

2021–2022

Annual Report



DEAR OPERA COLUMBUS

Fans + Friends

The 2021-22 Season was one of immense gratitude, accomplishment, celebration, and company firsts. After hours of virtual programming and alternative format performances, and nearly two years away from our home in the Southern Theatre, OC made a triumphant return to indoor opera just in time for our historic 40th Anniversary Season. Opera Columbus' milestone season saw a 30% new audience attendance rise, as well as new organization partners throughout our city. It was a challenging year as we navigated COVID, Omicron waves, snow

storms, and hurricane warnings, but thanks to our board and staff, we were incredibly resilient and were able to celebrate a memorable season capped with *40 Days of Opera* being honored as a finalist for GCAC's Columbus Makes Art Excellence Award.

Our productions of *Tosca*, *Fellow Travelers*, *Vanqui*, *The Puppy Episode*, and *La traviata* all garnered positive reviews from critics and featured leading operatic talent from around the world. In addition to fulfilling our mission of providing world-class opera to Central

Ohio, OC continued its commitment to training the next generation of opera stars onstage and behind the scenes. The Cooper-Bing Vocal Competition attracted over 200 applicants worldwide and the Capital University residency program nurtured the talent of four rising artists. The 2021-22 season also saw the launch of our Crane Directing Fellowship as we welcomed Luther Lewis III to our team.

Opera Columbus has provided the power of live opera to central Ohio for 40 years, and the 2021-22 season

continued to build on that legacy, as outlined in this report. Thanks to Opera Columbus' growing board, its generous supporters and patrons, and the esteemed artists who continue to elevate Opera Columbus season after season, OC's future is brighter than ever.

Sincerely,

Julia Noulin-Mérat
General Director + CEO

Tosca, December 2021



SEASON IN REVIEW

The 40th anniversary season opened with the sumptuous and breathtaking *Tosca*. From the opening notes until the curtain came down, audiences were overwhelmed with the tremendous look, feel and sound of *Tosca*. It was fitting to open with *Tosca* for our 40th season, as it was the very first production ever mounted by Opera Columbus, in 1981. In addition, this was Opera Columbus' triumphant return to the Southern Theatre after almost two years away due to the pandemic. Audiences streamed in the doors, excited to be in-person to experience two moving performances of *Tosca*. It was a fan favorite for opera lovers and the opera-curious!

Photo: Terry Gilliam

2021-22 SEASON

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 40TH SEASON

With the support and leadership of our amazing board, the Opera Columbus staff created so many unique moments during our 40th anniversary season.

The purpose was to celebrate and commemorate our history—but to also pave a way forward by engaging and welcoming new opera friends and fans. Our programming was a blend of traditional moments from *Tosca* and *La traviata* to newer works that also celebrated the beautiful diversity of our community in *Vanqui*, *The Puppy Episode*, and the incredibly beautiful *Fellow Travelers*.

Our event programming was on point as well, when you consider

we hosted events everywhere from online to in-theatre, in parks and at COTA bus stops. We created educational moments with the author and composer of *Fellow Travelers* and the original creators of *Vanqui*.

Productions and events were not the only things we created in 2021-22: we started a transformation of the industry through the introduction of the Crane Directing Fellowship. This is one of the single most important things we have done to date, creating a robust training program

specifically designed to ensure opera leadership reflects the diversity of our world. The Crane Directing Fellowship is designed to train and provide experience to BIPOC artists who want to direct opera. This was the first program of its kind that trains a director to not only assist but to take the helm for entire productions, ensuring that in the future a variety of viewpoints will be represented in opera's artistic leadership.

Photos: Terry Gilliam



40 Days of OPeRa

One of the biggest undertakings in the company's history was the planning and execution of *40 Days of Opera* — an extravaganza of opera that broke out of the theatre and into the community. This opera-ganza allowed us to introduce opera across our community to ensure everyone from the youngest children to our most experienced citizens understood there is a place for them in opera. We partnered with more than 45 organizations and reached almost 30,000 people from May 4 – June 12.



PNC Arts Alive was a Presenting Partner of the 40 Days of Opera celebration

40 Days of Opera was made possible by a grant from National Endowment for the Arts



2021-22 COLLABORATIONS



10 TV



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High School



CAPA



Capital University



CATCO



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Channel 6, Fox News



Circleville High School



City Year



Columbus City School
District



Columbus Clippers



Columbus Commons
Food Truck Festival



Columbus Downtown
Development Corporation



Columbus
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Columbus Museum of
Art



Columbus
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COSI



COTA



District West



Experience Columbus



Fashion Week
Columbus



German Village
Society



Greater Columbus Arts Council
(Columbus Arts Festival)



Impresarios of Opera
Columbus



Kaleidoscope
Youth Center



Lincoln Theatre



Modern Lens Media



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of Music



Ohio Arts Council



Ohio Health



Ohio History
Connection



Ohio Living



Ohio Theatre



Opera America



Out of the Box Opera



Pelotonia



Pickaway Works



PNC Arts Alive



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Residence Inn by Marriott
Columbus Downtown



Soul Signs



Southern Theatre



Teays Valley
High School



The Greater Dayton
LGBT Center



The Ohio State University,
Wexner Medical Center



The Ohio State
University, Voice Center



University of Kentucky



Vaude-Villities
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Westfall High School



WOSU



Zora's House

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2022

2022

Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$268,743
Other Current Assets	\$304,374
Total Current Assets	\$573,117
Total Non-current Assets	\$696,195
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,269,312
Total Liabilities	\$71,114
Without Donor Restrictions	\$410,568
With Donor Restrictions	\$787,630
Net Assets	\$1,198,198
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,269,312

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

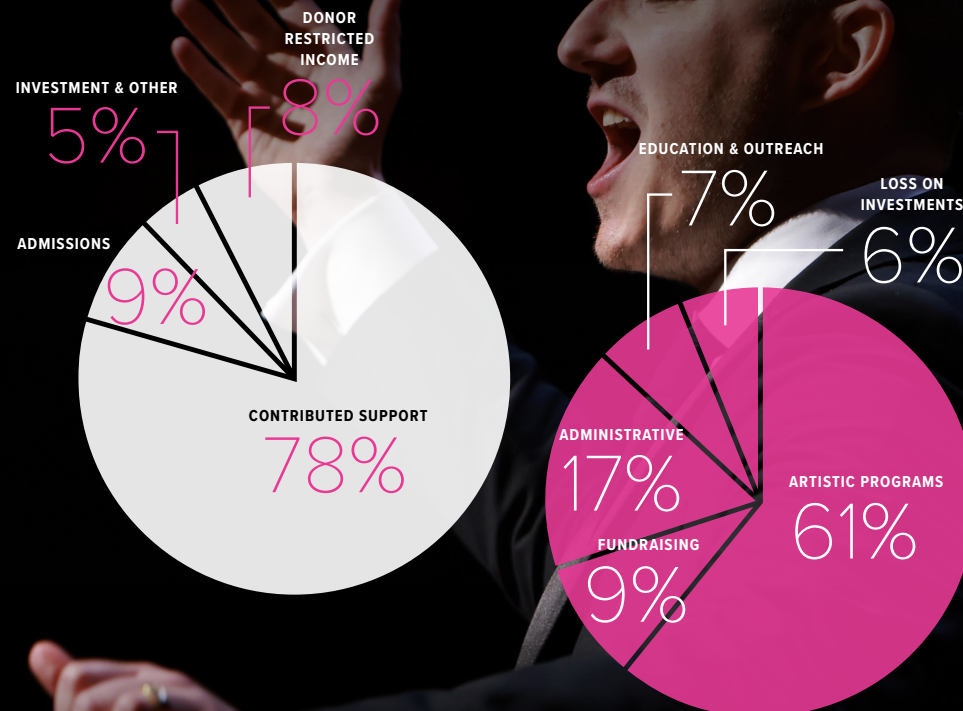
For the Year ended June 30, 2022

2022

Revenue	
Contributed Revenue	\$1,205,388
Earned Revenue	\$198,187
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,403,575
Expenses	
Productions	\$954,700
Education and Community Programs	\$108,254
Management and General	\$266,224
Fundraising & Special Events	\$141,374
Loss on Long-term Investments	\$85,382
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,555,934
Change in Net Assets	(\$152,359)
Less Donor Restricted Income and Expenses	(\$29,597)
Change in Operating Net Assets	(\$181,956)

OPERATING REVENUE

\$1,403,575



OPERATING EXPENSES

\$1,555,934

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the year ended June 30, 2022, the activities from operations resulted in a loss of \$181,956. This excludes activities related to restricted contributions and gain/losses on restricted investments. The unrestricted net assets decreased from \$592,524 to \$410,658.

Long-term investments experienced a loss of \$85,382 in FY22 (Operations: \$6,633; Donor Restricted \$78,749). This represents an overall loss of 12% in the Beneficial Interest in assets held by other. The loss was consistent with market activity in 2022.

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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 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022).

\$100,000+



\$50,000–\$99,999



Nationwide®



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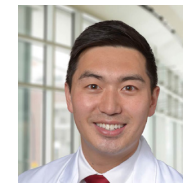
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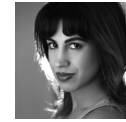


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