PORTLAND OPERA
2017
ANNUAL REPORT
MISSION

Portland Opera exists to inspire, challenge, and uplift our audiences by creating productions of high artistic quality that celebrate the beauty and breadth of opera.

On the front: Hannah S. Penn in Lang’s *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*, photo by Cory Weaver | Above: moments and connections from the 2017 season
As we reflect on this past year, I am reminded of the many moments—on and off stage—that made this season remarkable. We launched the Vino e Voce series in the newly dedicated Gregory K. and Mary Chomenko Hinckley Studio Theatre at the Hampton Opera Center. We welcomed the Italian tenor Giordano Lucá to Portland for his U.S. debut in our traditional staging of Puccini’s La Bohème, and also pursued “The Impossible Dream” in Man of La Mancha. We presented a Beautiful Broadway season, and also “kept Portland weird” with our provocative production of Mozart’s Cosi fan tutte. We joined artistic forces with Imago Theatre to illuminate the beauty of composer David Lang’s work; and were star-struck by soprano and actress Kristin Chenoweth’s amazing performance at our Baroque Ball gala.

We took our Portland Opera to Go production of Hansel and Gretel into elementary schools across the state—at a time when arts education budgets are reduced and threatened—to share the magic of opera with thousands of students. We furthered the development and careers of our talented Resident Artists. We were recognized by the Regional Arts and Culture Council with an Innovation Award for our collaboration with Portland State University to create our Portland Opera a la Cart “food truck”—and much more.

These accomplishments are the work of our ensemble: artists, board members, supporters, advocates, makers, educators, business leaders, administrators, producers and collaborators. Together we make Portland Opera what it is: a vibrant and evolving opera company whose success spans more than five decades in the city that we love.

We know that every day the arts transform American communities, and that the art of opera must continue to thrive in our region. We celebrate the work that we’ve dedicated towards that end in our 2017 season, and hope this piece expresses that commitment.

Christopher Mattaliano | General Director, Portland Opera
2016-17 OPERA SEASON

Portland Opera to Go: Hansel & Gretel | Engelbert Humperdinck
September – December, 2016
Director: Christopher Mattaliano
Accompanist: Evan C. Paul

Vino e Voce: Songs of Love and War | Claudio Monteverdi
February 17 – 25, 2017 | The Hampton Opera Center
Conductor: Nicholas Fox
Director: Christopher Mattaliano

Big Night | Opera’s Greatest Hits
April 8, 2017: Keller Auditorium
Conductor: George Manahan

La Bohème | Giacomo Puccini
May 5 – 13, 2017 | Keller Auditorium
Conductor: George Manahan
Director: Kathleen Belcher (Metropolitan Opera)

Man of La Mancha | Mitch Leigh
June 9 – 17, 2017 | Keller Auditorium
Conductor: George Manahan
Director: Alan Paul (Shakespeare Theatre Company)

Cosi fan tutte | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
July 14 – 29, 2017 | Newmark Theatre
Conductor: Nicholas Fox
Director: Roy Rallo (San Francisco and Berlin-based)

The Little Match Girl Passion | The Difficulty of Crossing a Field
David Lang
July 28 – August 5, 2017 | Newmark Theatre
Conductor: Hal France
Director: Jerry Mouawad (Imago Theatre)
2016-17 BROADWAY SEASON

Beautiful - The Carole King Musical
November 1-6, 2016

Cirque Dreams Holidaze
December 22-24, 2016

Finding Neverland
January 3-8, 2017

Rent
January 20-22, 2017

The Illusionists
January 31 – February 5, 2017

Matilda the Musical
February 28 – March 5, 2017

Mamma Mia!
March 24-26, 2017

Jersey Boys
April 18-23, 2017

An American in Paris
May 16-21, 2017

Cabaret
June 26 – July 2, 2017

The U.S. Bank Broadway in Portland series is a partnership between Broadway Across America and Portland Opera.
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

**Opera Overtures**
In 2017, we continued to offer the popular Opera Overtures program for each performance. One hour before curtain, audience members are invited to join special guests and experts from the Portland Opera family, for a discussion about the production and performance.

**After the Performance**
Directly following each of our performances, General Director Christopher Mattaliano hosts a conversation about the performance—audiences can ask questions, give feedback, and share reactions.

**Anthropologie & Co. Showcases Opera Fashion**
What does one wear to the opera…in Portland….in the warmer months? Our audiences and donors have been posing this question often, so in April we teamed up with the experts at Anthropologie & Co. Portland on Couch Street to provide an evening of style, wine, and inspiration—with musical selections from our Portland Opera Resident Artists.

**Simulcast**
Over 700 people gathered for our free outdoor simulcast of *Così fan tutte* on SW Main Street between the Newmark Theatre and the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The audience enjoyed the splendor of Mozart’s masterpiece in a relaxed and casual outdoor setting.

**Arts for All & Rush Tickets**
Portland Opera is a participant in Work for Art and the Arts Card program, as well as Arts for All—providing $5 tickets to Oregon Trail Card holders. In addition, we provide discounted tickets for seniors, students, and active duty military personnel.

**Accessibility**
Portland Opera offers wheelchair accessible and companion seating for every performance throughout our season. In addition, we project text supertitles during each performance and offer assisted listening devices. Designated performances throughout our season also include a live audio-description of the visual and physical events on-stage for patrons who are blind or have low vision.
Impossible Dreams: Artists and Their Creations | June 12, 2017
A panel featuring Molly Pfister of the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center, Professor Elizabeth Drumm of Reed College, and Jason Howard (Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha) discussed the topics of Cervantes, Don Quixote, and the blurred lines between reality and perception, at Portland Piano Company.

Concert for Unity | July 24, 2017
Presented at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Cosi fan tutte cast members Daniel Mobbs and Mary Dunleavy joined our Resident Artists, and Assistant Conductor Nicholas Fox for an evening of hope, honoring the bravery of those who stood against hate during the fatal MAX train incident in Portland in May of 2017.

“From the Mouth of the Singing Blacktivist” | July 23, 2017
Presented at the Ainsworth United Church of Christ, this event featured the work and artistry of Fulbright scholar Dr. Derrell Acon, with Jessica Hall on piano. Dr. Acon draws from literature, advocacy, story, and song to engage and energize audiences—and shared his most recent research, The Singing Blacktivist: A Case for Performative Activism and Education, which was also recently presented at the National Men of Color Summit.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Free & open to the public

Opera Karaoke at Director Park | June 7, 2017
Passersby and opera fans joined Portland Opera artists, staff, and board members in Director Park for a karaoke celebration of “The Impossible Dream” from Man of La Mancha.

Reggie Lee | Guest Artist Q&A
Guest artist Reggie Lee (Grimm) joined Christopher Mattaliano for a special community Q&A event surrounding the production of Man of La Mancha. The event was also shared live with online audiences on Portland Opera’s Facebook page.
Portland Opera is committed to artistic excellence for the next generation of opera singers through our Resident Artist Program. Each season, over 350 artists from throughout the nation apply for only three to five available residencies. We provide master classes with international artists, language courses, production opportunities, and more. In addition to the individual featured recitals, our Resident Artists became a key part of the fabric of our season. The 2017 Portland Opera Resident Artists: Antonia Tamer (Soprano), Kate Farrar (Mezzo-soprano), Aaron Short (Tenor), and Ryan Thorn (Baritone).

The 2017 Resident Artist Program was made possible through the generous support of George and Lee Anne Carter, The Estate of Jeannine B. Cowles, Marilyn Crilley & George Rowbottom, Drs. Dolores and Fernando Leon, and the Eleanor Lieber Auditions Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.
Opera a la Cart
We shared over 40 performances during our second season of Opera a la Cart, a program recognized with an award from the Regional Arts and Culture Council this year. Developed and created as a partnership with the PSU School of Architecture, and inspired by Portland’s food cart culture, our mobile music venue brings free opera performances to community hubs including farmers markets, city parks, neighborhood fairs, and arts festivals. In 2017 we expanded the map of performance locations, and created new special offers.

Open House | September 18, 2016
In September we hosted a community open house at the Hampton Opera Center. Visitors could tour our costume shop, sit in on a Portland Opera Chorus rehearsal, take an up-close look at opera sets, buy tickets, and see a performance by Portland Opera To Go.

Resident Artist Recitals
Each of our four Resident Artists presented a free public recital at the Portland Art Museum, with repertoire of their choosing, including arias and art songs.

Library Performances & Previews
Through our longtime partnerships with the Beaverton and Multnomah County public library systems, we presented free, hour-long public preview concerts of our season and upcoming individual operas, performed by our Resident Artists and cast members.
A Visit from Composer David Lang
In partnership with Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Opera hosted a visit from composer David Lang, for the world premiere of a double bill of his works on July 28. Portland Opera hosted an *Evening in Conversation* with David Lang, Conductor Hal France, and Director Jerry Mouawad, moderated by Christopher Mattaliano. Mr. Lang also participated in a master class for composers, hosted by Fear No Music, at Portland State University. Chamber Music Northwest performed a concert of Lang’s works, featuring cast member and soprano Cree Carrico.

OPERA America
In May, 2017, Portland Opera was invited to present at the annual OPERA America conference in Dallas, Texas. Celeste Miller (Corporate & Institutional Giving Officer) shared information about the Opera a la Cart project at the international conference.

In July, Portland Opera hosted the OPERA America Regional Meeting, including President/CEO Marc Scorca and General Directors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. During his time in Portland, Marc also shared a presentation about board leadership and opera advocacy with the Portland Opera board.
2017
PORTLAND OPERA IN OUR SCHOOLS

5,101+
Miles travelled

12,000+
Families, young audiences and educators reached

50 minutes
Length of our 2017 Hansel & Gretel performance
Our Portland Opera To Go (POGO) program strengthens the quality of arts education in our community by providing accessible artistic educational programming in elementary and middle schools. We integrate learning goals by providing teacher resources—including curriculum connections that highlight curricular and creative activities for student audiences.

Sponsors: The Autzen Foundation • BNSF Foundation • Kinder Morgan Foundation • NW Natural • PGE Foundation • Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust • The Standard • U.S. Bancorp Foundation • Wells Fargo • The Wheeler Foundation • Winderlea Vineyard and Winery

Portland Opera relies on many sources of contributed revenue: public, private, individual and corporate giving. During the 2016-17 season, over 1,400 donors—including foundations and corporations—contributed over $4.1M in support of Portland Opera and U.S. Bank Broadway in Portland. The development staff planned and executed more than 70 special events. Together, we accomplished partnerships, co-marketing activations, projects, and sponsorships—all contributing to the vibrancy of our city, the strength of our programs, the fiscal health of Portland Opera, and the cultural legacy of our supporters.

**The Aubrey Morgan Award**
Created in 1985, the Aubrey N. Morgan Award is Portland Opera’s highest tribute, given for distinguished and extraordinary support and service to the company. The award was presented at the Bel Canto Society dinner on October 1, 2016 to Jeffrey C. Thede, in recognition of more than 14 years of sharing the beauty and breadth of opera with our community through exemplary board service and advocacy.

**The 2017 Corporate Award for Leadership in the Arts**
The 2017 Corporate Award was presented in March to The Standard, in recognition of outstanding leadership and contributions to the arts in our community. Bob Speltz accepted the award on behalf of the company at the University Club, and Angela Hult served as keynote speaker.

**The Bel Canto Society**
The Bel Canto Society is a committed group of patrons ensuring that great opera is created in Portland. With annual gifts of $2,500 or more, patrons not only demonstrate the importance of arts and culture, but also receive behind-the-scenes access, develop friendships with other opera lovers, and meet internationally acclaimed singers, conductors and directors.
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Additional In-Kind Sponsors Include:

We would also like to recognize our corporate partners who encouraged matching gifts or volunteerism through their employee programs in 2017, including:
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The Portland Opera Ambassador Board brings young professionals together to engage and promote the work of Portland Opera. These individuals are some of Portland’s brightest young professionals working to raise the philanthropic profile, awareness and mission of Portland Opera through marketing, event fundraising and relationship building among the next generation of patrons and donors.

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Photo by Cory Weaver
The Young Patron Society is for arts lovers between the ages of 21 and 40. With annual gifts of $100 or more, Young Patrons enjoy $25 tickets to Thursday night performances, invitations to the Young Patron intermission and pre-show lounges, and special invitations to meet artists and arts advocates.

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THE BAROQUE BALL GALA

350+ Attendees

$1.4M+ Raised for Portland Opera

3 Standing ovations: one for meeting the $1M goal; one for special guest Kristin Chenoweth; one for surprise guests from Tualatin High School

Photo by Garrett Downen
THE BAROQUE BALL GALA | SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

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Gwyneth Gamble Booth and Carole E. Morse
Committee: Celeste Rose, Kregg Arntson, and Charles Stanton

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Artslandia

LOCATION
Portland Art Museum

MENU
Inspired by the court of King Louis XIV of France, by Artemis Foods

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
Poison Waters

AUCTIONEER
Ian Lindsay

PERFORMANCES BY
Kristin Chenoweth
Mary-Mitchell Campbell
Tualatin High School
BodyVox
Opera a la Cart Artists
Ryan MacPherson, tenor
David Saffert, piano

PORTRAIT STUDIO
Designed by Anthropologie & Co., photographed by Gia Goodrich

ROCCO AFTER PARTY
Hosted by the Portland Opera Ambassador Board

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### Baroque Ball Gala Details

- **Time**:
  - 6:00 PM  |  Champagne and Wine Bar
  - 7:00 PM  |  Dinner and Live Auction
  - 9:00 PM  |  Entertainment
  - 10:00 PM |  Rococo After Party

- **Menu**:
  Menu inspired by the historical records of the court of King Louis XIV of France

- **Venue**:
  Portland Art Museum
  1219 SW Park Avenue  ·  Portland, OR 97205

- **Entertainment**:
  Kristin Chenoweth
  Tony and Emmy Award-winning actress and singer

- **Date**:
  Saturday, September 16, 2017

- **Black Tie**
  Baroque inspiration welcomed

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**Baroque Ball Gala Committee**

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- **Celeste Rose**
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- **Portland Opera**
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  Sue Dixon
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- **The Portland Art Museum**
  featuring Kristin Chenoweth
- **Poison Waters**
  Mistress of Ceremonies
  Ian Lindsay
  Auctioneer

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**Poison Waters**
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Poison Waters
Mistress of Ceremonies
Ian Lindsay
Auctioneer

6:00 PM  |  Champagne and Wine Bar
Sculpture Garden featuring Opera a la Cart

7:00 PM  |  Dinner and Live Auction
Menu inspired by the historical records of the court of King Louis XIV of France

9:00 PM  |  Entertainment
Kristin Chenoweth

10:00 PM  |  Rococo After Party
Dancing, drinks, and continued merriment featuring DJ Gregarious

The Portland Art Museum
1219 SW Park Avenue  ·  Portland, OR 97205
featuring
Kristin Chenoweth
Tony and Emmy Award-winning actress and singer
Saturday, September 16, 2017

Black Tie
Baroque inspiration welcomed

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Please contact us if we may provide any additional information about our work, our company, or our 2017 season.

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