

Community Impact Report

2023 -2024 Season



VAOPERA

Training Manual

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Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season

Letter From General Director and CEO



Virginia Opera is not just a cultural institution; it is an integral part of the communities we serve. This year, we expanded our outreach programs to bring the magic of opera to even more people. Our educational initiatives reached schools, community centers, and diverse audiences, fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts and enriching lives across the region.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering support of our patrons, donors, and sponsors. Your generosity has allowed Virginia Opera to thrive and grow, ensuring that opera remains a vibrant and accessible art form in our community. We express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued belief in the transformative power of the performing arts.

As we eagerly anticipate the coming year, we have exciting plans and ambitious goals. Virginia Opera is committed to pushing artistic boundaries, expanding our reach, and deepening our impact on the communities we serve. We invite you to join us on this journey, as we continue to make opera an integral part of the cultural landscape in Virginia.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Virginia Opera family, and we look forward to sharing many more extraordinary moments with you in the future.

Brava!

Peggy Kriha Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peggy Kriha Miller', written in a cursive style.

General Director and CEO

Mission, Vision, Values

Values

- Virginia Opera upholds the highest standards of artistic excellence throughout all programming.
- Virginia Opera is committed to equity and diversity through our storytelling, education, accessibility, staffing, and leadership.
- Through fiscal responsibility and transparency, Virginia Opera maintains a stable financial base that ensures the presentation of opera experiences for both current and future audiences.
- As a strong partner, Virginia Opera is devoted to welcoming and engaging our communities and audiences of all ages.
- Virginia Opera helps shape the future of opera by nurturing and developing young talent on stage and behind the curtain.

Mission

Virginia Opera's mission is to bring compelling and artistically exemplary opera performances to a wide variety of audiences. We strive to nurture this complex art form, the artists who create it, and the audiences who will ensure its future.

Vision

"We enrich and engage our communities through the beauty, passion and power of opera."



Strategic Plan

In the Spring of 2022, Virginia Opera took on the daunting task of adopting a new strategic plan and updating the organization's Mission, Vision, and Values. Every project and program directly aligns with these new goals and will continue to be markers on Virginia Opera's road to growth and stability.

The strategic objectives of Virginia Opera are to:

- Insure Organizational stability
- Enhance Artistic growth.
- Broaden focus on Civic Engagement.
- Sustain current audience and donors while building those for the future.
- Embrace Diversity, Equity and Inclusion across the entire organization.

Projects	Details	Outcomes
21st Century Opera Initiative	4-year-long initiative with productions of <i>Three Decembers</i> , <i>Fellow Travelers</i> , <i>Sanctuary Road</i> , <i>50th Anniversary Commission/World-Premiere Loving v. Virginia</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued commitment to new works. • Maintain highest level of artistic quality and professionalism.
Civic Engagement Initiative	Increasing visibility statewide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating new community focused programs • Broadening education program to all ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace and sustain community partnerships. • Develop new community partners. • Improve communications with all community stakeholders.

Mainstage

19,720

Attendees to Mainstage Performances



Every season, Virginia Opera puts on four mainstage productions. This past season, we aimed to encourage our opera-loving community by presenting exciting and groundbreaking performances. We presented 26 incredibly entertaining shows: “Siegfried”, “The Barber of Seville”, “Sanctuary Road”, and “Madama Butterfly”.



50%

OF SINGLE TICKET PURCHASERS WERE FIRST TIME TICKET BUYERS

Commissioning Virginia History *Loving v. Virginia*



Over the last three years, Virginia Opera and Richmond Symphony, in collaboration with co-producer Minnesota Opera, have jointly commissioned the world premiere opera *Loving v. Virginia*, based on the court case of the same name. Following extensive efforts, we are thrilled to announce the presentation of this emotionally resonant and significant production in April and May 2025.

NORFOLK
FRIDAY, APRIL 25 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 @ 2:30 PM

FAIRFAX
SATURDAY, MAY 3 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 4 @ 2:00 PM

RICHMOND
FRIDAY, MAY 9 @ 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 10 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 11 @ 2:30 PM

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

(Left to right)

ADAM TURNER, CONDUCTOR
VA Opera Artistic Director
& Chief Conductor

JESSICA MURPHY MOO, LIBRETTIST

DAMIEN GETER, COMPOSER
Virginia native

DENYCE GRAVES, DIRECTOR
World-renowned opera star

MIKIKO SUZUKI MACADAMS,
Set Designer

JESSICA JAHN,
Costume Designer





VAOPERA

Civic Engagement

“What a wonderful experience! We were overjoyed at this opportunity for our students, that are primarily economically disadvantaged! Students and teachers alike were so grateful for the care, the time, the quality, and the kindness of the actors.”

- Sugarland Elementary, Loudon County on “Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World”

Over

4,500

Reached through Civic Engagement Programming



24

Schools and Community Venues Reached

This season, Virginia Opera brought cultural enrichment to Hampton Roads, Richmond, and northern Virginia with diverse programs like "Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in The World" and Musical Story Time, along with thought-provoking discussions such as "Pride in Black Voices: Cotton." Our active involvement in festivals and events showcased our commitment as both a resource and partner within the community.

Civic Engagement

Where we were

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT VIRGINIA OPERA REACHED 39 COMMUNITY CENTERS, SCHOOLS, AND LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE OF VIRGINIA!

- Miles J. Jones Elementary (Richmond)
- Westover Hills Elementary (Richmond)
- James River Elementary (Williamsburg)
- St. Edward-Epiphanly Catholic School (Richmond)
- McIntosh Elementary (Newport News)
- Chittum Elementary (Chesapeake)
- JL Francis Elementary (Richmond)
- Nansemond River High (Suffolk)
- William & Mary (Williamsburg)
- Old Dominion University (Norfolk)
- Cox High (Virginia Beach)
- Green Run Collegiate (Virginia Beach)
- Princess Anne High (Virginia Beach)
- R-E-A-D (Chesapeake)
- An Achievable Dream (Virginia Beach)
- Governor's School for the Arts (Norfolk)
- Salem High (Virginia Beach)
- TRS Kids (Norfolk)
- Warwick High (Newport News)
- St. Joseph Catholic School (Petersburg)
- Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary (Richmond)
- Hampton Roads Academy (Newport News)
- Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts (Suffolk)
- Chrysler Museum of Art (Norfolk)
- Sherwood Forest Elementary (Norfolk)
- Meadowbrook High (Chesterfield)
- Elizabeth Davis Middle (Chester)
- Matthew Whaley Elementary (Williamsburg)
- Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center (Fairfax)
- Woodside High (Newport News)
- Sugarland Elementary (Sterling)
- Slover Library (Norfolk)
- Valentine Museum (Richmond)
- Crittenden Middle (Newport News)
- East Ocean View Community & Senior Center (Norfolk)
- Thomas Dale High (Chester)
- Booker T. Washington High (Norfolk)
- G.W. Carver Intermediate (Chesapeake)
- St. Helena Elementary (Norfolk)
- Churchland Elementary (Portsmouth)
- Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Norfolk)
- Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)
- Old Town Hall (Fairfax)
- Richmond Public Library, main branch (Richmond)
- Weinstein Jewish Community Center (Richmond)

Developing Young Talent

23-24 Season Herndon Foundation

Emerging Artists



(From Top left to right)

Yinghui He, tenor

Taewon Sohn, baritone

Erik Grendahl, baritone

Emily Harmon, mezzo-soprano



Daniel Lugo, tenor

Elary Mede, soprano

Carla Vargas Fuster, soprano

Jordan Costa, tenor



Alexander Kapp, baritone

Zizhao Wang, bass



The Herndon Foundation Emerging Artists Program offers exceptionally talented artists a seasonal residency featuring an extensive schedule of performance opportunities within a professional training environment. We are incredibly grateful to continue to offer this opportunity with the annual support of the Herndon Foundation.

Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!

Director's Circle \$25,000+

CORPORATE

Altria Arts Alliance
Dominion Energy

FOUNDATION

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter
Foundation
The Goode Family Foundation
Herndon Foundation
James M. Willcox
Memorial Fund
Reinhart Foundation
Slatten-McDonald Fund
The Beck Foundation

GOVERNMENT

City of Norfolk
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program
Virginia Commission for the Arts

INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Vince Ferranti
Ms. Cary Fountain
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Goode
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. William Pusey Bucci and John
Zeugner



Producer's Circle \$10,000 - \$24,999

CORPORATE

Norfolk Southern
The Wagner Society of Washington D.C.
Baldwin Advisors

FOUNDATION

Community Foundation for a Greater
Richmond
Hampton Roads Community Foundation
R.E.B. Foundation, Community Foundation for a
Greater Richmond
John L. Clark Trust
Louise B. Cochran Charitable Foundation
Helen G. Gifford Foundation
Margaret Massie Disharoon Charitable Trust
Sentara Cares
Thomas L. Disharoon Charitable Trust

GOVERNMENT

Chesterfield County
The Arts Council of Richmond - Cultureworks
Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts
Commission
Williamsburg Area Arts Commission

INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. William D. Covington
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Delevie
Mr. Leslie H. Friedman
Mrs. Karen Guliano
Mrs. Eva S. Hardy Claus Ihlemann and Robert
Roman
Mr. Jordan A. Miller Jr.
Ms. Cornelia Serota
Dr. Homer A. Smith
Dr. Arnold Stolberg

Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!

Bravo Society \$2,500 - \$4,999

CORPORATE

Benevity
Birdsong

FOUNDATION

Virginia Opera Guild Foundation
The John A. Cable Foundation
Nicholson AAAA Charitable Foundation
Rouse-Bottom Foundation
WE McGuire Charitable Foundation
Ula and Janne Motekat Fund

GOVERNMENT

Suffolk Fine Arts Commission
Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities
Commission
York County Arts Commission

INDIVIDUAL

Ms. Donna Allen Simeon and Marlys Austin
Ms. Jeannie P. Baliles
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Barr, Jr
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Boglio
Drs. Bruce and Cassianne Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cooper
Mrs. Bess P. Decker
Mr. Ammon Dunton Frederick and Muschi
Fisher
The Garner Family
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gindroz
Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus W. Grandy V
Mr. Frederic Harwood
Mr. James A. Hixon
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Holloway
Mrs. and Mr. Charles Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. John Klemenc
Cdr. Kenneth A. Krantz
Ms. Kathleen Le Mons
Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Lilly
Mr. Michael L. Maszaros
Mrs. Valerie R. Neff and Mr. Edward J. Kelly

INDIVIDUAL CONT.

Mr. William B. McAree II
Sue Ann Messmer
Susan and Dale Oller
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Pepe
Gary and Carolyn Pitts
Mr. Richard Pulley IV Dr. and Mrs. Larry Quate
Ms. Marika A. Rawles
Dr. John Reynolds
Ms. Lynn Cobb and Mr. Stephen W. Richard
Cindy and Eddie Russell, Jr.
Mrs. Laurens Sartoris
Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Schmidt Jr.
The Shuck Charitable Fund
Dr. Stephen and Nancy Scoper
Hon. Lydia C. Taylor
Mr. J. Kenneth Timmons, Jr.
Mr. Guy K. Tower
Ms. Sonya Waddell
Dr. and Mrs. William M. Waldrop
Dr. Elisabeth Muhlenfeld Wollan
Dr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Zuelzer

Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!

Opera Partner \$1,000 - \$1,499

CORPORATE

Fort Norfolk Retirement Community, Inc.

FOUNDATION

Elmwood Fund

The Harry E. and Martha Lee McCoy Fund

Ula Motekat Fund

INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous

Mr. Arthur L. Backstrom J. and Mary Bayliss

Mr. Charles A. Brothman - In Honor of Allan Reynolds

Benjamin & Elizabeth Chopski

Dr. Sarah B. Clarkson and Dr. John Herre

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Crowley

Mr. David Deghetto - In Honor of Jeannie Baliles

Ms. Helle Dresdner

Mr. Carl Gaenslen

Mr. Thomas A. Grant

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Guarraia Peter and Margaret Huber

Dr. Anne-Marie Irani and Dr. Lawrence Schwartz

Capt. and Mrs. Keith Larson

Mr. and Mrs. S Randall McDaniel

Mrs. Peggy Kriha Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Modlin

Ms. M. Elizabeth Moore

Drs. Daniel Alonso and Powers Peterson

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Powders

Mr. Paul Reilly, Jr.

Allan J. Reiter

Dr. and Mrs. John Sheppard Jr.

L. Sherrer Mark Sorin, DDS and Linda Ferro

Mrs. Gudi J. Stambuk

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Tucker

Juan and Linda Whittington

Mr. Richard T. Witt

Opera Sustainer \$500 - \$999

CORPORATE

Payday Payroll Services

FOUNDATION

Elsie N. Sis and Monroe Nash Fund

Adele M. Thomas Charitable Foundation, Inc

INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous

Ms. Patricia Arant

Robert N. Armen, Jr.

Ms. Ann Askew

Ms. Joanne Barreca

William Blake

Rev. J.P. Blankenship

Mr. Steven H. Brockman and Mr. John Campbell

Dr. John Brush and Gay Goldsmith Fund

Mrs. Barbara L. Carr

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Cheyne

Mrs. Christine K. Cimko

Joel Floyd Clingenpeel Trust

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Craft

Mr. Bruce Curran

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Eicher Norman and

Gisela Fashing Joseph and Alice Fiveash

Mr. and Mrs. Carter B. Furr

Gildea Family Charitable Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Gold

Ms. Dorothy P. Grandstaff

Mr. and Mrs. John Greene

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gregor

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Gross

Mr. Madan M. Gupta

Mr. Filipe Ho

Mr. Floyd C. Joel

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Koste

Mr. Lawrence Franklin

Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!



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Opera Sustainer \$500 - \$999

INDIVIDUAL CONT.

Ms. Katherine Lang
Mr. J. Theodore Linhart
Diana Rupert Livingston
Dr. Velimir Luketic Col. and Mrs. David Maltby
Mr. Bjorn W. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Mr. Stephen Middlebrook
Ms. Joetta Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds Monach
Rev. Gwynneth Mudd
Mary Lou Ocheltree
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Olson
Mr. Glenn Palatini
Patrick Patrong
John and Mary Petersen
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Rennolds
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Richardson Jr.
Ms. Arlene G. Robinson
Carole D. Royall
Mr. David Sadler
Mr. James A. Satterwhite and Mrs. Linda T.
Dorsey
Mr. and Mrs. John Schiffer
Dr. Linda Schneider
Michael Schuchert
Dr. Viviana Karlovac Skansi
Mr. Benjamin M. Smith, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Springman
Capt. and Mrs. Robert J. Swain, USCG
Dr. Ashton Trice
Ms. Vicki Wallshein
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Webster
Ms. Shawndell Winfield