

# SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**SEPTEMBER  
2015**

Annual Fund  
Impact Report



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# NATIONAL PATRONS WEEKEND

We recently celebrated Seattle Opera's out-of-town donors during a special weekend of events. Thank you to all who came out to join the festivities around the productions of *Nabucco* and *An American Dream*. We are so appreciative of your support and thankful to have such an extensive donor family!

Photos below are highlights from the Meet Aidan reception at McCaw Hall on August 22 and from the National Patrons Weekend Brunch at the home of David and Linda Cornfield on August 23.

## THANK YOU

for sharing this journey with Seattle Opera as we move boldly forward into the 2015/16 season! It's such an exciting time for our opera family, and I'm so grateful for the part you play as a donor.

We kicked off the season earlier on July 11th with an open house event at McCaw Hall, coinciding with the launch of Seattle Opera's new website and brand. As an integral part of your community, we strive to provide meaningful experiences for all our friends and neighbors and connected with more than 1,200 people on this special day.

This past August, Seattle Opera's first-ever production of *Nabucco*, as well as the world premiere of *An American Dream*, were wonderful occasions of storytelling on both a universal and local level. Experiences like these connect and transform us, and it warms my heart to know the positive impact we create together.

The success of our season opening could not exist without your steadfast support. As a member of the Seattle Opera donor family, you are the key to our community connections and artistic excellence. Thank you for making such a difference, and I look forward to unfolding the rest of the 2015/16 season in your esteemed company.

Cheers,

Aidan Lang  
General Director



Therissa McKelvey poses a question during the Meet Aidan reception Q&A



L-R: Edgar Brenninkmeyer, General Director Aidan Lang, Therissa McKelvey, Heli Roiha



Angelina & Daniel Odievich enjoying the Meet Aidan reception



National Patrons Weekend Chair Jack Firestone addresses guests at brunch



Brunch hosts David & Linda Cornfield with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta

# YOUR STORIES, YOUR OPERA

The world premiere of *An American Dream* was a huge success – and it was you who made this Seattle Opera commission possible! This work was the culmination of the 2011 *Belonging(s)* Project. This community-driven program asked you and other members of the community to share your stories and to reflect on what singular item you would keep if you had to leave your home.

Many of you supported this work with your time and contributions, allowing the program to grow into a meaningful storytelling experience. Our creative team – including librettist Jessica Murphy Moo, composer Jack Perla, conductor Judith Yan, and director Peter Kazaras – crafted an opera that reflects the Pacific Northwest’s local history alongside universal themes of family and home in times of strife.

**Thanks to your gifts**, this incredible project turned into two main stage performances at McCaw Hall, allowing us to share this music and story with more than 2,000 people. Many others also enjoyed neighborhood programs leading up to the premiere, including a partnership with Bainbridge Performing Arts to present a community preview to about 200 attendees.

When you support Seattle Opera and its learning and engagement programs, you create rich, artful experiences for our entire region! We are excited for the future of *An American Dream*. From the beginning, it was conceived as a chamber opera to share in venues throughout the Puget Sound. Bring *An American Dream* to your neighborhood by contacting [education@seattleopera.org](mailto:education@seattleopera.org) to share your ideas for a future production.



© Elise Bakketun

*Soprano D'Ana Lombard performing the role of Eva Crowley in the world premiere of An American Dream.*

**Invest in Seattle Opera’s many other community programs by making a donation today!** Help us reach our goal of [100 gifts by September 30](#) to support current and future learning and engagement programs.

**CALL** 206.389.7669

**EMAIL** [donor.services@seattleopera.org](mailto:donor.services@seattleopera.org)

**VISIT** [seattleopera.org/give](http://seattleopera.org/give)

# A BOLD SEASON KICKOFF



Together with more than 1,200 attendees, Seattle Opera kicked off the season in a bold new way on July 11. McCaw Hall was packed with special events and activities for all to enjoy, celebrating each of the six operas in the 2015/16 season and launching Seattle Opera's brand new look. We are so grateful for your support and contributions that made this event a success!

Experienced opera lovers and newcomers alike had a wonderful time with the afternoon's activities, which included several rousing performances: the Seattle Sounders FC Sound Wave Marching Band leading the crowd into McCaw Hall, a feature of Seattle Opera's Youth Opera Chorus performing *Every River Has Its People* from the opera trilogy *Our Earth*, the improv troupe Unexpected Productions reenacting *The Marriage of Figaro*, and a magnificent audience sing-a-long to the *Nabucco* chorus work, "Va, pensiero."

The event was a splendid celebration of **community spirit and love of the arts**. It truly set the tone for the year, building even greater enthusiasm for the 2015/16 season. Whether you were in attendance to revel in the fun, or if you were present in spirit, Seattle Opera thanks you for your support!



# SEATTLE OPERA.

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## SAVE THE DATES!

### 3RD ANNUAL OPERA BALL

Saturday, January 16, 2016  
Grand Lobby & Backstage  
McCaw Hall

### GALA FEATURING GREER GRIMSLEY

Saturday, April 16, 2016  
Museum of History & Industry

VISIT [SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/EVENTS](http://SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/EVENTS) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.