

2020-2021 **ANNUAL REPORT**



Dear Opera Columbus

FANS+FRIENDS

It was a landmark year for Opera Columbus, as we dedicated ourselves to ensuring Opera Columbus' sustainability in a challenging time; reinforced our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility; and welcomed a new leader, General Director + CEO Julia Noulin-Mérat. 2020-2021 was a year for reflecting on our core values and putting a system in place to ensure that those values are at the forefront of all we do. Through it all, we were guided by our commitment to be a community resource and by our mission: **to transform the experience and advance the art of opera.**

The generosity of our donors, combined with careful planning and financial management, are helping OC not only to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, but to continue to grow and evolve as one of our community's preeminent arts organizations. In 2020-2021, we launched virtual-only programming and were able to share a powerful residency with Ryan Speedo Green, made new friends nationally through our SALON series, continued our educational mission by presenting *Cinderella in a Dropbox*, and broadcast a livestream performance of our *La bohème* that was watched all over the world. After a year of dark theatres, we were thrilled to return to live performances and events in the spring, with our innovative productions of *Don Giovanni @ COSI* and *La bohème @ 400 West Rich*, and our sold-out Drinks + Drag party.

We are celebrating Opera Columbus' 40th anniversary in 2021-2022 and beginning the next phase of our company's history. As we look forward to a season full of inspiration and excitement, we hope you will join us in reflecting on all that we accomplished together in 2020-2021 through this report.

Thank you for your truly exceptional support of your Opera Columbus community and our magnificent art form. We can't wait to see you at performances online and in person this season!

Sincerely,



William Miller
President

Julia Noulin-Mérat
General Director + CEO

2020-2021

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

OPERA is THE art form that can portray the struggles and triumphs of the 2020-2021 season in the most heartfelt way. The excitement and anticipation building like a score by Verdi, the music conveying the desire for unity from our homes and offices while reaching for a common thread of understanding.



Julia Noulin-Mérat, General Director + CEO

The Opera Columbus 2020-2021 season opened with the hope to host in-person events in the fall to adjusting our scheduled performances while also searching for our next leader in Julia Noulin-Mérat. And just like Floria Tosca in *Tosca*, Julia hit the stage running and completed the massive task of converting our scheduled programming to reach the most number of patrons in the most safe and effective manner.



Ryan Speedo Green, January 2021

Our community enrichment continued this season with a week-long residency with Met super star Ryan Speedo Green, including a fantastic live discussion between Speedo and our community's best and brightest minds exploring the importance of the arts. Not only that, he gave hours to local students and members of our incarcerated populations to ensure his messages about education and hope reached the greatest number of people. Our annual education program transitioned into Opera in a Dropbox featuring *Cinderella* to allow schools to access important arts education content while learning remotely, all with the help of our incredible Capital University Resident Artists.



Photo: Terry Gilliam

Drinks + Drag, June 2021

In spite of the challenges, we hosted a full range of special events, from educational programs in our SALON (Shared Adult Learning Opera Network), to a virtual gala, a digital Cooper-Bing Vocal Competition with a record number of applications, and our over-the-top, sold-out-in-days Drinks + Drag to kick off Pride Month 2021.



Photo: Terry Gilliam

La bohème, May 2021

One of the accomplishments that we are most proud of is our return to live, in-person performances in the spring of 2021. After several re-imaginings, rescheduling, and cast changes, we mounted two mainstage productions of *Don Giovanni* and *La bohème* in April and May 2021. This included live-streaming *La bohème* to nearly 700 homes across the world. Our artists and audiences were kept safe through rigorous protocols and inventive staging. Performers, audiences, and partners alike shed grateful and happy tears at the conclusion of these wonderful performances, proving once and again that the arts are essential, transformational, and an investment in our community.



Photo: Terry Gilliam

Don Giovanni, April 2021

SEASON IN REVIEW

DON GIOVANNI



Photo: Terry Gilliam

Don Giovanni, April 2021

Richard Sanford,
Columbus Underground

[Click here to read the article](#)

“Having been 14 months since I’d been inside a theater, the longest stretch since I was 16, it was probably not unlikely I’d cry anyway. But it’s hard for me to imagine a better return to live performance than this dazzling *Don Giovanni*.”

LA BOHÈME

Richard Sanford,
Columbus Underground

[Click here to read the article](#)

“Watching Chang tear into these moving arias felt like staring into a jet engine, unable to look away and seeing every detail of flame while enveloped in heat. When she and Garcia sang together, those opening lines sliced through the room, melting into one another and flowing over the piano.

...

One of the great pleasures of this Puccini score comes in its surging, stacked harmonies: it was breathtaking hearing the cast’s voices – and the two piano voices – rise together in interlocking mosaic patterns, arguing and laughing through the notes.”

Opera Magazine UK

[Click here to read the article](#)

At a time when auditioning new singers has been a tricky proposition, casting for Noulin-Merat has been free play in a sandbox of broadly diverse ethnicities and sexual preferences. “Representation matters,” she says when asked how this goes over in the American Midwest. “One of my favorite television shows is *Grey’s Anatomy*, whose creator Shonda Rhimes truly normalized that anyone could be a surgeon, anyone could have a role. A few months ago at dinner our conductor for *La bohème* asked me, ‘Do you know what you’ve done? You’ve cast two Asian women as leads in a non-Asian-themed opera. That’s never done here.’ I said, ‘Well, welcome to the future.’”

2020-2021

COLLABORATIONS



400 West Rich



The Fives



Bell Tree Productions



CAPA



Capital University



Columbus Clippers



Columbus Children's
Theatre



Columbus City
Schools



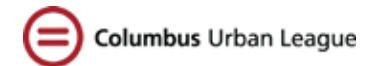
Columbus Gay
Men's Chorus



Columbus
Metropolitan Library



Columbus
Museum of Art



Columbus Urban League



Columbus Zoo
and Aquarium



COSI



Cult Marketing



Fashion Week
Columbus



Irvin Public
Relations



The Juilliard School



Kaiser Consulting



Kaleidoscope
Youth Center



The King Arts Complex



KIPP Columbus



LifeCare Alliance



Live! Technologies



Oberlin Conservatory
of Music



Ohio Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction



Ohio Prison Arts
Connection



The Ohio State University



OSU Wexner Medical Center



ProMusica Chamber
Orchestra



Returning Artist Guild



Stonewall Columbus



Wexner Center
for the Arts

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

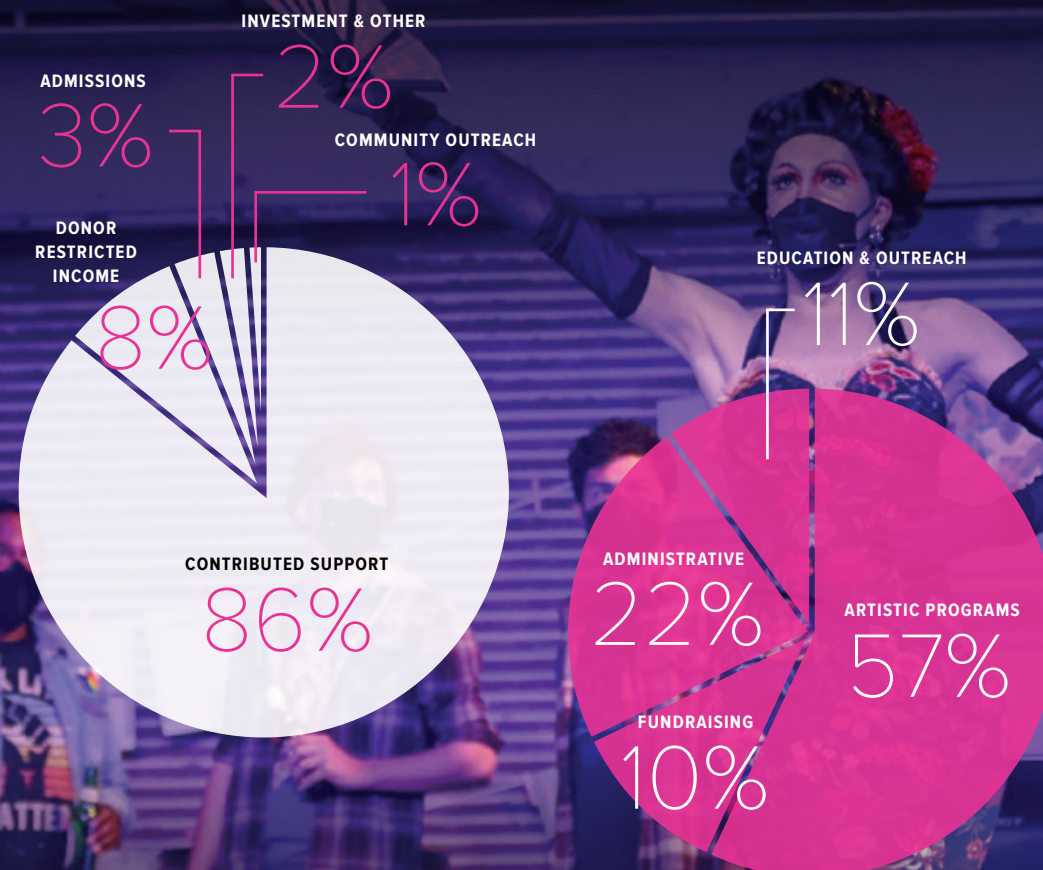
<i>June 30, 2021</i>	<i>2021</i>
Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$605,444
Other Current Assets	\$127,295
Total Current Assets	\$732,739
Total Non-current Assets	\$667,034
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,399,773
Total Liabilities	\$49,216
Without Donor Restrictions	\$592,524
With Donor Restrictions	\$758,033
Net Assets	\$1,350,557
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,399,773

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<i>For the Year ended June 30, 2021</i>	<i>2021</i>
Revenue	
Contributed Revenue	\$1,388,171
Earned Revenue	\$225,648
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,613,819
Expenses	
Productions	\$653,978
Education and Community Programs	\$129,622
Management and General	\$251,483
Fundraising & Special Events	\$115,629
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,150,712
Change in Net Assets	\$463,107
Less Donor Restricted Income and Expenses	(\$111,732)
Change in Operating Net Assets	\$351,375

OPERATING REVENUE

\$1,613,819



OPERATING EXPENSES

\$1,150,712

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the activities from operations resulted in a gain of \$351,375. This excludes activities related to restricted contributions and gain/losses on restricted investments. The unrestricted net assets increased from \$241,149 to \$592,524.

Twelfth consecutive year with a realized operating surplus.

Due to COVID-19, Opera Columbus had limited productions and reduced capacity at productions. This resulted in a lower than average admission revenue.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

With gratitude, Opera Columbus acknowledges all of our institutional supporters. This publication lists names for donors who made gifts, pledges, and in-kind donations in the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021).

\$100,000+



Greater Columbus
Arts Council



\$50,000–\$99,999



Nationwide®



THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

\$10,000–\$49,999

Cardinal Health
Crane Group
National Endowment for the
Arts
PNC

\$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous Fund of The
Columbus Foundation
L Brands
OSU Wexner Medical Center
Voice Center
Porter Wright Morris and
Arthur LLP

\$1,500–\$4,999

Diamond Cellar
Ernst and Young
Huntington Bank
Reinberger Conductor's
Chair Fund of The Columbus
Foundation
UBS Financial Services

\$500–\$1,499

KPMG LLP

ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

With gratitude, Opera Columbus acknowledges all of our individual donors. This publication lists names for donors who made gifts, pledges, and in-kind donations in the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021).

\$25,000–\$49,999

Anonymous (2)
Anne Melvin*
Sheldon and Rebecca Taft

\$10,000–\$24,999

Ruth and Dick McNeal
Endowment for Opera
Columbus

\$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous
Vanessa and George Arnold
George Barrett and Deborah
Neimeth Fund
Arthur and Hetty Bing
Beth Crane and Richard McKee
Willie and Katie Grové
William E. Miller

Patty Morrison and Gary
Tiesenga
Bob Philips and Kara Trott
Jodi and Stanley Ross
Nancy and Tadd Seitz
Dr. Lee Shackelford

\$2,500–\$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Femi and Bryn Adeyanju
Lois H. Allen
Rhoma V. D. M. Berlin
Dottie Burchfield
Marilu and Tim Faber
Don and Janelle Grubbs
Shawn and Jenna Homan

Doug and Cookie McIntyre
Dr. Karen Peeler and Rev.
Deniray Mueller
Allison Steiner and Ryan
Harding

Miriam and Don Utter
Charles and Betsy Warner

\$1,500–\$2,499

Jim and Susan Berry
Paul and Lynn Blower
Jim Crane and Laura
Dehlendorf
Jerome and Bette Dare
Jo Dee Davis
Marty Golubitsky and Barbara
Keyfitz
Jean Atwood M.D. and Michael
Kirkman
Jay and Sue Kromalic
Fran Luckoff
Gerald and Ann Newsom
Ruth Paulson
Ron and Ann Pizzuti
Valarie Williams and Sergio
Soave
Becky Wright

\$500–\$1,499

Anonymous (3)
Deborah M. Anderson
Alfred H. Bivins
Phyllis Boddicker
Mr. Ryan and Dr. Jonica Burke
Jessica Celeste Burton

Donna Cavell
Peter Coccia and Nena Couch
Elfi Di Bella
Nancy Donoghue
C. John Easton
Felicia Franco-Feinberg and
David Feinberg
Dr. Steven and Dr. Pat Gabbe
Linda and Richard Gunther
Matthew Hall
Jeff Harris
Carolyn Hartwell
Jane Hathaway
Susan E. Hodge and David A.
Greenberg
Barbara and Ron Hupman
Donna and Larry James
Dan Jensen
Thomas and Mary Katzenmeyer
Brandon Kim, MD
Adam Lanter and Shyam
Rajadhyaksha
Anne M. LaPidus
Mary Lazarus
Todd Majidzadeh and Karen
Hough Majidzadeh
Megan McAlister
Priscilla Meeks
Dixie Sayre Miller Fund of The
Columbus Foundation
Jane and Bill Miller
Julia Noulín-Merat
Ngozi and Chukwuemeka
Bosah

ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS (CONTINUED)

Sue Porter and Mike Sayre
Tricia Rigel
Elizabeth Sawyers
David H. Sheidler
Doug and Patricia Slusher
Dr. Brenda Stearns and Dr. Linda Meadows
Nancy Strause
Roger and Wendy Vaughan
Robert and Catharine Warmbrod
Judy and Herb Weisberg
Chad and Melinda Whittington
Charlotte Yates
Mary Yerina and Bob Redfield

\$200-\$499

Anonymous (6)
Natalie Adams
Larry and Ruth Anderson
Mary Auch
Sine-Marie Ayres
Noelle Bartley
Megan and Alaina Binkley
Elizabeth Bockbrader
Hannah Boppel
Susan Brooks
Greg and Kim Bryan
Carolyn Thomas Christy
Esther Connors
Janet Cox
Dr. Joseph and Leslie Cunningham
Carole Dale
Kay Davenport
Bernie and Linda Erven
Bill and Marcia Evans
Larry and Marion Fisher
Jere Forsythe
Diana Fowler

Barbara and Albert Glover
Susan M. Hartmann
Steven Hillyer
Michael Huggett
Ashley Kaczmarek
Scott and Jessica Kapusta
John King
Mark and Angela LaMonte
Barry Liss
Elaine E. May
Lisa and Steven McGann
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy McMullen
David and Betty Meil
Laurence and Janet Miller
Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Morton
Ralph and Julie Nusken
Mark and Ammi Pi
Carol and Scott Prigan
Amber Putnam
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Ruiz
David R. Schooler
Arend Schuring
Amy Scites
Edward Seigerst
Junko Shigemitsu
William Slutz and Linda Roomann
John Snoble
Angela Snyder
John and Sally Stefano
Judi and Jim Stillwell
Jesse and Canon Throgmorton
Alexis Tucay
Joan Wallick
Denise Watson
Julie and Bruce Weinberg
Jayne Wenner and Peter Costanza
Carole Wilhelm

Tim Woolery
Linda and Bostwick Wyman
Ashley York
Jay and Heidi Yurkiw

UP TO \$199

Anonymous (7)
Dale Abrams and Elliot Fishman
Roma Amin
Alexandra Annarino
Ariel Balske
Robbie Banks
Matt Barnes
Kim and John Bartley
Jennifer Beckwith
Ronald Bell
Les and Karen Benedict
Pamela Berry and Lillian Shaffer
Adam and Suzy Biehl
Erin Blue
Katherine Boehm
Kenneth Bowen
Ryan Bowles
Lisa Brandt
Henry Brecher
Liz Burrell
Len and Sharon Bussard
Lucy and David Buzzee
Bob and Susan Campbell
Mary Louise Casanta
Casey Cascaldo
Jeff and Lucy Caswell
Xavier Chavez
Ed Chin
Michael Clowes
Mark Cooke
Allison Craft
William L. Curlis

Ronald Currin and Diane Driessen
Hope Dawson
Bill DeMora
Gail L. Havener and John G. Dirina
Leo and Vera Dubrovsky
Dan Duro
Nina Edwards
Amanda Egnot
April Elkovitch
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Emery
Miguel Estrada
Toba Jeanne Feldman
Danielle Feronti
Mark and Elizabeth Finley
Alex Ford
Andrea Ford
Linda Fowler
Reinhard and Mary Gahbauer
Kirby Gallaway
Karen Gasper
Raimund and Sharon Goerler
Barbara E. Goettler
Eva Goode
Rebecca Haidt and Kaye Norton
G. Philip Hall
Lee Hatch
Robert E. Heisler
Lois Hinrichs
Michele Holcomb
Doug and Joan Hoover
Carol and Gary House
Jeremy Howard
Texas Howard
Rose Hume and Jim Dunn
Stanton Ickes
Krystal Jaeger

Ryan Jaroncyk
Jim Jasperse
Ric and Dorothy Johnson
Orval Jones
David Jump and Eileen Pruitt
Marianne Jurkowitz
Judy and Howard Kander
Ezra Katz
Robin Kimbrell
Robert Koblentz
Zachary Koehler
Rex Kohler
Mark Krausz
Stanley and Gretchen Kronenberger
Wolfgang and Ursula Kunze
Shelby Lackey
Bob and Danette LaFollette
Syd Lifshin
Jill Lukshin
Tracie Martin
William McDonald
Patrick McGovern
Nicole Milette
Martha J. Miller
Patti Mills
Gina Minot
Christina Mollica
Tracy Moran
Robert Moreen and Sheri VanCleaf
Ed Morris and Mary Beth Smith
Thomas and Jessica Morris
David Nassau
Mrs. Jutta Neckermann
Jessica Nelson
Sara Nichols
Ruba and Jim Mount
William and Barbara Oberdick

Susan O'Donnell
Jeanne O'Keefe
Fusun and Umit Ozguner
Jacqueline Pasternack
Nicole Plant
Jessica Quade
Scott Rader
Michael Ranney and Gregory Nutter
Alice Rathburn
Barbara Reynolds
Daniel Rieck
Thorn C. Roberts
Megumi Robinson
Emily Rowland
Lyn Savidge
Ruth Seabrook
Martha Shaw
Rebecca Shaw
Richard W. and Betty J. Smith
Sarah Sontheimer
Victoria Spence
Marnie Steen
Andrew Steiner
Judith Stich
Mrs. Jan Stone
Ruth Templeton
Robert A. Tibbetts
Martin Tuck
Nancy Verber
Laurie Walker
Kelly Weber
Brent Wells
Lydia Weyrich
Mary Wilson
Ellen Winstead
Kristi Winzeler
Rod Wirsching

ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS (CONTINUED)

Bev Trout and Doug Wittig
Hope Wolman
Machiko Woodward
Jane B. Young
Jonathon and Kim Zavislak

IN KIND

Cult Marketing
Kaiser Consulting

IN HONOR OF

Femi Adeyanju
Carol and Gary House
Johanna Destefano
Michael Ranney and Gregory Nutter
Marilu Faber
Hope Wolman
Susan Hartmann
Xavier Chavez

Matthew, Benjamin, and Alex
Anonymous
Jessica Morris
April Elkovitch
Ed O'Donnell
Susan O'Donnell
Miriam Utter
Judy and Herb Weisberg
Diana Vaughn
Roger and Wendy Vaughan
Lily Natsumi Woodward
Machiko Woodward

IN MEMORY OF

Roger Berlin
Rhoma V. D. M. Berlin
JoAnn Hall
G. Philip Hall

Herbert J. Hatch
Lee Hatch
Lyman Leathers
Willie and Katie Grové
James Meeks
Barry Liss
Robert Mills
Patti Mills
David Robinson
Anonymous
Doris Madison Slusher
Doug and Patricia Slusher
Ralph W. Standly III
Carol and Gary House
Harry Templeton
Ruth Templeton



La bohème, May 2021

Photo: Terry Gilliam

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



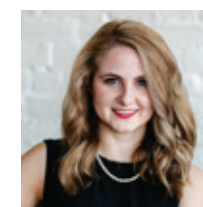
Bill Miller
President
KPMG LLP



Femi Adeyanju
Vice President + Finance Chair
Ernst & Young



Brandon Kim, MD
Development Chair
Ohio State University Medical Center



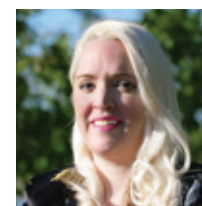
Allison Steiner
Secretary
PricewaterhouseCoopers



Charles C. Warner
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP



Jessica Burton
Board Governance +
Nominating Committee Chair
Orange Barrel Media



Julia Noulín-Mérat
General Director + CEO
Opera Columbus

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES



George Arnold
Community Advocate



Arthur G.H. Bing, MD, FACS
Bing MD



Marilu Faber
Community Advocate



Donell R. Grubbs
JobsOhio



Shawn Homan
Legal & General America



Scott Kapusta, JD, MBA
Fifth Third Bank



Megan McAlister
Bank of America



Doug McIntyre
Cult Marketing



Patricia B. Morrison
*Past President
Cardinal Health, Inc., retired*



Bob Philips
Community Advocate



Tricia Rigel
*Cardinal Health, Inc.
Brian J Taylor, DDS, MA
The Dental Center at Easton*



Valarie Williams
The Ohio State University

LIFE TRUSTEES



Johanna DeStefano, PhD
The Ohio State University, retired



William T. Grové
UBS Financial Services, Inc.



Stanley D. Ross
Attorney at Law



Sheldon A. Taft
*Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease,
retired*



Charles C. Warner
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur

EXECUTIVE



Julia Noulin-Mérat
General Director + CEO



Christina Pelletier
*Executive Assistant to the General
Director + CEO & Board Liaison*

DEVELOPMENT



Jessica Morris
Director of Development



Susan Ropp
Director of Grants

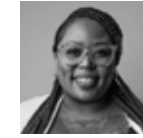


Angela Boyd
Development Data Coordinator



Julie Weeks
Special Events Manager

MARKETING



Jeanette Burchfield
Social Media Associate

FINANCE



Jill Lukshin-Hoff
Accounting Consultant



Cindy Ries
Accounting Consultant

IMPACT



Rachel Will
*Creative Programs Director &
Cooper-Bing Associate Partner*

Celebrate with **OPERA COLUMBUS**

as we embark on an unforgettable
40th anniversary season of love,
politics, and 40 straight days of opera.



Get your tickets at **OPERACOLUMBUS.ORG**

40C

years of
Opera
Columbus

55 EAST STATE STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215