



Opera Columbus

Annual Report

2018-2019

Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra were honored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council as the 2019 winner of the Columbus Makes Art Excellence Award for an organization with a budget of \$1 million for The Flood.



Dear Friends of Opera Columbus

The 2018-2019 season was incredible, and we could not have accomplished it without your support. From the first note of *Madama Butterfly* in September 2018 through our empowering walk with the Columbus Pride Parade in June 2019, Opera Columbus directly served 18,790 people this year through our mainstage productions, community and educational outreach programs, and partnerships across the city, and we reached an additional audience of nearly 1.9 million through online media, news coverage and participation in community festivals and events.

Our world premiere production, *The Flood*, was a labor of love for the staff, the board, and our partners at ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. But *The Flood* team wasn't confined to inside the theatre's doors; we worked with 10 different community organizations to ensure this exciting new opera, co-commissioned and co-produced with ProMusica, was a tremendous success. We are thrilled to report the production enjoyed nearly sold-out performances, rave reviews in local and national media, unprecedented media coverage throughout North America, and interest from other opera companies to produce *The Flood* in their future seasons.

Diversity. Equity. Inclusion. As a fan of Opera Columbus, you know that we produce a superior artistic experience utilizing the very best talent available to our company, and prioritize support for emerging artists. We are proud to be on the forefront of intentionally inclusive casting, supporting gender and racial equity in opera and the arts, and developing programming and initiatives that are designed to make OC inclusive throughout all aspects of our company, including our performances and audiences. This goes beyond presenting programs FOR diverse communities; we are instead working on creating and presenting art WITH diverse communities.

The 2019-2020 season is full of more of the things you love about Opera Columbus: whether it is classic operas like *The Barber of Seville*, seeing tomorrow's opera superstars in our Cooper Bing Competition, thought-provoking works like *As One* and *The Journey: Civil Rights*, or a new way to experience opera through *The Poppea Project*, we are confident you will find something to "make it yours." So grab a friend, a drink, and a seat, and join us for another remarkable season at Opera Columbus!

Sincerely,



Peggy Kriha Dye
General + Artistic Director



William Miller
President



Opera Columbus

MISSION, VISION + VALUES

In March 2019, the Opera Columbus Board of Trustees approved new mission, vision, and values statements that were developed after a long process of self-discovery, including interviews with artists, donors, community members, trustees, and staff.

Our mission informs everything we do – it's our north star – and our vision is the change we seek.

With your support, we engage in artistic collaborations locally, regionally, and nationally, which enhance our productions, explore new ideas and perspectives, and help us to reach more people, in fulfillment of our mission and vision. With our productions and programs, we are breaking down boundaries and creating art that is inclusive of all voices in our community.

MISSION

To advance the experience and art of opera.

VISION

For opera to touch many lives.

VALUES

As we begin our 2019-2020 season, Opera Columbus will be using the following guideposts to ensure everything we do embraces our company's values, which include:

+ Cultural Relevance

We create productions and programs that reflect the communities of today.

+ Artistic Innovation

We envision what could be, often through a collaborative process.

+ Cultivating Voices

We welcome, nurture, and elevate talent in all its forms.

+ Opening Minds

We accept the responsibility to educate and inspire all generations.

+ Intentional Leadership

We fearlessly lead within the field and in our community.

2018-2019 Season Review

2018-2019 was a landmark season for Opera Columbus, including our first new work in nearly 20 years, new community outreach programs, and robust interest in our annual vocal competition.

Madama Butterfly

SEPTEMBER 2018

An all-women creative team brought a fresh vision to Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* in a modern, tradition-breaking interpretation of this beloved work.

The Voice of Freedom

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2018

The Voice of Freedom introduced audiences to the operatic art form and celebrated African-American cultural history by highlighting spirituals, gospel, and works from the Harlem Renaissance. This free production shared the African-American experience with audiences of all ages, races, and religions in libraries, restaurants, schools, community centers, and nursing homes.

The Journey

JANUARY 2019

A brand-new production that celebrated music inspired by African-American culture, spanning more than 200 years of history and highlighting gospel, spirituals, African drums, and the Harlem Renaissance.

The Flood

FEBRUARY 2019

World premiere! Co-commissioned by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and composed by Korine Fujiwara with a libretto by Stephen Wadsworth, *The Flood* tells a story of human connection through loss and shared tragedy, centered around the devastation of Columbus' Franklinton neighborhood in the Great Flood of 1913.

Opera Goes to School

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2019

This traveling educational program featured *The Ugly Duckling*, and reached 7,155 K-12 students in 19 schools and libraries.

Opera Swings Jazz

APRIL 2019

This concert, in collaboration with Jazz Arts Group, combined the incredible sounds of opera with jazz and featured incredible dance numbers from Columbus Northwest Fred Astaire Dance Studio.

The Cooper-Bing Competition

MAY 2019

This international vocal competition features a prize of \$10,000 and focuses on the talent of the next generation of performers. This year's winner was mezzo-soprano Lindsay Kate Brown.

Offstage

Photo: Rick Buchanan Photography



Opera Gala, March 2019



OPERA GALA

Each year, Opera Columbus hosts a fundraising gala to celebrate our company with our wonderful friends and fans. In recent years our gala has focused on the spectacle of opera, and this year was no different. As we unveiled our 2019-2020 season, the evening's entertainment included a runway show coordinated by Gerardo Encinas and Fashion Week Columbus and a stunning performance from Juilliard ADOS artist Alex Rosen. (Pssst, this season's gala is on March 12, 2020—mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss this one.)



Educational Programming, February–April 2019

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

In 2018-2019, our “Opera Goes to School” education programs offered 30 performances at 19 schools and libraries, reaching 7,155 central Ohio K-12 students. Programs included children’s opera *The Ugly Duckling*; 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.



Boozy Brunch, May 2019

BOOZY BRUNCH

This season we introduced the Boozy Brunch: a fun, casual, and accessible pre-vocal competition event reaching many new friends for Opera Columbus. It created a lot of buzz about the competition and opera. (If you missed last year’s Boozy Brunch, don’t dismay—this year’s is on Sunday, May 3, 2020.)

BOOK CLUB

Opera Columbus introduced our new book club, which featured a book tied to each of our mainstage productions. Our group of book and opera lovers met three times over the year to explore the connection between fiction and opera, and had a lot of fun doing so. We’re thrilled that the book club comes back for this season as well. Details are at operacolumbus.org.

2018-2019 Collaborations



EDWARD LIANG
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Costuming for mainstage productions



The Journey co-producer



Designed and built sets for
mainstage productions



Education and Community programming



The Flood community partner



Education and Community programming



Opera Swings Jazz



Performed in *Madama Butterfly*



Madama Butterfly community partner



Opera Columbus Gala



The Flood community partner



Opera Swings Jazz artistic partner

Juilliard

The Juilliard School ADOS program, in
partnership Opera Columbus Gala and
productions



Education and Community programming



The Flood community partner



INCUBATION PROGRAM ARTISTS

Performed in *The Journey*

NEW SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Performed in *The Journey*



DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Performed in *Madama Butterfly*



MEDICINE IN THE ARTS

Hosted a performance of *The Voice of Freedom*



The Flood community partner

PELOTONIA®

Community programming



Co-commissioner and co-producer of
The Flood



Hosted performances of
The Voice of Freedom



Performed in *The Journey*

ST. DOMINIC JOYFUL INSPIRATION YOUTH DANCE MINISTRY

Performed in *The Journey*



Performed in *The Journey*



The Flood community partner



Columbus Pride Festival, June 2019

Inclusion

Artistic risk-taking, innovative approaches to production, and meaningful collaborations are making Opera Columbus a leader in the field, in Columbus and beyond.

Inclusivity has shaped the mission of Opera Columbus and is an ongoing focus for all our programming and operations. Our goal is to create operatic experiences through a thoughtful, intentional process rooted in inclusiveness and authenticity. This is demonstrated in our casting, the selection of our artistic teams, and in our participation in community events such as the 2019 Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade, and partnerships with organizations such as Kaleidoscope Youth Center, Columbus Urban League, and more.



Photo: Terry Gilliam

The Journey, January 2019

FUTURE OF OPERA COLUMBUS

The 2019-2020 season includes engaging performances and events that promise to inspire conversation and ignite emotions. Featuring four mainstage productions, diverse community programming, education series, and the Cooper-Bing competition, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the coming year.

The season opened with *Twisted 3*, in partnership with BalletMet, CAPA, and the CSO in the Ohio Theatre (September 26-29). Columbus' flagship performing arts organizations reunited to create an experience unlike any other.

Opera Columbus brings *As One*, the most-produced modern opera in North America, to the Southern Theatre on November 8 + 10. This opera is a compelling and thought-provoking story about Hannah, a transgender woman, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world.



In February, make a date with your favorite Valentine to enjoy *The Barber of Seville* at the Southern Theatre on February 14 + 16. In our modern twist, see Rossini's funny and fantastic comedy set in 1990s Florida, complete with prefab houses, neon colors, boybands, and teenage dreams.

The Journey: Civil Rights will celebrate African-American music and culture, exploring prominent figures, pivotal events, and major issues of the Civil Rights movement through gospel, jazz, dance, spoken word, and more. Join us on March 21 in the Lincoln Theatre.

Our season will close with *The Poppea Project*, in collaboration with The Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, from April 22-26. Set among three galleries of The Pizzuti Collections, this immersive opera and visual arts experience will be unprecedented, with masked audiences interacting with the artists and determining their own experience of the performance.



FINANCE

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2019

2019

Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$147,009
Other Current Assets	\$332,318
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<i>\$479,327</i>
 <i>Total Non-current Assets</i>	 <i>\$614,956</i>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,094,283
 Total Liabilities	 \$54,453
 Without Donor Restrictions	 \$234,371
With Donor Restrictions	\$805,459
Net Assets	\$1,039,830
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	 \$1,094,283

Statement of Activities & Change in Net Assets

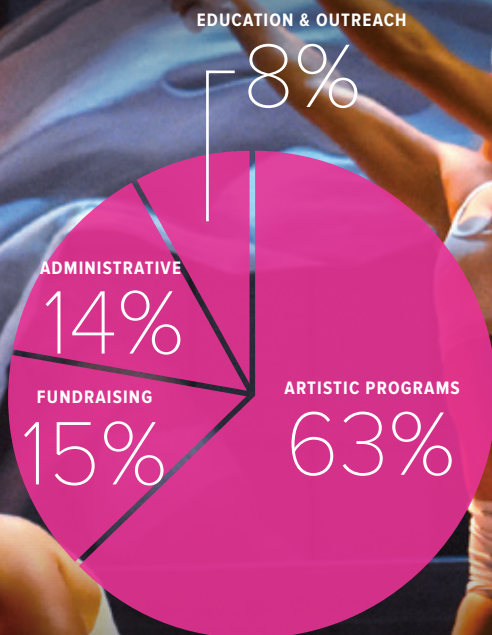
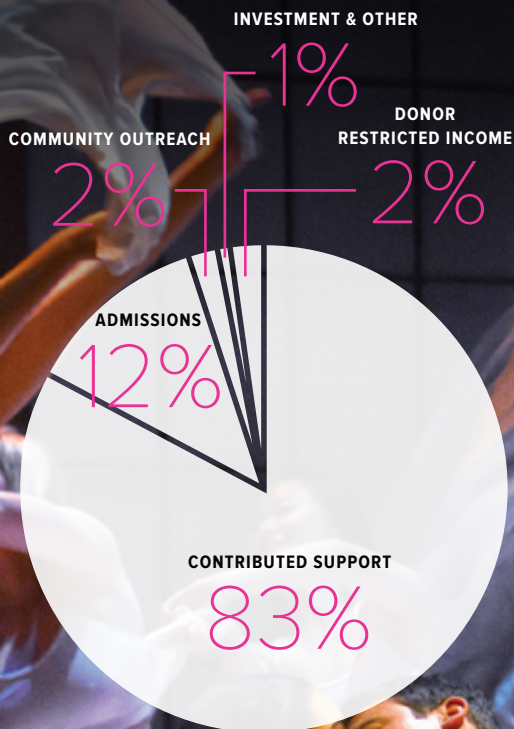
For the Year ended June 30, 2019

2019

Revenue	
Contributed Revenue	\$1,440,638
Earned Revenue	\$303,543
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,744,181
 Expenses	
Productions	\$1,061,100
Education and Community Programs	\$129,063
Management and General	\$238,278
Fundraising & Special Events	\$259,573
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,688,014
 Change in Net Assets	 \$56,167
 Less Donor Restricted Income and Expenses	 (\$53,328)
 Change in Operating Net Assets	 \$2,839

Operating Revenue

\$1,744,181



Operating Expenses

\$1,688,014

Financial Highlights

The gain from operations excludes activities related to restricted contributions and investments and resulted in a gain of \$2,839 for the year ended June 30, 2019. The unrestricted net assets increased from \$231,000 to \$234,000.

Total revenue increased by 35% in Fiscal Year 2019. The major contributors to revenue growth was an improvement in public support and contributions.

Tenth consecutive year with a realized operating surplus.

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\$50,000–\$99,999



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Photo (middle): Destiny Coleman

Photo (bottom): Terry Gilliam



The Flood, February 2019



The Voice of Freedom, October 2018



Opera Swings Jazz, April 2019

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Opera Swings Jazz, April 2019



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