

# HANSEL & GRETEL: TREATS & SWEETS

This October, Seattle Opera shares the adventurous fairytale of *Hansel and Gretel*. In the story, our young protagonists are tempted by the delicious treats and sumptuous sweets at the Witch's saccharine abode.

Even though these candies pose a real danger to *Hansel and Gretel*, it's typically quite fun to enjoy and share treats with others! Just as candies bring a smile to children's faces, we at Seattle Opera also smile with immense gratitude when you and members of the donor family share "treats" of opera with friends and family.

It is through your support that we bring this magical opera back to our stage after more than 20 years. **Won't you share \$20 to ensure this sweet and delectable opera continues to delight future audiences?**

**GIVE \$20  
TODAY**

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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**SEATTLE OPERA GALA:  
BEYOND THE STAGE**

Saturday, April 22, 2017  
Fairmont Olympic Hotel

RSVP by October 31 for special early bird benefits! Contact Donor Services at 206.389.7669 or [rsvp@seattleopera.org](mailto:rsvp@seattleopera.org) for details.

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# SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**SEPTEMBER  
2016**

Donor Impact  
Report

## DEAR FRIENDS,



Welcome to the 2016/17 season with Seattle Opera! What a fantastic start it has been, thanks to the comedic and delightful *Wicked Adventures of Count Ory* this past August. It's through the support of donors like you that such wonderful musical storytelling is made possible. **Thank you!**

Music is of course at the heart of what we do to create life-enhancing experiences for our community. Equally important is the strength of our storytelling—using this unique fusion of music and theatricality to celebrate our universal connections with each other, our history, and our future.

As you know, Seattle Opera has made some exciting updates in the past year, both in how we visually present ourselves in a bold and refreshed brand, and in how we approach our programs on and off the McCaw Hall stage. Our intentional use of storytelling propels us to **heightened levels of accessibility and connection**. We continue to grow our service to the community through Education and Community Engagement programs, breaking down barriers to this art form one classroom and workshop at a time. On the mainstage, we now offer **two dynamic and experienced casts** in order to provide **utmost performance quality** no matter what date you attend. (This is in contrast to the past system of presenting a primary cast of experienced singers and an alternate cast of singers newer to their roles.)

Such equitable improvements are part of the greater picture for Seattle Opera as **we work to make opera for all**. Thank you for being a meaningful member of the Seattle Opera family and supporting this life-affirming art form! I look forward to sharing the rest of this season with you.

With best wishes,

Aidan Lang  
General Director



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: BRIAN MARKS FOR PRESIDENT

At the Annual Meeting on September 6, board member and former Development Committee Chair Brian Marks officially accepted the role of Seattle Opera Board President and will serve this position for the next two years. We are so grateful for his dedication and look forward to this exciting new chapter.

Brian has been involved with the Opera as a donor and subscriber since he and his wife Carol moved to Seattle in 2008 from Augusta, GA. He was first introduced to Seattle Opera through one of our former Young Artists, soprano Carolyn Kahl-Hardy, who performed as a lead singer with the Augusta Opera. Brian often traveled to Seattle at the time, and Carolyn recommended that he check out a Seattle Opera performance on his next visit. He was hooked! Brian loves opera for its complete, musically-immersive theatre experience:

*“It is the whole package: live orchestral music, singing, acting, sets, costumes, even the opera house itself. When a production is well done, it fully engages the senses, the emotions, the intellect. We are very fortunate to have here in Seattle a first-rate professional opera company.”*



As Seattle Opera Board President, it is Brian's role to lead the Board in support of the company and ensure that the Opera continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner, creating top-quality, life-enhancing experiences that will touch the hearts and minds of all participants. This includes both mainstage audiences and those of our extensive Education and Community Engagement programming. By bringing educational programming to the schools, we address the increasing lack of arts education and make a big impact on our community.

Brian's family foundation, the Marks Family Foundation, was pleased to recently sponsor the production of *The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory* this past August:

*“Not all opera has to be heavy and serious and really long. Certainly opera can be a fun night out in the summertime, and Count Ory fit the bill perfectly. It was full of whimsy, farce, color, and vibrant visuals. I found myself laughing out loud several times. The addition of Rossini's wonderful music, as well as terrific singing from two fine casts, made for a real crowd pleaser.”*



Brian Marks meets with baritone John Tessier, who performed the role of Nadir in last season's *The Pearl Fishers*.

Brian looks most forward to engaging with fellow board members, ticket buyers, and donors; to share the excitement and artistic quality of Seattle Opera and expand our impact in the community. Be sure to say hello when you see him at McCaw Hall!

# SEATTLE OPERA. AT THE CENTER

Seattle Opera is ready to do so much more! While our performances will continue in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, our administrative and rehearsal spaces are in a separate South Lake Union building at the end of its useful life. By the end of 2018, we will transform Mercer Arena on the corner of Mercer Street and 4th Avenue into a world-class center for opera that connects to McCaw Hall and supports our growing community and education programming and partnerships.



## PROJECT TIMELINE

- 2008** • Design review with Seattle Center  
Project placed on hold due to Great Recession
- 2014** • Seattle Opera Board voted to resume project and kick off fundraising campaign
- 2015-16** • Confirm design and obtain building permit
- JAN 2017** • Construction begins at Mercer Arena site
- OCT 2018** • Lease expires at 1020 John Street administrative/rehearsal building; Seattle Opera moves into new facility!

## KEY UPDATES

On August 15, our project team made a final presentation to a subcommittee of the Seattle Design Commission regarding the building exterior and landscaping updates. Our designs are fully approved, and we will now begin applying for permits to start construction.

This project is made possible by individual contributors. **We are 56% of the way to our private fundraising goal of \$28 million.**

We are on track to demolish Mercer Arena in early 2017 and will have a Groundbreaking Ceremony that coincides with this exciting milestone. Stay tuned for more details as we look forward to this event!

### TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT KRINA TURNER:

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