to \$231,000.

Operating revenue increased \$125,000, or 10%, to \$1,404,000 in Fiscal Year 2018. The major contributor to the revenue growth was a 11% improvement in public support.

Ninth consecutive year with a realized operating surplus.

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