

# *Community Impact Report*

2023 -2024 Season



VAOPERA

# *Training Manual*

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Thank you to the 2023- 2024 Statewide Board of Governors!

# *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"> <li>• Continued commitment to new works.</li> <li>• Maintain highest level of artistic quality and professionalism.</li> </ul>
Civic Engagement Initiative	Increasing visibility statewide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating new community focused programs</li> <li>• Broadening education program to all ages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embrace and sustain community partnerships.</li> <li>• Develop new community partners.</li> <li>• Improve communications with all community stakeholders.</li> </ul>

# 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



# 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-Epiphany 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+

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Altria  
Arts Alliance  
Dominion Energy

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The Goode Family Foundation  
Herndon Foundation  
James M. Willcox  
Memorial Fund  
Reinhart Foundation  
Slatten-McDonald Fund  
The Beck Foundation  
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City of Norfolk  
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program  
Virginia Commission for the Arts

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Anonymous  
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Ms. Cary Fountain  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. William Pusey Bucci and John Zeugner

### ARTS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

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Within Interior Design, Inc.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

**Candid.**

# Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!

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

### FOUNDATION

Community Foundation for a Greater  
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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

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Roman  
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Ms. Cornelia Serota  
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Dr. Arnold Stolberg

## Artist Patron Society \$5,000 - \$9,999

### CORPORATE

Cavanaugh Nelson, PLC

### FOUNDATION

J.L. Camp Foundation, Inc,  
In Honor of James McGough  
The Christian Family Foundation  
M&G Mezzanotte Foundation

### GOVERNMENT

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# 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  
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### GOVERNMENT

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# Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!

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### FOUNDATION

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### FOUNDATION

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# Thank you for supporting our 2023 - 2024 season!



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