

# SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**JUNE 2017**

Donor Impact  
Report



© Brandon Patoc

## WHAT A YEAR!

After a fantastic production of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, the end of the 2016/17 season is upon us. Now is the time to reflect on the past year, and I thank you—Seattle Opera’s generous donor family—for your continuous support. From the whimsical new production of *The Wicked Adventures of Count Ory*, to the Seattle Opera premiere of *Katya Kabanova*, to expanded Education and Community Engagement programs (including the poignant chamber opera experience of *The Combat*), you have helped opera reach new heights and new audiences!

We need your help to raise \$1.1 million by June 30 in order to achieve our fundraising goals this season. Seattle Opera won’t be back on the Marion Oliver McCaw Hall stage until August 5, for the opening of our 2017/18 season with *Madame Butterfly*. However, we will be hard at work all summer with youth and community opera programs, like our upcoming Summer Fest open house event on July 15, as well as our new Seattle Opera Academy training program for young artists in collaboration with Marrowstone Music Festival.

You are such a vital part of Seattle Opera. Your donor support keeps opera alive and thriving for everyone to enjoy in our diverse Pacific Northwest community. I thank you for sharing the 2016/17 season with your families, friends, and neighbors, and I look forward to welcoming you to our exciting upcoming season!

Warmly,

Aidan Lang  
General Director

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: MILKANA & COLIN BRACE

It’s such a joy to hear the individual stories that bring people to Seattle Opera! Meet Milkana and Colin Brace, who have grown to become integral members of our wonderful donor family.

Seattle Opera donors Milkana and Colin both grew up surrounded by music, in Bulgaria and Canada, respectively, but the first opera they attended together was Seattle Opera’s *Aida* in 2008. Shortly thereafter, they joined BRAVO!, Seattle Opera’s young professionals group. They’ve hardly missed a performance since then, becoming subscribers, donors, and close friends of Seattle Opera. The opera has become a shared passion that allows them to discover new worlds, far removed from their technology careers.

Their appreciation for the art form has grown the more they learned about it. In addition to enjoying the magic and beauty of live performances, Milkana and Colin also began to understand more deeply the complexities and costs of bringing an opera together and the importance of what happens off-stage.

Milkana and Colin are proud Seattle Opera donors, with the wish to contribute towards this art form

becoming more prevalent in our rapidly-evolving region. Now a Seattle Opera Board member, Milkana also recently co-chaired the 2017 Gala: Beyond the Stage in a wonderful show of leadership and engagement. She and Colin are valued members of the donor family, and we are so grateful for their enthusiasm and support!



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Front cover: Maria Beck poses with Anubis character from *The Magic Flute* at the 2017 Seattle Opera Gala. © Genevieve Hathaway.

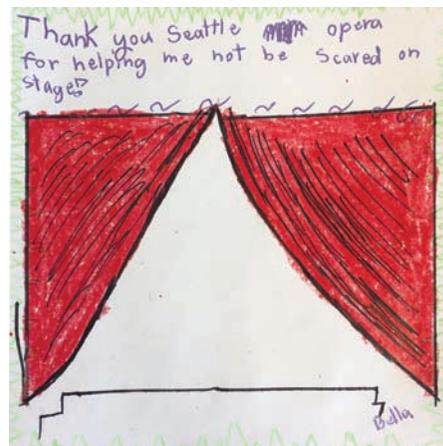
# SHARING OPERA TIME WITH YOUNGSTERS

As a Seattle Opera donor, you fund enriching opera experiences at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and throughout the Pacific Northwest community. One of the many education programs made possible by your support is *Opera Time*, an integrated music and storytelling program for young elementary school students. In this program, Seattle Opera Teaching Artists travel to classrooms across Washington State all year long to introduce the joy of opera.

One recent Opera Time Classroom Residency wrapped up earlier this year in Burien, WA for more than 100 second-graders at Gregory Heights Elementary School. Over the course of 12 visits, these students **created their own operas** and performed them for their fellow schoolmates and families. Experiences like this really engage young minds as they learn about opera, letting them see that this art form is something everyone can share and enjoy!



**Thank you for your help in nurturing a newfound love of opera in the next generation.** As you can see in the thank-you cards we received from students of Gregory Heights, they had fun creating opera and being on stage. Perhaps some of these children will grow up to become future composers, singers, or stage hands – and thanks to you, they will all grow up with meaningful connections to opera.



By the close of the 2016/17 season, Seattle Opera will have visited more than 75 schools throughout Washington State – 67% of which are Title I, or low-income, schools. The number of total students served this year is an approximate 40% increase from last year!

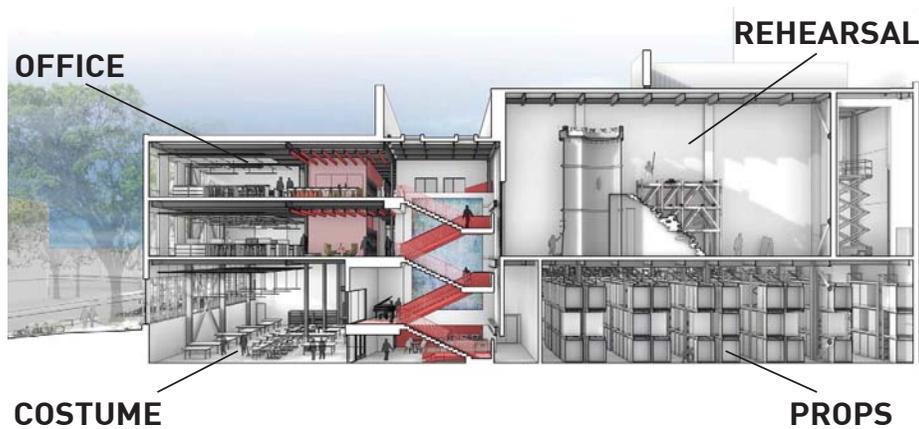
**Your donor impact will continue to grow** as we expand these enriching Education and Community Engagement programs, reflecting our mission of drawing our entire community together through opera. Thank you!

# SEATTLE OPERA. AT THE CENTER

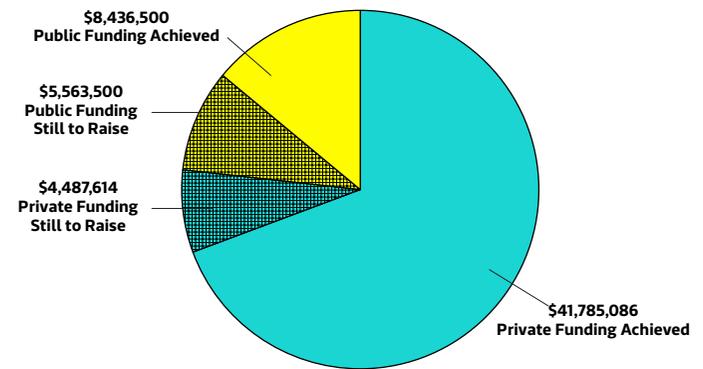
Seattle Opera's capital campaign to build a new civic home is well on its way, thanks to your support!

We will do more than ever before to bring opera to all, through a new facility adjacent to our performance space at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. This building will have enhanced rehearsal rooms, workshop areas for first-rate artistic production, and dedicated space for Education and Community Engagement programs, all to create the finest opera experiences for you and the whole Pacific Northwest community!

You may have noticed the construction progress to the east of McCaw Hall. Demolition of Mercer Arena is now complete. We look forward to kicking off construction with our Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 20, 2017. The building is scheduled to be ready for move-in by October 2018, in time for the lease expiration at our current facility in South Lake Union.



PROJECT REVENUE TOTAL: \$60,272,700



Thanks to you and the donor family, we are 83% of the way toward completely funding this \$60 million project!



## LEARN MORE

CALL 206.389.7669

EMAIL [SOATC@seattleopera.org](mailto:SOATC@seattleopera.org)

VISIT [seattleopera.org/atthecenter](http://seattleopera.org/atthecenter)

# SAVE THE DATE:

SEATTLE OPERA  
1020 JOHN STREET | SEATTLE, WA 98109

## SEATTLE OPERA AT THE CENTER

Groundbreaking Ceremony

**JUNE 20, 2017  
10:00 AM**

**MARION OLIVER MCCAW HALL**

Join Seattle Opera as we celebrate our new civic home to share with the community, coming in 2018!

**[SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/GROUNDBREAKING](http://SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/GROUNDBREAKING)**

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