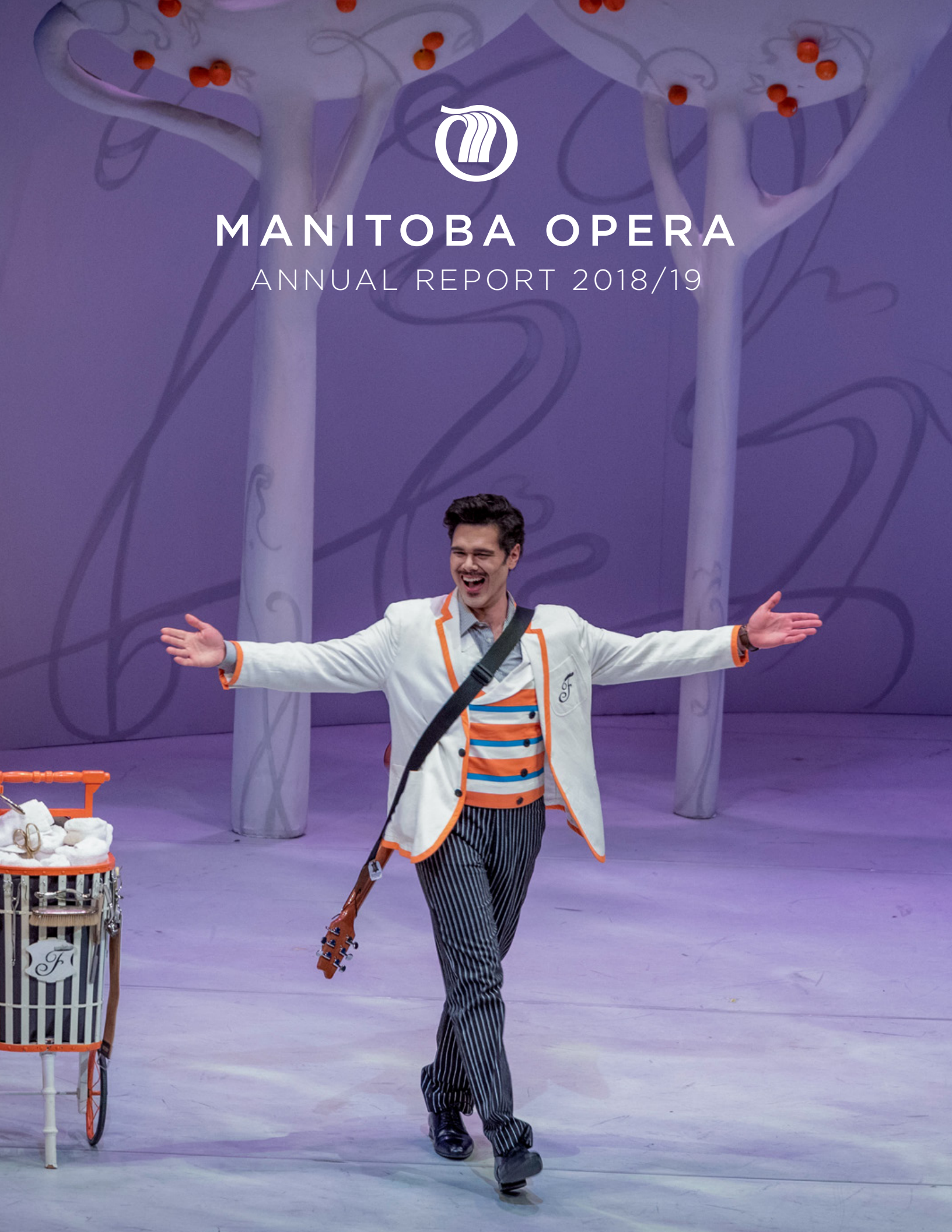




# MANITOBA OPERA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19





MANITOBA OPERA

**OUR MISSION**

TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S  
LIVES THROUGH THE  
GLORY OF OPERA.

MBOPERA.CA

# CONTENTS

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
3	ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING
5	<i>DON GIOVANNI</i> ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST
7	<i>THE BARBER OF SEVILLE</i> ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST
9	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
15	STUDENT PROGRAMMING
19	SPECIAL EVENTS
23	GALA RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF GAIL ASPER
26	ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT
31	DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN
33	FINANCE REPORT
34	VOLUNTEERS
36	BOARD OF TRUSTEES & COMMITTEES
37	STAFF
38	PARTNERS IN OPERA
39	SUPPORT CAMERATA & FRIENDS
42	OPERA STORIES
43	SUPPORT TRIBUTES



Stephen Hegedus (Leporello) and Monica Huisman (Donna Elvira),  
*Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manitoba Opera's 2018/19 season was by turns thought provoking and light hearted. *Don Giovanni* followed the master manipulator as he wooed and discarded women until the moment of his fiery judgment, while *The Barber of Seville*, with Figaro and his wily schemes, was a breath of fresh spring air.

Don Giovanni as a charming Lothario undergoes a sea-change in the #MeToo era - we see not a charming rake, but a serial abuser. Daniel Okulitch took on this challenging character with aplomb; his portrayal of an entitled man limned in violence was spot-on. Stephen Hegedus as Leporello provided a comic foil and several

much-needed laughs. Jessica Strong, Owen McCausland, and Monica Huisman were outstanding as Donna Anna, Don Ottavio, and Donna Elvira, respectively. And Andrea Lett as Zerlina was luminous in her Manitoba Opera debut.

A counterpoint to the serious themes in *Don Giovanni* was April's fun-filled production of *The Barber of Seville*. With his megawatt smile and swaggering delivery, Elliot Madore commanded the

stage as Figaro. Andrew Owens was hilarious as Count Almaviva, Andrea Hill played for laughs as Rosina, and Steven Condry was a comedic gem as Bartolo.

A very successful drive for personal care products was held in conjunction with this production. A van-load of toiletries donated by patrons was gratefully received by Lighthouse Mission, Siloam Mission, and Main Street Project.



Andrea Lett (Zerlina) and Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



Elliot Madore (Figaro), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Volunteers Ted Miller & Barbara Herriot-Miller at *Don Giovanni* with Sandra Schmidtke, Grants & Corporate Giving Manager. Photo: A. Miglioranci



*The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



September 13, 2018 marked the launch of Manitoba Opera's Gail Asper Award, named for its inaugural recipient. At a gala reception, the company honoured Ms. Asper for her contributions to arts and culture in Canada. Subsequent honorees will be chosen because they, like Ms. Asper, show vision, determination, and leadership in pursuit of a goal or achievement.

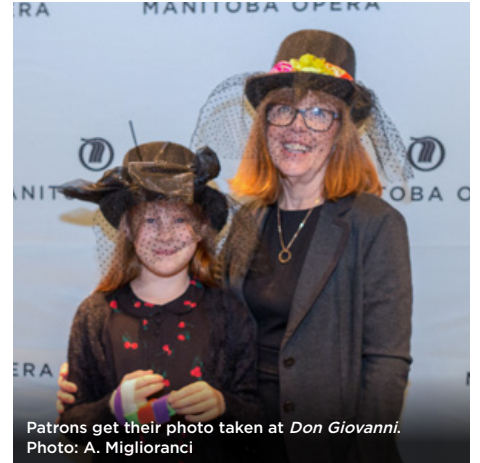
Mid-year, an unexpected opportunity arose in the form of a generous gift from a private donor. Seeking to eliminate the company's long-standing debt, the donor pledged \$1 for every \$2 we raised, to a maximum of \$100,000. Fundraising efforts were so robust that a subsequent gift of \$50,000 was made by the same donor, to be matched dollar-for-dollar. As a result, Manitoba Opera has eliminated a debt that has existed for more than three decades.

“

**Manitoba Opera has the gift of always dropping exactly the right opera at exactly the right time. Thank you for a wonderful and impactful evening.”**

**ANONYMOUS PATRON**  
DON GIOVANNI

Last season we broke all Manitoba Opera fundraising records when we exceeded \$900,000 in contributed income and special events. This season we surpassed even that milestone with \$1,236,000 in fundraising revenue. The credit for this achievement is shared by the board, staff, corporate supporters, government funders, and the loyal patrons of Manitoba Opera. As we look back on our 2018/19 season, we are filled with immense gratitude for the generosity of all those who make opera in Manitoba a priority.



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

## MANITOBA OPERA'S 46TH SEASON FEATURED VISUALLY INVENTIVE AND RE-IMAGINED VERSIONS OF TWO OF OPERA'S MOST POPULAR WORKS.

The season began in November with a stark and contemporary production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's classic tale of seduction and damnation, *Don Giovanni*.

Originally conceived and directed by Spanish-born and Québec-based director Oriol Tomas, the production was updated to an unspecified mid-20th century look and feel. It was originally constructed for and by Edmonton Opera with set design by Brett Gerecke and costumes by Deanna Finnman. Winnipeg-based designer Scott Henderson provided the lighting design. Tyrone Paterson,

Manitoba Opera's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor, led the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Tadeusz Biernacki, Manitoba Opera's Assistant Music Director and Chorus Master, prepared the 20-voice Manitoba Opera Chorus.

The cast was led by Canadian bass-baritone Daniel Okulitch as the ill-fated Don Giovanni. Toronto-based bass-baritone Stephen Hegedus made his company debut as Leporello, Don Giovanni's valet and sidekick.

The trio of women who bring about the Don's ultimate fiery demise were sung by three Manitoba artists: Monica Huisman as Donna Elvira, with both Jessica Strong (Donna Anna) and Andrea Lett (Zerlina) making strong company debuts. Tenor Owen McCausland

(Don Ottavio), baritone Johnathon Kirby (Masetto), and bass Kirk Eichelberger (The Commendatore), rounded out the principal cast.

In April, Manitoba Opera returned to the Concert Hall stage with a witty and well-received production of Gioachino Rossini's classic comedy, *The Barber of Seville*. The production was staged by Montréal director Alain Gauthier, who previously directed *La Traviata* in April 2018. The updated and visually appealing production (originally conceived by Morris Panych - with set design by Ken MacDonald and costumes by Dana Osborne) was provided by Pacific Opera Victoria. Winnipegger Bill Williams was



*Don Giovanni*. Photo: C. Corneau



Andrew Owens (Almaviva) and Elliot Madore (Figaro), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

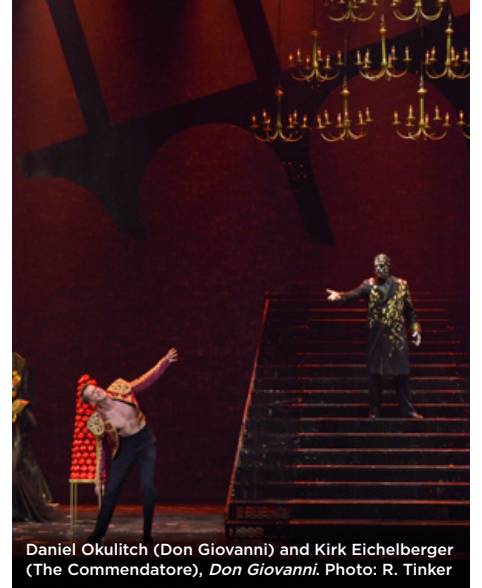


*The Barber of Seville.* Photo: C. Corneau

the lighting designer. Once again, Tyrone Paterson led the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Tadeusz Biernacki prepared the 16-voice Manitoba Opera Men's Chorus.

The production featured a number of impressive company debuts: Canadian baritone Elliot Madore as Figaro the barber, Canadian mezzo-soprano Andrea Hill as Rosina, Chicago-based tenor Andrew Owens as Count Almaviva, and Philadelphia's Steven Condry as Dr. Bartolo. Canadian bass Giles Tomkins made a welcome return to our stage as Don Basilio, as did local artists Andrea Lett (Berta) and David Watson (Fiorello). Chorus member Michal Kowalik appeared as An Officer.

Manitoba Opera is proud of the relationships it has developed over the years with many of North America's finest artists. The company offers exciting opportunities for both established and emerging artists to continue the development of their craft, and Manitoba Opera's Production Department strives to create an environment where these artists are able to do their best work. Manitoba Opera is honoured to welcome these artists to the company, and to bring these great stories - told through beautiful music - to life on our stage.



Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni) and Kirk Eichelberger (The Commendatore), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



Andrea Hill (Rosina), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

“

**Wonderful value for  
entertainment dollar.  
Great performance  
FIVE STARS!”**

**GERALD MCDOWELL**  
ABOUT *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*



Jessica Strong (Donna Anna) and Kirk Eichelberger (The Commendatore), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker

# Don GIOVANNI

## Artistic Team & Cast

MUSIC BY Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
LIBRETTO IN ITALIAN BY Lorenzo Da Ponte

### CONDUCTOR

Tyrone Paterson

### DIRECTOR

Oriol Tomas

### FIGHT DIRECTOR

Jacqueline Loewen

### SCENERY DESIGN BY

Bretta Gerecke

### COSTUME DESIGN BY

Deanna Finnman

### LIGHTING DESIGN BY

Scott Henderson

### SCENERY, PROPERTIES, & COSTUMES PROVIDED BY

Edmonton Opera

### STAGE MANAGER

Robert Pel

### ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Kathryn Ball

Matthew Lagacé†

### PROJECTED TITLES BY

Sheldon Johnson

## PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

### DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Sheldon Johnson

### REPETITEUR

Tadeusz Biernacki

### APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

William Medwick

### WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Alena Zharska

Canada's Royal  
Winnipeg Ballet

### HAIR/WIG DESIGNER

Lori Houston

### HAIR/WIG ASSISTANT

Jill Buhr

### HAIR CREW

Adrianna Oliphant

Nicole Pielou

Leslie Rogers

Jessica Sproul

Christian Hadley

Jean-Marc Lafond

Erin Kiazky

Sarah Leighton

Stephanie Porrior

Theresa Thompson

Michelle Murre/  
Cary Denby

### MAKE-UP DESIGNER

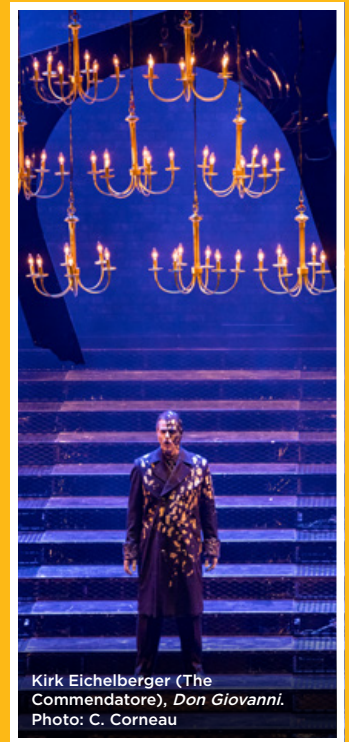
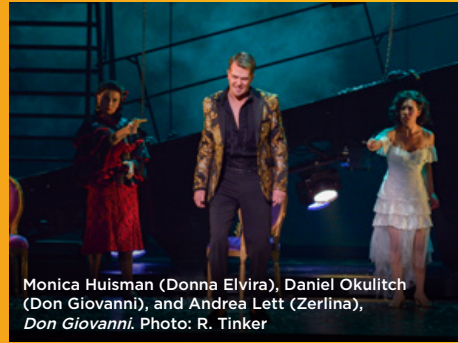
### MAKE-UP ASSISTANT

### MAKE-UP CREW

### PROJECTED TITLES CUEING



Andrea Lett (Zerlina), Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni), and Johnathon Kirby (Masetto), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: C. Corneau

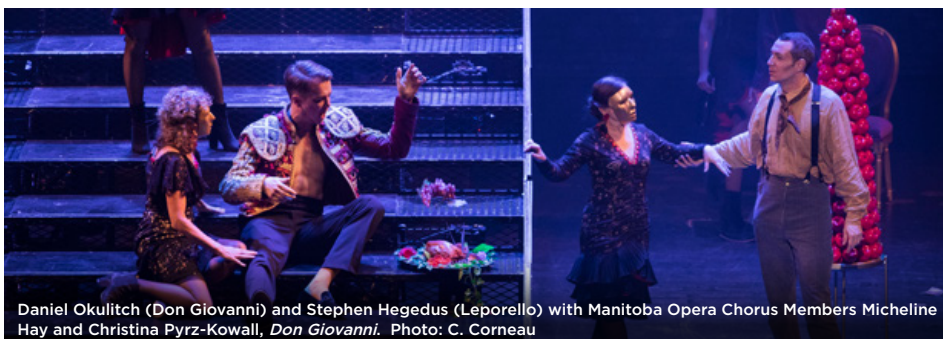


## PRINCIPAL CAST (IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE)

<b>LEPORELLO</b> <i>Giovanni's servant and sidekick</i>	Stephen Hegedus	<b>DON OTTAVIO</b> <i>Donna Anna's fiancé</i>	Owen McCausland
<b>DONNA ANNA</b> <i>The Commendatore's daughter</i>	Jessica Strong	<b>DONNA ELVIRA</b> <i>A noblewoman abandoned by Giovanni</i>	Monica Huisman
<b>DON GIOVANNI</b> <i>A licentious nobleman and matador</i>	Daniel Okulitch	<b>ZERLINA</b> <i>A young woman</i>	Andrea Lett
<b>THE COMMENDATORE</b>	Kirk Eichelberger	<b>MASETTO</b> <i>A young man engaged to Zerlina</i>	Johnathon Kirby

## CHORUS

<b>SOPRANO</b>	<b>MEZZO</b>	<b>TENOR</b>	<b>BASS</b>	<b>SUPERNUMERARIES</b>
Janine Bremault-Bamford	Shayla Davidson	Russ Foster	John Anderson	Savannah Boyko
Linda Feasby	Zoë Gotziaman	Peter Klymkiw	James Dutton	Gabrielle Hill
Jayne Hammond	Micheline Hay	David LaRue	Neil Grewar	Samantha Hutchings
Katherine Mayba	Christina Pyrz-Kowall	George Nytepchuk	Alex Hryndzio	Megan Krohn
Cathy Wach-Dueck	Karla Weir	Lawrence Pauls	Don Larsen	Alanna McPherson
				Corina Schuler



# THE BARBER

## ROSSINI of Seville

### Artistic Team & Cast

**MUSIC BY** Gioachino Antonio Rossini

**LIBRETTO IN ITALIAN BY** Cesare Sterbini

Based on the comedy of the same name by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais



#### CONDUCTOR

Tyrone Paterson

#### DIRECTOR

Alain Gauthier

#### SCENERY DESIGN BY

Ken MacDonald

#### SET & COSTUME DESIGN BY

Dana Osborne

#### LIGHTING DESIGN BY

Bill Williams

#### SCENERY, PROPERTIES, & COSTUMES PROVIDED BY

Pacific Opera Victoria  
(Victoria, BC)

#### STAGE MANAGER

Robert Pel

#### ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Kathryn Ball  
Heather Lee Brereton

#### PROJECTED TITLES BY

Sheldon Johnson

### PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

#### DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Sheldon Johnson

#### REPETITEUR

Tadeusz Biernacki

#### APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

Zahra Larche

#### WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Alena Zharska

#### WARDROBE ALTERATIONS

Canada's Royal  
Winnipeg Ballet

#### HAIR/WIG DESIGNER

Lori Houston

#### HAIR/WIG ASSISTANT

Jill Buhr

#### HAIR CREW

Leslie Rogers

#### MAKE-UP DESIGNER

Christian Hadley

#### MAKE-UP ASSISTANT

Jean-Marc Lafond

#### MAKE-UP CREW

Erin Kiazzyk

Sarah Leighton

Stephanie Porrior

Theresa Thompson

#### PROJECTED TITLES CUEING

Michelle Mourre



Andrew Owens (Almaviva) and Elliot Madore (Figaro), *The Barber of Seville*.  
Photo: C. Corneau



Andrew Owens (Almaviva), Elliot Madore (Figaro), and Andrea Hill (Rosina), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Steven Condry (Bartolo) and Giles Tomkins (Don Basilio), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



The Manitoba Opera Chorus with David Watson (Fiorello) and Andrew Owens (Almaviva), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Andrea Lett (Berta), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

## PRINCIPAL CAST (IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE)

**FIGRELLO** *Servant to Count Almaviva*

David Watson

**COUNT ALMAVIVA**

Andrew Owens

**FIGARO** *A barber*

Elliot Madore

**BARTOLO** *A doctor*

Steven Condry

**ROSINA** *Bartolo's ward*

Andrea Hill

**DON BASILIO** *A singing teacher*

Giles Tomkins

**BERTA** *Bartolo's maid*

Andrea Lett

## CHORUS

### TENOR

Matthew Baron  
Russ Foster  
Peter Klymkiw  
Michal Kowalik  
George Nytepchuk  
J Craig Oliphant  
Lawrence Pauls  
Jonathan Stitt

### BASS

David Boyes  
James Dutton  
Neil Grewar  
Don Larsen  
Eric Loepp  
Devan Ryner  
Dan Szymanski  
Jean van der Merwe

## ALSO APPEARING

**AN OFFICER**

Michal Kowalik

**A NOTARY**

David Watson



Andrea Hill (Rosina), Andrew Owens (Almaviva), Steven Condry (Bartolo), and Elliot Madore (Figaro), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker



Elliot Madore (Figaro) and Steven Condry (Bartolo) *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Manitoba Opera is committed to reaching beyond the Centennial Concert Hall stage and contributing to our city and province in a variety of ways that are not always directly related to a season production. Through its community engagement activities, the company reaches out to new groups and individuals, provides context to the operas performed each season, and discusses issues that have relevance to our 21st century lives. Through these initiatives, a wide range of people are touched by the work of the organization.

Each season, the company collaborates with individuals, organizations, and agencies to develop its community engagement activities and initiatives, almost all of which are free. In 2018/19, over 3,000 people attended or participated in these activities.

From a new Canadian attending the opera for the first time, courtesy of complimentary tickets received through the Opera Access program, to a presentation

backstage, or a night of Spanish cuisine and music, there was a wide array of events, activities, and initiatives to experience and enjoy throughout the 2018/19 season.

“

**Wonderful, I felt  
like I had my season  
tickets to the opera!  
For a lot of people  
here today, she brought  
up a lot of good  
memories.”**

**JEAN MCKRITCHLEY**

DEER LODGE RESIDENT  
Seniors Summer Concert Series

## OPERA ACCESS PROGRAM

Each season Manitoba Opera donates tickets to be used by social service agencies for clients who might not otherwise be able to attend a performance.

In 2018/19, Manitoba Opera distributed 240 complimentary tickets (154 *Don Giovanni*; 86 *The Barber of Seville*). The 19 organizations receiving tickets included African Communities of Manitoba Inc., Girl Guides, Macdonald Youth Services, Urban Circle Training Centre, and West Broadway Youth Outreach.

There were also over 70 ticket donations made to various fundraising activities in the city.

## OPERA PRIMER

Opera Primer is a one-hour lecture that helps prepare audiences to get the most out of their night at the opera. Context for the opera is provided through historical background on its creation and premiere, information on the composer, and DVD clips of key moments in the opera.



Patrons get their photo taken at *The Barber of Seville*.  
Photo: A. Miglioranci



Sarah Jo Kirsch presents *The Barber of Seville* pre-show chat.  
Photo: A. Miglioranci

Opera Primers this year were presented by Winnipeg music expert Don Anderson and held at the University of St. Boniface theatre on Sunday, November 18 (*Don Giovanni*) and Sunday, March 31 (*The Barber of Seville*).

### UNDERSTANDING THE MUSIC

Understanding the Music is a one-hour presentation that delves into the music and the composer's approach, provides historical and social context, and features music and DVD excerpts.

Dr. James Maiello, Associate Professor of Musicology, University of Manitoba, Desautels Faculty of Music, presented the lecture for *Don Giovanni* on Saturday, November 10, at Canadian Mennonite University, Laudamus Auditorium.

Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello, Assistant Professor of Musicology, University of Manitoba, Desautels Faculty of Music, presented

the lecture for *The Barber of Seville* on Saturday, March 23, at the Millennium Library, Carol Shields Auditorium.

### PRE-SHOW CHAT

For every production, a 20-minute lecture on the opera is held a half-hour before curtain at each performance. This year's guest speaker for both productions was Sarah Jo Kirsch, soprano and contemporary dramatic vocalist.

### SIT IN ON THE SITZ

Donors of \$100 or more are invited to enjoy a sneak peek of the upcoming production by attending the sitzprobe (the first rehearsal in which the singers and orchestra are together) and a conversation about the production with the general director and the stage director.

This season's conversations were led by Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, with Oriol Thomas, director of *Don Giovanni*, on Tuesday, November 20, and *The Barber of Seville*'s director, Alain Gauthier, on Tuesday, April 2.

### PHOTO WALL FUN

In the lobby at performances, a variety of costume bits including hats, glasses, and scarves are available for patrons to use for fun pics at the photo wall.

It's a great way to remember your night at the opera and is always a popular place!

### SENIORS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Throughout the summer of 2018, mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski and pianist Julianne Dick performed for enthusiastic audiences at 14 retirement and assisted living residences in Winnipeg, presenting a concert series entitled "Summer Dreams." Repertoire included selections from favourite Broadway hits, familiar folk songs, and art songs by such composers as Debussy and Fauré. Locations included Deer Lodge Centre, Lindenwood Manor, Portsmouth Retirement Centre, and Concordia Village.

“

**Amazing!  
That singing, that  
voice, and that  
volume! It's  
overwhelming!..  
It hits you right  
in the core of your  
being and it speaks  
to you."**

**HILDA NICKLE**  
DEER LODGE RESIDENT  
Seniors Summer Concert Series



Patrons get their photo taken at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello presents Understanding the Music of *The Barber of Seville* at The Millennium Library.



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski performs during her "Summer Dreams" Seniors Residents tour.

## Community Engagement

# DON GIOVANNI

### FILM SCREENING: *IN SEARCH OF MOZART*

*In Search of Mozart* is a documentary that explores Mozart's life and music through his correspondence, dispelling many myths about the composer. A free screening of this film was held at Cinematheque on Saturday, October 27.

### LECTURE: THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF *DON GIOVANNI*

Metropolitan Opera writer, producer, and on-air commentator Will Berger returned to Winnipeg this season to present a lecture exploring gender and power dynamics. This look at the psychology and philosophy of this opera and what it may have to teach a 21st century audience was presented at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Sunday, November 4.

### PRESENTATION: BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Glimpses of backstage life and drama from San Francisco Opera to The Met were shared by Will Berger at a presentation held backstage in the wings at the Centennial Concert Hall, Monday, November 5.

### A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO THE ARTS

Sometimes the subject matter in an opera can be intense or triggering for a patron, bringing up a range of sometimes unsettling feelings. Anticipating that *Don Giovanni*'s subject matter could act as a trigger for some audience members, Manitoba Opera partnered with Clinic Community Health to provide trauma-related information and resources to patrons.

The program, distributed free of charge at performances, featured a comprehensive article provided by Clinic Community Health on presenting and experiencing the arts in a trauma-informed way. Representatives from that organization were also present in the lobby before curtain, during intermission, and after the performance to answer questions and to remind us that while our response to trauma is deeply individual, it does not need to be solitary.

### FLAMENCO DANCE DEMONSTRATION

At the intermission of each performance of *Don Giovanni*, dancers from the Spanish Club of Winnipeg treated patrons to a live demonstration of flamenco dancing on the Piano Nobile, accompanied by flamenco guitarist Philippe Meunier.



Dancers from the Spanish Club of Winnipeg perform on the Piano Nobile during intermission at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Exhibits of Spanish art and culture, courtesy of the Spanish Club of Winnipeg, in the lobby at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons in the lobby at *Don Giovanni*.  
Photo: A. Miglioranci

“

**My 13-year-old daughter and I attended last night. Bravo!! You have made an opera fan out of my daughter.”**

**XTAL BASS  
PATRON**



Patrons get their photo taken at *Don Giovanni*.  
Photo: A. Miglioranci

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"What makes this production sing are its two male leads. Canadian bass-baritone Daniel Okulitch...electrified... with his signature portrayal... Okulitch's richly resonant vocals, clear diction and agile phrasing were displayed in his trip-off-the-tongue recitatives, and rapid-fire delivery."

*Opera Canada*

"...a well-sung and visually delicious feast...an exciting and great-sounding production that I highly recommend."

*Globe and Mail*

"The Ottawa-born artist (Daniel Okulitch as Don Giovanni) electrified Saturday night's audience with his stylized, swaggering toreador... nearly stealing the show..."

*Winnipeg Free Press*

"Lyric soprano Monica Huisman crafted a wildcat Elvira...bringing bushels of energy to the stage with her indignation...showcased her innate dramatic flair."

*Opera Today*

"The chorus, prepared by Tadeusz Biernacki, is excellent...the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Tyrone Paterson, is impeccable."

*La Liberté*



Representatives from Klinik Community Health in the lobby at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons in the lobby at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons get their photo taken at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## Community Engagement

## THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

LECTURE: GAUDÍ AND  
ART NOUVEAU

On Tuesday, March 26, at the Carol Shields Auditorium in the Millennium Library, Jeffrey Thorsteinson, Architectural Historian with the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation, presented a lecture on Art Nouveau and the works of Antoni Gaudí, the most celebrated Spanish architect of the 20th century. The set design for this season's production of *The Barber of Seville* was inspired by the organic configuration of shapes and lines that characterized the Art Nouveau style.

PERSONAL HYGIENE  
PRODUCTS DONATION DRIVE

Manitoba Opera held a donation drive, collecting personal care and hygiene products for Siloam Mission, Lighthouse Mission, and Main Street Project.

Donations were collected at performances of *The Barber of Seville*. Our patrons gave generously, providing soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine care products, and so many other necessities for men and women in our community who are affected by homelessness.



**Thank you so much for the generous donation of hygiene items to Siloam Mission! This donation will help us continue the amazing programs and services we offer to the community free of charge."**

**SHANNON SHUSHKEWICH**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
COORDINATOR, SILOAM MISSION



Donations of personal hygiene products were collected at each performance of *The Barber of Seville*. Donated goods were distributed to Lighthouse Mission, Main Street Project, and Siloam Mission.



Mannequins display traditional Spanish clothing in an exhibit on the Piano Nobile at *The Barber of Seville*. Courtesy of the Spanish Club of Winnipeg. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Chef Paco Rey attends to the star attraction - authentic paella - at the sold-out Fiesta Night, March 21.



Jeffrey Thorsteinson of the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation lectures on Gaudí and Art Nouveau.

## FIESTA NIGHT

On the evening of Thursday, March 21, Kitchen Sync, located in a 110-year-old heritage building on Donald Street was the location for a lively night of Spanish cuisine and entertainment. This sold-out event featured six courses – four plates of tapas, paella, and dessert – punctuated by descriptions of each dish and a paella cooking demonstration. Music was provided by flamenco guitarist Philippe Meunier.



The Spanish Club of Winnipeg's exhibit at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## SPANISH WINE SAMPLING

Patrons at *The Barber of Seville* were treated to samples of Spanish Sons Tempranillo Wine before curtain. Thanks to sommelier James Engstrom and Renaissance Wine Merchants.



Long-time Manitoba Opera volunteer Kurt Schwarz assists sommelier James Engstrom, pouring Spanish Sons Tempranillo for patrons to sample in the lobby before curtain at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Colourful characters, slapstick moments...a cut above the rest"

Winnipeg Free Press

★★★★★/5

"A highly entertaining night at the theatre... albeit with some of the best music ever written, performed by a full symphony orchestra and world-class singers"

Schmopera

"...with internationally renowned Canadian lyric baritone Elliot Madore's dazzling MO debut as the tall, dark and strapping barber exuding conviction and swaggering ease every time he took the stage... his booming vocals that filled the hall matched only by his flashing kilowatt smile."

Opera Today

"...Lett who threw herself into her role as whiskey-swilling, cigarette-puffing maid Berta... heart-wrenching Act II aria 'Il vecchiotto cerca moglie'... became the opera's poignant underbelly and sober second thought, sung with artful compassion."

Opera Today

## CELEBRATING SPANISH CULTURE

With both this season's operas set in Seville, Spain, Manitoba Opera took the opportunity to partner with the Spanish Club of Winnipeg to celebrate Spanish culture. The Spanish Club provided informational and artistic

exhibits at both productions, giving patrons a glimpse of some of the clothing, art, history, and traditions of Spain and its people.



A representative from the Spanish Club of Winnipeg shows off some of the Spanish memorabilia on display at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

# STUDENT PROGRAMMING

## INSPIRING THE CHILDREN OF TODAY

TO CREATE THE AUDIENCES OF TOMORROW

### OPERA IN A TRUNK

Now at the end of its ninth season, Opera in a Trunk is a program for K-6 that provides classroom resources at no cost. The trunks are designed to be used in a way that enhances classroom learning, connecting opera to many of the core subjects that children study. Trunks are themed around six operas: *The Magic Flute*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Aida*, *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*. Each trunk contains

a treasure trove of opera story books, study guides, DVDs, music CDs, hands-on music and drama classroom activities, costumes, props, and musical instruments. This year approximately 1,200 students at 15 schools in Manitoba (Winnipeg, Gimli, and St. Anne) had the opportunity to experience Opera in a Trunk.

### OPERA CLASS

Opera Class is a 45-minute workshop led by an opera singer (presenters for the 2018/2019 season were mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski and baritone Nathan Sawatzky-Dyck). Students learn about what opera is, who makes it happen, and how it all comes together to tell powerful stories. Each workshop engages students in hands-on learning, as

they use song, dance, costumes, props, and acting to perform their very own miniature opera mash-up!

This season our presenters went beyond the perimeter, bringing Opera Class to students in Gimli, Elie, and Tyndall. In total, 18 workshops were presented at nine schools, serving approximately 550 students in grades K-6.



A student from Victory School at a B.E.E.P. summer opera workshop. Photo: R. Tinker



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski leads students in vocal warm-ups at Bairdmore School.



Students from Miami School dress up for photos at Student Night at the Opera, *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau

## SCHOOL TOUR SPONSORSHIP UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA OPERA THEATRE

As part of its commitment to promoting the development of opera and opera artists in our province, Manitoba Opera is proud to work with and support the Opera Theatre program at the University of Manitoba's Desautels Faculty of Music. In May, U of M Opera Theatre produced *Angela and her Sisters*, a one-act opera composed by Dean Burry. Manitoba Opera assisted with the development of marketing materials for the project, as well as communication with the schools, and booking of performances.

Over 350 students from Ralph Maybank School and Buchanan School attended performances presented in the new Vocal Ensemble Room at the University of Manitoba.



Students from Waldheim school during an Opera Class workshop.



Soprano Lara Ciekiewicz presents a session of B.E.E.P. for students at Victory School. Photo: R. Tinker

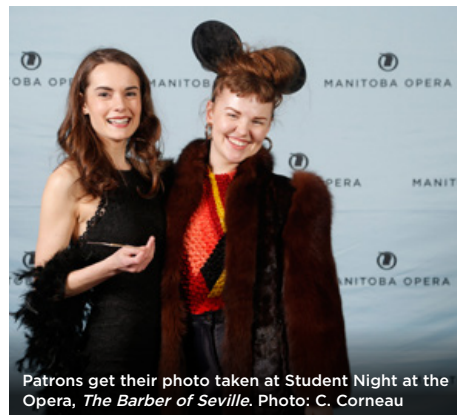
“

**[Opera Class] was a big highlight, and you could see that on the children's faces. It was wonderful to see how engaged the actors got!”**

**HEATHER LAMPMAN**  
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski reads *Opera Cat* to students at Carpathia School.



Patrons get their photo taken at Student Night at the Opera, *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Students from Carpathia School explore the *Hansel and Gretel* opera trunk.



Students from Victory school during a summer opera workshop. Photo: R. Tinker

“

**It was wonderful to present a glimpse of what opera is to children through an accessible and fun story... this was a meaningful way in which to pique their curiosity of this wonderful and imaginative art form.”**

**LAURELLE CZAPLINSKI**  
MEZZO-SOPRANO

## Student Programming

# DISCOVER OPERA

### I LOVE TO READ MONTH

February is “I Love to Read Month” in Winnipeg schools; Manitoba Opera participated by bringing an opera singer into elementary school classrooms to engage students’ imaginations through a reading of *Opera Cat*, vocal activities, and a short performance. Students even learned a little bit of Italian! This year, mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski visited five schools and presented to over 300 students.

### B.E.E.P.

For the sixth year in a row, Manitoba Opera participated in the Seven Oaks School Division’s Balanced Experiential Education Program (B.E.E.P.). Soprano Lara Ciekiewicz and mezzo-soprano Susanne Reimer facilitated 10 workshops, introducing opera to 600 students. Students in grades 1-8 participated in singing exercises, music activities, and costume dress-up. This season’s workshops took place at Victory School, Margaret Park School, Constable Edward Finney School, and O. V. Jewitt Community School.



Soprano Lara Ciekiewicz presents a summer opera workshop for students at Victory School. Photo: R. Tinker



Students and community members from Waldheim colony during an Opera Class workshop.



**It is so important to expose our rural students to different musical and cultural experiences. We all thoroughly enjoyed our time.”**

**HEATHER CLARKE**

DR. GEORGE JOHNSON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL, GIMLI (Opera Class)



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski and students from Holy Cross School sing together during an Opera Class workshop.



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski presents an Opera Class workshop at Laureate Academy.



Baritone Nathan Sawatzky-Dyck performs for students during an Opera Class workshop at Forest Park School.

## Student Programming

# STUDENT NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Student Night at the Opera provides students with the opportunity to attend the final dress rehearsal for each of our productions for \$13 – a fraction of the regular ticket price. This season, through this program, over 950 students in grades 6 and up attended the fully staged dress rehearsals for *Don Giovanni* and *The Barber of Seville*.

Student Night at the Opera is open to students from public and private schools, home school groups, youth organizations, and post-secondary institutions. Although students are primarily from Winnipeg, many do travel from all over the province, and this season there were schools attending from La Broquerie, Headingley, Steinbach, and Gladstone. In addition, nearly 100 students from three schools in White City, Saskatchewan, travelled by bus to attend Closing Night of *The Barber of Seville*.

Comprehensive study guides are available on the Manitoba Opera website for use by teachers and students to enhance their knowledge about opera in general and provide information about, and context for, each production. These study guides also help students create links between the opera and literary, artistic, and social topics, both modern and historical.



**I have never heard  
real live opera and  
it was insane to hear it.  
As soon as the first  
performer started  
singing my jaw  
dropped.”**

**STUDENT**  
STEINBACH REGIONAL  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Teachers and students attending Student Night at the Opera for *Don Giovanni*. Photo: C. Corneau



Students from Steinbach Regional Secondary School at Student Night at the Opera for *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Post-secondary students attending Student Night at the Opera for *Don Giovanni*. Photo: C. Corneau



Students and teachers from Mennonite Collegiate Institute at Student Night at the Opera for *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## OPENING NIGHT DINNER

The 2018/19 season kicked off on Saturday, November 24, 2018, with the *Don Giovanni* Opening Night Dinner on the Piano Nobile. Catered by Bergmann's on Lombard, guests enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a three-course dinner.

## CLOSING NIGHT DINNER

The popular Closing Night Dinners were offered again this season. Both buffet dinners were catered by Bergmann's on Lombard, with insightful pre-show chats delivered by soprano Sarah-Jo Kirsch.

Academy Florist. Guests enjoyed a performance of opera arias by soprano Sydney Clarke, accompanied by pianist Lisa Rumpel.

## DINNER IN THE WINGS

Before the Opening Night performance of *The Barber of Seville* on April 6, 2019, 12 guests enjoyed an exclusive backstage dinner. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres were followed by a three-course meal prepared by Bergmann's on Lombard. Conductor Tyrone Paterson and director Alain Gauthier were among the

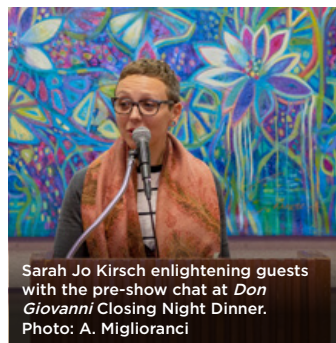
production members to visit guests during dinner. Following dessert, guests listened to the chorus warm up and then took to their seats.



The Honourable Ron Schuler and Corina Schuler at the *Don Giovanni* Opening Night Dinner. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## CAMERATA EVENT

Camerata donors mingled with artists from *The Barber of Seville* at a reception held on Sunday, March 24, in the home of Hélène Hoffer. An array of desserts, cheese, and fruit was prepared by Bergmann's on Lombard, with beautiful floral arrangements provided by



Sarah Jo Kirsch enlightening guests with the pre-show chat at *Don Giovanni* Closing Night Dinner. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Soprano Sydney Clarke and pianist Lisa Rumpel at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, and Tyrone Paterson, conductor, with the artists of *The Barber of Seville* at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Robert Vineberg, Past Board Chair, after receiving his Director of Emeritus Award with The Honourable Cathy Cox, Elba Haid, Board Chair, and Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Back Row: Alain Gauthier, Rob Vineberg (Past Board Chair), John Kennedy, Elba Haid (Board Chair), Hélène Hoffer, Robert Lanthier, Kristen Kennedy, Lara Secord Haid, Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. Front Row: Lena Horne, Laurie Lam, Deborah Thorlakson. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Guests at the *Don Giovanni* intermission reception with Liz Miller, Annual Giving Manager (right). Photo: A. Miglioranci



Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, speaking at the *Don Giovanni* Opening Night Dinner. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Closing Night Dinner at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Conductor Tyrone Paterson speaking to guests at Dinner in the Wings. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## DINNER AT DE LUCA'S

A sell-out crowd enjoyed the 10th Annual Dinner at De Luca's on May 16, 2019. The reception was followed by a performance by soprano Katherine Mayba, accompanied on the keyboard by Lisa Rumpel. Katherine sang selections from *La Fille du Régiment*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Semiramide*.

Chef Mike Brown's culinary skills were on display with his cooking demonstrations, and one lucky



Chef Mike Brown at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci

guest won a wine tasting for eight from Concha y Toro. A beautiful night was had by all.

Thanks to our sponsors: wine by Concha y Toro, linens by Planned Perfectly, performance sponsored by Granite Financial, and centrepieces by Academy Florist.



Soprano Katherine Mayba and pianist Lisa Rumpel at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## Special Event

# OPERA TOURS

## SANTA FE & NEW YORK CITY

From art walks and wine tastings in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Italian food and jazz in New York City, patrons had a memorable year travelling with Manitoba Opera.

From August 9 to 13, 2018, patrons travelled to Santa Fe with General Director & CEO Larry Desrochers. Three operas were on the roster: *L'Italiana in Algieri*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *Candide*. Besides the operas, other tour highlights included shopping, an art tour, and the charming home-away-from-home Inn on the Alameda.

An overwhelming response to the New York Opera Tour resulted in the largest group to date (41 patrons) travelling to the City that Never Sleeps, March 6 to 11, 2019, with Larry Desrochers and Grants &

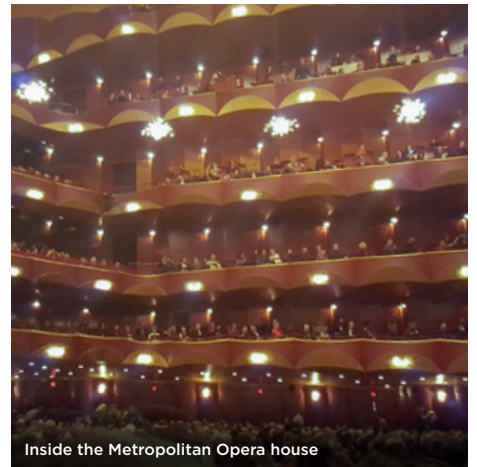
Corporate Giving Manager Sandra Schmidtke. The tour included two visits to the Metropolitan Opera for the final performance of their production of *Aida*, conducted by Plácido Domingo, and a Las Vegas-themed re-imagining of *Rigoletto*. Other trip highlights were dinner at Nocello, jazz in the lobby, and the accommodations at the luxurious WestHouse Hotel.

“

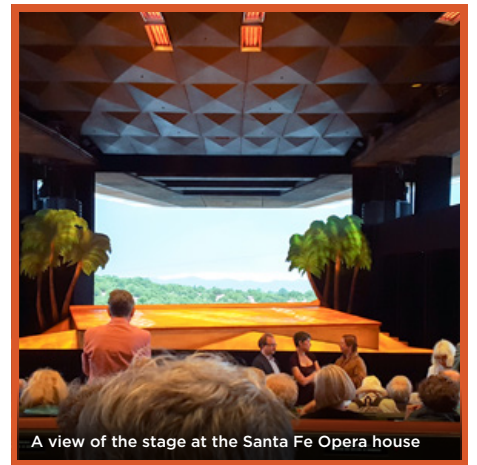
**I was very happy that  
all the arrangements  
were taken care of...  
I didn't have to spend  
any energy organizing  
anything except my  
free time."**

**PATRON**

ABOUT THE NEW YORK  
OPERA TOUR



Inside the Metropolitan Opera house



A view of the stage at the Santa Fe Opera house



Patrons enjoying sunny Santa Fe weather.



The New York Opera tour group enjoying dinner at Nocello.



The Santa Fe Opera tour group.



Guests reading Barber joke cards at Dinner in the Wings. Photo: A. Miglioranci



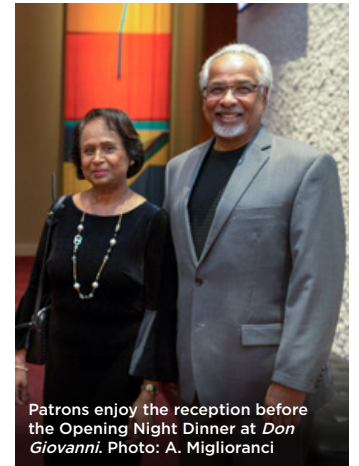
Rob Vineberg, Past Board Chair, Andrea Hill (Rosina), Paul Bruch-Wiens, Steven Condy (Bartolo), and Andrew Owens (Almaviva) at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons enjoy the reception before the Opening Night Dinner at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Tamara Bodi, Laurie Lam, and Peter George, MO Board, at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons enjoy the reception before the Opening Night Dinner at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



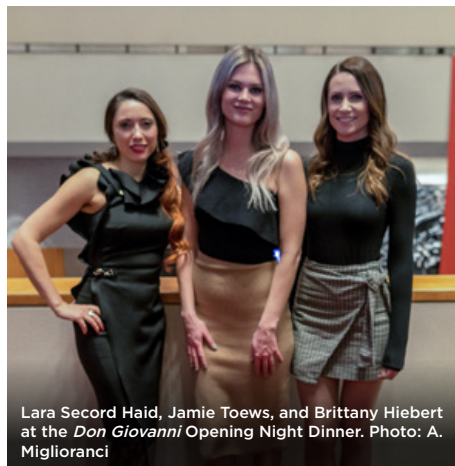
Michael Dyck, Lisa Bueckert, and Laurel & Robert Lloyd at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Scott Roman, Maggie Jin, Marc Nault, Howard Miller, Treena Nault, and Yvonne Peters at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci



John Kennedy, Kristen Kennedy, and Elba Haid, Board Chair, at Dinner in the Wings. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Lara Secord Haid, Jamie Toews, and Brittany Hiebert at the *Don Giovanni* Opening Night Dinner. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Irma Froese, Laurelle Czaplinski, and Lisa Rumpel at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci

# GALA RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF GAIL ASPER

## COMPANY HONOURS WINNIPEG PHILANTHROPIST GAIL ASPER WITH CREATION OF THE GAIL ASPER AWARD

Manitoba Opera's Gala Reception honouring Winnipeg philanthropist Gail Asper was the company's most successful fundraising event in its 46-year history. The event raised more than \$255,000 for Manitoba Opera's productions and education programs and was held at the Manitoba Club on Thursday, September 13.

The Gala Reception paid tribute to Ms. Asper's exemplary leadership as a philanthropist and visionary whose conviction inspires others to serve, to give, and to make our community a better place.

"Manitoba Opera owes a great debt of gratitude to Gail Asper for all she has given us - her time and expertise, financial support,

her voice as a chorus member, and her unshakeable belief in the potential of our city," said Elba Haid, Chair of Manitoba Opera's Board of Trustees, who presented the award to Ms. Asper.

Designed by Winnipeg sculptor George W. Shannon, the award depicts two hands reaching upward, one supporting the other. The upper hand represents the quest for excellence; the supporting hand symbolizes the community effort required for excellence to thrive.

The 250 guests were treated to performances by internationally renowned Winnipeg coloratura soprano Tracy Dahl, accompanied by pianist Tadeusz Biernacki; the Manitoba Opera Chorus; the Ron Paley Trio; as well as a video tribute to the honouree.

Future awards will be presented by Manitoba Opera to individuals who, like its namesake, demonstrate exemplary leadership in a field of endeavor or in pursuit of a visionary goal.



Gail Asper and the MO Chorus. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Elba Haid, MO Board Chair, and honouree Gail Asper. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Al Shell, Larry Desrochers, MO General Director & CEO, Gail Asper, Howard & Hope Morry, Diane Boyle, and Paul Vogt. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Craig McIntosh and Lorraine Beck. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Carol Bellinger, Abbie Grieder, MO Board, Karen Bryk, and Darlene Ronald, Director of Marketing. Photo: A. Miglioranci



**Manitoba Opera  
owes a great debt of  
gratitude to Gail Asper  
for all she has given  
us - her time and  
expertise, financial  
support, and her  
unshakeable belief  
in the potential of  
our city, province,  
and country.”**

**ELBA HAID**

CHAIR,

Manitoba Opera Board of Trustees

## COMMITTEE

### HONOURARY CO-CHAIRS

Brenlee Carrington Trepel  
Moe Levy  
Hope Morry

### HONOURARY COMMITTEE

Ruth Asper  
David & Gursh Barnard  
Mariam Bernstein  
Marjorie Blankstein  
Diane Boyle  
John & Bonnie Buhler  
Irene D'Souza  
Jean Giguere  
Susan Glass  
Debbie Gray  
Peter Herrndorf  
Richard Morantz  
Howard Morry  
Hartley & Heather Richardson  
John Stefaniuk  
Deborah Thorlakson  
Arni Thorsteinson  
Sheree Walder  
Jayne Watson



Peter George, MO Board. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Tadeusz Biernacki (piano), and Tracy Dahl (coloratura soprano). Photo: A. Miglioranci



Gail Asper. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Mariam Bernstein, David Folk, MO Board, and Laurel Malkin. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Katarina Kupca, Susan Thompson, L.L.D., Carol Bellringer, and Larry Desrochers, General Director &amp; CEO. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Dr. Bill Pope, MO Board, and Dustin Schneider, MO Board. Photo: A. Miglioranci

# GALA RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF GAIL ASPER

## TITLE SPONSOR

Ray & Lynne-Anne McFeetors

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

THE  
ASPER  
FOUNDATION

GAIL ASPER  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Elba Haid &  
Edward J. Ransby

Winnipeg Free Press

## GOLD SPONSOR

Triple E

## SILVER SPONSORS

Leonard, Susan, Sarah, Olivia,  
& Matthew Asper

Arnold & Myra Frieman

## BRONZE SPONSORS

Asper  
School of Business  
Brenlee Carrington  
Trepel & Brent Trepel

Charlie Coffey

Harvard Development

Hope & Howard Morry

James Richardson  
& Sons, Limited

John Stefaniuk

Larry Desrochers  
& Laurie Lam

Pitblado

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Quadrant Asset  
Management

TD Bank

The Bill & Margaret Fast  
Family Foundation

WaterMart 24/7  
Water Centre

## FLOWER SPONSOR

Beyond Flowers

## WINE SPONSORS

G.J. Andrews Food  
& Wine Shoppe

Manitoba Club

## PRINT SPONSOR

Premier Printing Ltd.

## DONORS

The Asper Foundation  
David Asper, Ruth Asper & Family

Ms. Joan Baragar

Earl & Cheryl Barish

David & Gursh Barnard

Diane Berger

Marjorie Blankstein

Booke & Partners

Diane Boyle

Chris & Gerry Couture

Paul Croteau

Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers

Ed Vickar Chevrolet Ltd.

David Folk & Laurel Malkin

Jean & Dennis Giguere

Deborah Gray

Gregg & Mary Hanson

The Dianne & Irving Kipnes Foundation

Serena Kraayeveld

Richard & Hillaine Kroft

Moe Levy

Christopher Mainella

Luisa & Gerald Matheson

Marilou McPhedran

Gail O'Brien Grant

Peerless Garments

Drs. Bill Pope & Elizabeth Tippet-Pope

Gerry & Barb Price

Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Leney Richardson

Sanford & Deborah Riley

Charlene Rocke

Shelter Canadian Properties Limited

Paul & Margaret Shuckett

Bob & Diane Sparrow

Gwen & Gary Steiman

Deborah Thorlakson

Anonymous

# ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Manitoba Opera's Board of Trustees and staff work together to fulfill the company mission of changing people's lives through the glory of opera. We search for new ways of connecting with and serving our community as seen through the ongoing development of our practices, procedures, and programming.

Recruiting and investing in our people, advancing our technology, and employing strong governance practices are top priorities for the company. By evolving the organization along these lines, we deepen our impact on the community.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

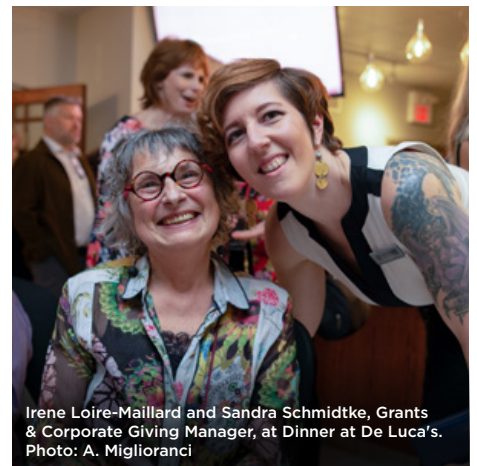
At the 2018/19 Annual General Meeting on July 9, 2019, members of the organization elected Charlene Ilas and Paul Bruch-Wiens as new trustees. Appointed to the Board during the 2018/19 season, Grant Suderman was elected to his first term as a trustee. The Board



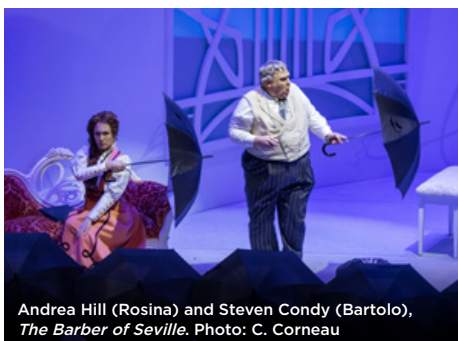
*Don Giovanni. Photo: R. Tinker*

and staff welcome the new trustees and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Current trustees re-elected were Leona Herzog, Daniela Ignat, Maria Mitousis, Dr. Bill Pope, Dustin Schneider, and Lori Yorke. Returning trustees in mid-terms are Judith Chambers, Dr. David Folk, Peter George, Elba Haid, Luisa Matheson, Alex Robinson, Keith Sinclair, and Dr. Jeffrey Sisler.



*Irene Loire-Maillard and Sandra Schmidtke, Grants & Corporate Giving Manager, at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci*



*Andrea Hill (Rosina) and Steven Condy (Bartolo), The Barber of Seville. Photo: C. Corneau*

After completing four full terms, Sue Jurkovic-Bracken retired from the Board of Trustees at the end of the 2018/19 season. Sue was a member of the Bravo Gala Committee from 2010 to 2014, and co-chaired the committee during the 2014/15 season. Elected to the Board of Trustees in 2012,



*Scott Braun, Lara Secord Haid, and Lori Yorke, MO Board, at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci*

Sue also served on the Special Events Committee. Manitoba Opera is thankful for Sue's passion, support, and generous volunteer work for the organization during her time on the Board.

In September 2018, new trustees attended a board orientation. This one-day, staff-led session equips Board members with organizational information to prepare them in their roles. New trustees increase their understanding of company operations and gain insight into the values and priorities that guide Manitoba Opera. In February, Elba Haid, Chair, attended the Opera America Trustees Forum in New York. This annual gathering brings

together trustees from across North America to develop relationships with their colleagues and share their experiences of serving on an opera board. Through shared learning, they gain insights into the common challenges, opportunities, and trends affecting the opera sector.

### STAFF: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In June 2018, Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO; Michael Blais, Director of Administration; and Livia Dymond, Education & Outreach Coordinator travelled to St. Louis to attend the 2018 Opera America Conference. This annual gathering of more than 600 opera professionals allows staff

to connect with colleagues and counterparts at other companies. The 2018 conference focused on meeting the expectations of today's arts audiences, recognizing and undoing ingrained racism in organizations, and institutionalizing the practices of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

During the season Liz Miller, Annual Giving Manager, and Sandra Schmidtke, Grants & Corporate Giving Manager continued to hone their fundraising skills by participating in the Association of Fundraising Professionals' workshops, including sessions on developing strong and effective content for annual campaigns, donor prospecting, and major gift cultivation techniques.



Elba Haid, MO Board Chair, Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, and Deborah Thorlakson. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Volunteers Carol Bohn and Lynn Glowach at the Volunteer Recognition Reception.

Conference participation, professional development, and special programs at Opera America offer professional development opportunities and demonstrate Manitoba Opera's commitment to investing in the talent, leadership, and skills of its Board and staff.

“

**It was absolutely  
REMARKABLE!  
Thank you.”**

**VICTORIA LEV**

ABOUT *DON GIOVANNI*



Current MO Board Chair Elba Haid (second from left) with past MO Board Chairs: Robert Vineberg, Jennifer Snyder, Jim Astwood, and Peter George. Photo: A. Miglioranci

### STAFF: BOARDS

Larry Desrochers completed the second year of his second term as a member of the Board of Directors for Opera America, serving on the Membership, Artistic, Governance and Civic Action Committees.

### STAFF CHANGES

In August 2018 Livia Dymond left the company to pursue other career opportunities. Livia began her career with Manitoba Opera as Marketing & Development Coordinator in 2009 and in 2011 was promoted to the position of Education & Outreach Coordinator.

During her time, the Education Department developed new opera programs for young people including Manitoba Opera's participation in the Seven Oaks School Division's Balanced Experiential Education Program, I Love to Read Month, and the launch of Opera Class, a free in-class opera workshop for K to Grade 6.



Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni) and Stephen Hegedus (Leporello), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



*The Barber of Seville* director Alain Gauthier with Andrea Hill (Rosina) and Steven Condy (Bartolo). Photo: A. Miglioranci

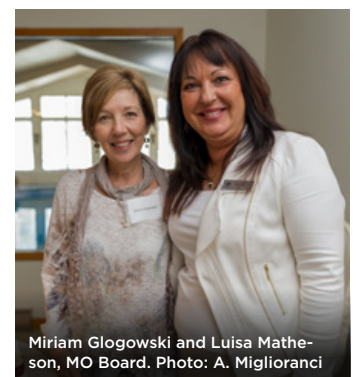
In September, Dr. Scott Miller joined the team as Education & Outreach Coordinator. Scott brings to this position a wealth of experience cultivated through his lifelong passion for innovation in music and education. Scott holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University where he studied bassoon and musicology. He previously worked as Director of Education and Community Initiatives for the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra.

### GOVERNANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

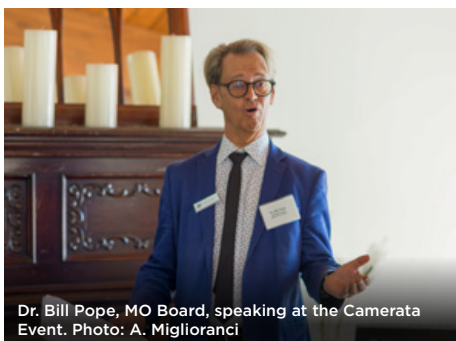
The 2018/19 season marked Dr. Bill Pope's first year as Chair of the Governance Committee. In February 2019, the Governance Committee launched Manitoba Opera's Accessible Customer Service Policy. This Board-approved policy aligns with Manitoba Opera's values to provide our programs and services to all Manitobans, and is in compliance with the recently adopted legislation *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*.



Dr. Elizabeth Tippet-Pope, Lena Horne, Rob Vineberg, Mo Board, and Dr. Bill Pope, MO Board. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Miriam Glogowski and Luisa Mathe-son, MO Board. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Dr. Bill Pope, MO Board, speaking at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Barbara Herriot-Miller, Nancy Militano, Flavia Fernandez Fabio, Gabrielle Marrin, and Susan Wallace at Dinner at DeLuca's. Photo: A. Miglioranci

The Governance Committee recently completed a review of the organizational bylaws, last amended in 2008. Small amendments were made to ensure ongoing good governance, and adjustments were reviewed by corporate counsel. The amended bylaws were approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2019 and ratified by the membership of Manitoba Opera at the 2018/19 AGM.

With the assistance of Payworks, Manitoba Opera has implemented a dedicated Human Resource Management tool for the first time in its history. The software system allows for the management of staff pay, benefit allocation, absence, overtime, and time-off management.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Looking ahead to Manitoba Opera's 50th anniversary (2022/23 Season), the Manitoba Opera Board and staff have developed a strategic plan to guide the organization through to the anniversary season, and to use this special occasion as a launching point to advance the organization.

Building on the work conducted in the 2017/18 season, Board and staff have developed the findings into five key priorities for the company:

- Artistic Vitality
- Education
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access
- Community Engagement
- Relationships with Manitoba's Indigenous Communities

The organizational plan includes launching a \$10M Endowment Fund campaign and the production of new works outside the mainstage performance series. Organizational advancement ensures Manitoba Opera continues to be a leader in the field locally, nationally, and internationally. Efforts to move the company forward will help to solidify our future, reach new audiences, expand our programming, and increase our impact on the community.



Dustin Schneider, MO Board, Ashley Schneider, Hardev and Jody Bains at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioni



Jim and Margaret Astwood at Dinner at De Luca's. Photo: A. Miglioni

## ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

### DIGITAL TICKET SCANNERS

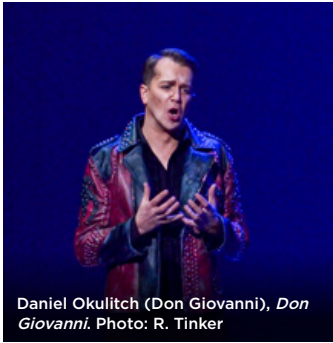
Manitoba Opera was pleased to launch its first digital ticket scanners this season. Real-time attendance tracking allows for better management of the venue on performance nights and provides added convenience for patrons through immediate ticket exchanges.

### TRANSLATIONS PROJECTOR

In April 2019, Manitoba Opera was awarded a grant from the Manitoba Arts Council to be used towards the purchase of a new translations projector. This new projector will allow Manitoba Opera to continue to make our main stage productions accessible and understandable and help to

advance our efforts in enhancing the patron experience. It will make its debut at the first performance of the 2019/20 season.

Investments in technology align with Manitoba Opera's priority to continually enhance the patron experience.



Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



Jessica Kos-Whicher (soprano) performing at the Volunteer Recognition Reception.



Johnathon Kirby (Masetto) and Andrea Lett (Zerlina), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



Guests enjoying themselves at Dinner in the Wings. Photo: A. Miglioranci



**It was an amazing performance! If you don't have tickets yet, get them now and GO!"**

**ERICA SMITH**

ABOUT *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*



Andrea Hill (Rosina) and Steven Condy (Bartolo), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau



Elliot Madore (Figaro), Andrew Owens (Almaviva), and Andrea Hill (Rosina), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker



Patrons enjoying a cup of coffee in the lobby at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, and Judith Chambers, MO Board. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## BUILDING BRIDGES WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

This season, Manitoba Opera was one of two Canadian opera companies selected to receive a two-year Opera America Innovation Grant to begin in the 2019/20 season.

Supported by the Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation, this program allows companies to apply new and creative strategies to the opera field.

The funding will assist with the organization's work exploring the development of strong and deep connections with Manitoba's Indigenous communities.

# DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

The 2018/19 season will be remembered as a transformative year for Manitoba Opera. It was a year in which many generous people came together to support an organization valued by the community.

In the summer of 2018, a donor pledged a \$100,000 matching gift and issued a challenge: eliminate Manitoba Opera's decades' old debt of \$450,652 by May 31, 2019. A campaign was launched to raise the remaining \$350,000 required to achieve this. As the campaign unfolded, the donor added another \$50,000 matching gift to help bring the campaign home. More than 190 individuals, corporations, foundations, and governments rose to the challenge with gifts from \$5 to \$150,000. Without their support, we would not be celebrating this historic achievement. We thank each donor for their remarkable generosity.

## DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN DONORS

Mohamed Abo Aoun  
Tatiana Arcand  
Dr. John R. M. Smith & Douglas H. Arrell  
Jim & Margaret-Lynne Astwood  
Mario & Josie Audino  
Lesley Baizley  
Robert & Kathryn Balacko  
Malison Baldwin  
Richard Ball  
Ms. Lydia Bartel  
Victor Bartel  
Ms. Shannon Baryliuk  
Lorraine Beck & Craig McIntosh  
Mr. Oslen Belle  
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation  
on Behalf of Richard Irish  
Mrs. Marjorie Blankstein  
Jeanette Block  
Lucienne Blouw  
Helga & Gerhard Bock  
Mrs. Joanne Bolger

Judy Braun  
Mrs. Colette M Brown  
Kimberly F. Browning  
Dawn & Paul Bruch-Wiens  
Coralie Bryant  
Mr. Donald G. Budlong  
Jennifer Buffie  
Mr. & Mrs. O. Buffie  
Giles Bugailiskis  
Ms. Leona Burdeniuk  
Tim & Barb Burt  
Carol Campbell & Andrew Krentz  
Ms. Consuelo Capovilla  
Mr. Ken Carpenter  
Ms. Judith Chambers ❖  
Gina Chodirker  
Bjorn Christianson, Q. C.  
Ms. Pam Christler-Martin  
Danielle Claeys  
Ms. Margot Clayton  
Ron Clement  
Denis & Pauline Collette  
Irene & Robert Corne  
Daniel J. Cowan  
Marlene Crielaard  
Denise Cyr-Gander  
Dr. Anne Worley & Dr. Piotr Czaykowski  
Tracy Dahl, C.M.  
Ken & Marina Dalton  
Robert & Alison Darling  
Esther & Hy Dashevsky  
Lorraine De Baets  
Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers ♦



*Don Giovanni. Photo. C. Corneau*

Ginny Devine  
 Faye Dixon  
 John & Gay Docherty  
 Ms. Jan E. Dornian  
 Jeanie M. Dubberley  
 Harry & Mary Lynn Duckworth  
 Wendy Dyck  
 Lawrence & Brenda Ellerby  
 Mr. William G. Enefer  
 John J. Enns  
 Mr. Richard J. Falk  
 Ms. Fran Falzarano  
 Dr. Paul Fieldhouse  
 Frank & Lucille Fiola  
 Dr. David Folk ❖ & Laurel Malkin  
 Jan & Russ Foster  
 Sandra Foster & Peter Holle  
 The Winnipeg Foundation  
 Theo Fourie  
 Mrs. Irma Froese  
 Ellen Frovich  
 Hans Funk  
 Ms. Penny Gilbert  
 Brenda Gorlick  
 Larry Greer  
 Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder  
 Jim & Lorraine Griffiths  
 Mr. Roy E. Halstead  
 Mary Kate & John Harvie  
 Annette & Randall Hay  
 Ms. Rebecca Hayward  
 Ms. Elizabeth Hellinga  
 Leona Herzog ❖  
 Mr. Raymond Hignell  
 The Estate of Ellen Beatrice Hirst  
 G. & D. Holding  
 Charles Huband  
 Monica Hultin  
 Cristina Ionescu  
 Richard Irish  
 Margaret Jeffries  
 Mr. Paul Jensen & Ms. Maureen Prendiville  
 J. H. Kaminsky  
 Mr. Gordon C. Keatch  
 Mr. B. Roslycky & Dr. P. Kmet  
 Barry Konzelman  
 Doris Koroscil  
 Claudia Kuryk-Serray  
 Cheryl Lavigne  
 Ms. Shirley Layne  
 Marion Lewis  
 Bill & Shirley Loewen

Ms. Debbie MacKenzie  
 Ms. Patricia MacKenzie  
 Magikist Ltd  
 Christopher Mainella & Christine  
 Van Cauwenberghe  
 H. & D.  
 Elaine & Neil Margolis  
 Armin & Denise Martens  
 Luisa ❖ & Gerald Matheson  
 Dr. John & Natalie Mayba  
 Barbara McCandless  
 Claudette McDonald  
 L. W. McLeod  
 Mr. Neil Middleton  
 Ron & Sandi Mielitz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mildren  
 Mr. Tony Mitousis  
 Marc Monnin & Donna Miller  
 Michael F. B. Nesbitt  
 Muriel Moreau  
 P. Morgan  
 Derek Morphy  
 Judy Murray  
 Ms. Arlene Oman  
 Ms. Norma Anne Padilla  
 Wayne & Linda Paquin  
 McKim Communications Group  
 Harold Peters-Fransen  
 Joy  
 Drs. William Pope ❖ &  
 Elizabeth Tippet-Pope  
 Judith Putter  
 E. J. (Ted) Ransby  
 Ms. Louanne Reid  
 Levi & Tena Reimer  
 Richardson Foundation  
 Mr. Christian Riou  
 Kevin Rollason & Gail MacAulay  
 Darlene Ronald ♦ & Stewart Heaton  
 R. Runnells



Patrons in the lobby at *The Barber of Seville*.  
Photo: A. Miglioranci

Leslie Sarchuk  
 Barbara Scheuneman  
 Mr. Kurt Schwarz  
 Mrs. Marie Sichler  
 Eleanor & Bob Siddall  
 Jeff Sisler ❖ & Cathy Rippin-Sisler  
 Muriel Smith  
 Ellen Spencer  
 Mr. Leslie & Mrs. Linda Stechesen  
 Joan Stephens  
 Petra Thanisch  
 Ms. Lisa Thiessen  
 Ian R. Thomson & Leah R. Janzen  
 Wayne & Susan Tole  
 Mr. Richard M. Turner  
 Audrey Unger  
 Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Voigt  
 Jesse Vorst & Friends  
 A Vorster  
 Florence & Donald Whitmore  
 Debbie Wilson  
 Valerie Yarmie  
 Medi-Quote Insurance Brokers Inc.  
 Dr. Dorothy Y. Young  
 Twenty-Three Anonymous Donors



*The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

# FINANCE

## FINANCE

Manitoba Opera posted an operating surplus of \$86,312 on a budget of \$2,672,277. An additional \$374,755 was raised toward the elimination of the debt of \$450,652, accumulated since the 1980's. \$10,415 was transferred to the Operating Reserve fund.

## GRANTS

Base funding from the Canada Council, Manitoba Arts Council, Province of Manitoba, and Winnipeg Arts Council remained the same at \$240,000, \$220,000, \$150,000, and \$135,000, respectively. A supplemental grant of \$25,000 was received from the Province of Manitoba.

## BOX OFFICE

Subscriptions decreased slightly to 2,711 from 2,768 in 2017/18. Single tickets decreased to 2,987 from 3,101 in 2017/18. Total box office cash revenues decreased to \$555,283 from \$600,209 in 2017/18. Subscription prices for the season averaged \$58.20 versus \$58.54 per ticket in 2017/18, and single tickets averaged \$68.82 versus \$78.27 per seat in 2017/18.

## FUNDRAISING

Total fundraising for the 2018/19 season came to \$862,395. Camerata donations decreased to \$135,362 from \$151,919 in 2017/18. Major gifts were \$55,777 versus \$57,978 in 2017/18. Friend's gifts including Pass the Hat and other miscellaneous donations decreased to \$87,466 from \$101,700 in 2017/18 due to special one-time gifts received in the prior year. Cash sponsorships decreased to \$154,500 from \$167,000 in 2017/18 due to special sponsorships dedicated to *La Traviata* in 2017/18. Corporate donations decreased to \$16,750 from \$22,500 in 2017/18. Gifts from foundations were \$75,000 compared to \$131,000 in 2017/18, due to special gifts for *La Traviata* in 2017/18. Net proceeds from Special Events were \$205,188 compared to \$25,589 in 2017/18, due to The Gail Asper Gala Reception which raised a net of \$173,978 and two opera trips to Santa Fe and New York that netted \$19,566.

## IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS & COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

In the normal course of operations, Manitoba Opera exchanges tickets for its productions in consideration for various goods and services. These transactions are accounted for in the statement of operations

at the fair value of the tickets exchanged which amounted to \$83,735 versus \$63,422 in 2017/18. Similarly, Manitoba Opera receives in-kind contributions related to donated advertising, marketing and musician services. These services were recorded at their fair value in the statement of operations at \$217,372 versus \$217,054 in 2017/18.

## EXPENSES

Overall, savings of approximately 5% of budget were achieved across all departments. One staff position was left vacant throughout the year, contributing to the bulk of the savings.

## ENDOWMENT

To help solidify the long-term future of Manitoba Opera, the Board of Trustees established an endowment fund through The Winnipeg Foundation. Launched in 2009/10, gifts made to the Manitoba Opera Endowment Fund will grow over time and provide a significant stream of revenue to help Manitoba Opera continue to serve the community with meaningful and inspiring programming.

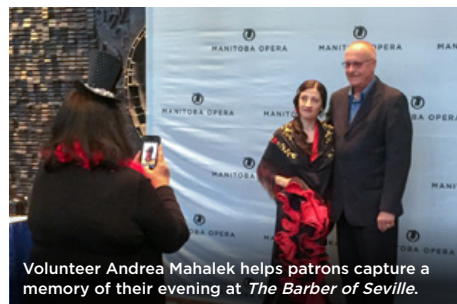
In 2018/19, the fund grew by \$2,571 in contributions. As of May 31st, the Manitoba Opera Fund has a balance of \$301,924.

# VOLUNTEERS

Manitoba Opera is grateful for the service of our dedicated volunteers. This season, more than 1,000 hours of service were provided by volunteers, including members of the Board of Trustees and committee members.

Volunteers are invaluable to the organization, assisting staff in preparing mailings, stuffing inserts into the program book, and providing a wide range of services on performance nights including staffing the subscription tables, collecting the Pass the Hat donations, and assisting in the Box Office.

The biennial Volunteer Recognition Reception was held on Monday, June 3. Nineteen volunteers were recognized for milestones of five and 10 years of service.



Volunteer Andrea Mahalek helps patrons capture a memory of their evening at *The Barber of Seville*.



Volunteers Donna Cuming and Susan Kelso help out in the box office.



Manitoba Opera honoured its 2018/19 season volunteers at a Volunteer Recognition Reception.

## 2018/19 SEASON VOLUNTEERS

Excluding the Board of Trustees and Committee Members

Barb Allen	Juliana Dueck	Liz Harris	Bev Kawchuk	Andrea Mahalek	Maria Schroeder
Carol Beardsley	Althea Dunlop	Annette Hay	Susan Kelso	Anna Malzensky	Valerie Schussler
Diane Berger	Hedie L. Epp	Randall Hay	Elaine Kisiow	Elma Martens	Kurt Schwarz
Carol Bohn	Lynne Fairhall	Derrick Heaton	Bev Laurin	Pam Mason	Marilyn Slobøgian
Phyllis Brown	Gail Fine	Ryan Heaton	Eva Lavalee	Shirley McLean	Crystal Smith
Francesca Cesari	Francine Gillman	Barbara Herriot-Miller	Letty Lawrence	Ted Miller	Jane Stewart
Margot Christie	Lynn Glowach	Lena Horne	Ariel Leo	Alex Robinson	Sybil Stokoloff
Donna Cuming	Rita Greco	Mira Hummerston	Cheryl Liessens	Marjorie Russell	Teresa Tacchi
Jeanie Dubberley	Marina Grinko	Maggie Kahler	Sisler LIFE Skills Students & Staff	Linda Scholcz	



Volunteers Gail Fine, Phyllis Brown, and Elaine Kisiow collecting subscription renewals at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Long-time Manitoba Opera volunteers Hedie Epp and Jeanie Dubberley at the Volunteer Recognition Reception. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons in the lobby at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

“

That was a terrific show! I enjoyed every minute of it, especially the 2nd act. Tour de force and a full package.”

MARINA WAMSTER  
ABOUT *DON GIOVANNI*

“

This opera is so great. I wish everyone could see it.”

PAT DUNCAN  
ABOUT *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski teaches a song to students from Holy Cross School at an Opera Class workshop. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Volunteer Hedie Epp and Scott Miller, Education & Outreach Coordinator, manage the boutique at *Don Giovanni*. Photo: A. Miglioranci

“

Fantastic show! Beautiful set. Great acting. Wonderful musicians. Thank you!”

CAROLINE KLASSEN  
ABOUT *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*



Donors Fran Falzarano and Ralf Kyrizt at the Camera-ta Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES & COMMITTEES

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**ELBA HAID**  
CHAIR

**MARIA MITOUSIS**  
VICE CHAIR

**LEONA HERZOG**  
SECRETARY

**PETER GEORGE**  
TREASURER

**JUDITH CHAMBERS**

**DR. DAVID FOLK**

**ABBIE GRIEDER**

**DANIELA IGNAT**

**SUE JURKOVIC-BRACKEN**

**LUISA MATHESON**

**DR. BILL POPE**

**ALEX ROBINSON**

**DUSTIN SCHNEIDER**

**KEITH SINCLAIR**

**DR. JEFFREY SISLER**

**D. GRANT SUDERMAN**

**LORI YORKE**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elba Haid, Chair

Leona Herzog

Maria Mitousis

Peter George

Alex Robinson

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Peter George, Chair

Larry Desrochers

Elba Haid\*

Daniela Ignat

Dale Sulymka

Lori Yorke

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Leona Herzog, Chair

Larry Desrochers

Dr. David Folk

Abbie Grieder

Elba Haid\*

Dr. James Maiello

Dr. Scott Miller

Darlene Ronald

Sandra Schmidtke

Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Bill Pope, Chair

Michael Blais

Larry Desrochers

Elba Haid\*

Maria Mitousis

Keith Sinclair

Robert Vineberg

## WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Abbie Grieder, Co-Chair

Sheldon Johnson, Co-Chair

Michael Blais

Elba Haid\*

Sheldon Johnson

Dale Sulymka

## SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Abbie Grieder, Chair

Diane Berger

Larry Desrochers

Elba Haid\*

Luisa Matheson

Alex Robinson

Dustin Schneider

\* Ex Officio

◆ Appointed During Season

◇ Retired During Season

# STAFF

## LARRY DESROCHERS

General Director & CEO

## TYRONE PATERSON

Musical Advisor & Principal Conductor

## TADEUSZ BIERNACKI

Assistant Music Director & Chorus Master

## MICHAEL BLAIS

Director of Administration

## BETHANY BUNKO

Patron Services Representative & Communications Coordinator

## LIVIA DYMOND

Education & Outreach Coordinator (Until August 2018)

## SHELDON JOHNSON

Director of Production

## LIZ MILLER

Annual Giving Manager

## DR. SCOTT MILLER

Education & Outreach Coordinator (Since September 2018)

## DARLENE RONALD

Director of Marketing

## SANDRA SCHMIDTKE

Grants & Corporate Giving Manager

## DALE SULYMKA

Chief Financial Officer



# PARTNERS IN OPERA

Manitoba Opera gratefully acknowledges the encouragement and financial support given by many individuals, foundations, businesses, and corporations in 2018/19, allowing us to bring live opera to Manitobans.

Listings include donations made between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019.

2018/19 SEASON PRESENTED BY **BMO** 

## SEASON SPONSORS



## PRODUCTION & PERFORMANCE SPONSORS



Stronger  
Communities  
Together™

GAIL ASPER  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



### MEDIA SPONSORS

Winnipeg Free Press

GOLDEN WEST

## EDUCATION, OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSORS



## OFFICIAL SPONSORS

IT SPONSOR



CATERING SPONSOR



WEBSITE SPONSOR

AVENUE

LINENS SPONSOR



PROJECT SUPPORTER



## PUBLIC FUNDERS



# SUPPORT



## IMPRESARIO CIRCLE

\$5,000 +

Elba Haid ❖  
in Memory of Marshall Haid  
June & Bob Jackson Memorial Fund  
for the Performing Arts  
Bill & Shirley Loewen  
Craig McIntosh & Lorraine Beck  
Michael F. B. Nesbitt  
Mrs. Donna Plant  
Drs. William Pope ❖ &  
Elizabeth Tippet-Pope  
E.J. (Ted) Ransby  
Heather & Hartley Richardson  
Tannis Richardson  
One Anonymous Donor



Elba Haid, MO Board Chair, The Honourable Cathy Cox, and Gail Asper at the Gala Reception in Honour of Gail Asper. Photo: A. Miglioranci

## MAESTRO

\$3,000 TO \$4,999

Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D. &  
Michael Paterson  
Jim & Margaret-Lynne Astwood  
Mrs. Susan Bowden Twaddle  
in Memory of the  
Hon. A. Kerr Twaddle  
John & Gay Docherty  
Mr. B. Roslycky & Dr. P. Kmet  
Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers ♦  
Christopher Mainella &  
Christine Van Cauwenberghe  
Armin & Denise Martens  
Victor & Ruth Thielmann  
Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson  
in Memory of  
Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson  
Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne  
One Anonymous Donor

## VIRTUOSO

\$2,000 TO \$2,999

Robert & Alison Darling  
Mr. Peter George ❖ & Ms. Tamara Bodi  
Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder  
Leona Herzog ❖  
Audrey F. Hubbard  
Robert B. Jackson  
Mr. Ralf Kyritz  
Dr. David Lyttle  
Jeff Sisler ❖ & Cathy Rippin-Sisler

## CAMERATA

\$1,250 TO \$1,999

Aubrey & Dr. Linda Asper  
Michael Blais ♦ & Brian Rogowsky  
Ms. Judith Chambers ❖  
Bjorn Christianson, Q. C.  
Dr. Michael Dyck  
Dr. David Folk ❖ & Laurel Malkin  
Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson  
Sheldon Johnson ♦  
Katarina Kupca  
LCTaylor  
Dr. Hermann Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald & Luisa ❖ Matheson  
Maria Mitousis ❖ & Barry Gorlick  
Pendeshuk Family Fund - Dennis Estate  
Sanford & Deborah Riley  
Alex Robinson ❖ & Natasa Simeonidis  
Darlene Ronald ♦ & Stewart Heaton  
Ketih ❖ & Alora Sinclair  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael & Lydia West  
Dr. Anne Worley & Dr. Piotr Czaykowski  
Two Anonymous Donors



## BENEFACTOR

\$500 TO \$1,249

Lesley Baizley  
Mr. Robert Bartolo  
B. & S. Bertrand-Meadows  
Mrs. Marjorie Blankstein  
Brian & Cathie Bowerman  
Sheldon & Penny Bowles  
Sheila & David Brodovsky  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Barbara Burt  
Ron Clement  
Ms. Helene Dyck  
Ms. Penny Gilbert  
Donald & Diana Hodgson Foundation  
IG Wealth Management  
Jacob & Judi Janzen  
R. Jaskiewicz  
Duncan & Judith Jessiman  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Konzelman

## SUPPORTER

\$250 TO \$499

John & Carolyn Adair  
Robert & Kathryn Balacko  
Susan & Edwin Bethune  
Dawn & Paul Bruch-Wiens  
Carol Campbell & Andrew Krentz  
Mr. Richard Chartier & Liza Maheu  
Lawrie Cherniack  
Harry & Mary Lynn Duckworth  
Ms. Wendy Dyck  
Lawrence & Brenda Ellerby  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Sylvia Ellis  
Kathleen Estey  
Mrs. Elaine Finnbogason  
Ms. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Sandra Foster & Peter Holle  
Kathy Gough & Tim Wildman  
Barney Haines  
Irene Hamilton & Tim Killeen  
Annette & Randall Hay  
Kadri A. Irwin  
Margaret Jeffries  
Mr. Paul Jensen & Ms. Maureen Prendiville  
Loretta Kampeas & John Gartner  
Mr. Thomas G. Kucera

Donna Korban & Family  
Drs. Herman Lam & Laura Chan  
Dr. John & Natalie Mayba  
Ron & Sandi Mielitz  
P. Morgan  
Carla & Josef Nejmark  
Norma Anne Padilla  
Constance J. Sarchuk  
Dr. & Mrs. Murray R. Steinbart  
Dale ♦ & Velvet Sulymka  
Edna Walpole  
Mrs. Julianne Rita Dick  
Florence & Donald Whitmore  
Shirley & Herb Wildeman  
Mr. Dave Wreford  
Two Anonymous Donors

Marion Lewis  
Ms. Iona McPhee  
Wayne & Linda Paquin  
Chris Pearce & Ruth Magnuson  
Mr. Rick Pinchin  
Martin Reed & Joy Cooper  
Mr. Jason Regula  
Ricou-Manfreda  
Roger Rigelhof & Marjorie Russell  
Barbara Scheuneman  
Dr. Wilfrid Francis Schlosser  
M. Serafin  
Dr. John R. M. Smith & Douglas H. Arrell  
Mr. T. David & Mrs. Lorraine Smith  
Joan Stephens  
Thomas & Wanda Struthers  
Ian R. Thomson & Leah R. Janzen  
Eve Vickar  
Steve Mate & Diane Wilson Mate  
Ted Wolstencroft  
Dr. Dorothy Y. Young  
Mr. Ivan Zimmer  
Ten Anonymous Donors

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

**PRINCIPALS**  
\$5,000 TO \$9,999  
Terracon Development Ltd.

**CHORUS**  
\$2,500 TO \$4,999  
Parrish & Heimbecker Limited

**SUPERS**  
\$1,000 TO \$2,499  
Cambrian Credit Union  
Gendis Inc.  
Medi-Quote Insurance Brokers Inc.  
Payworks  
Price Industries Limited

**ARTISTS**  
\$500 TO \$999  
Bruce Benefits  
Edmond Financial Group  
Jilmark Construction Ltd.

**FRIENDS**  
\$100 TO \$499  
Crosier Kilgour & Partners  
GHY International  
InterGroup Consultants Ltd.  
Patill/St. James Insurance



Alex Robinson, MO Board, and Irene D'Souza at the Gala Reception in Honour of Gail Asper. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Patrons get their photo taken at *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: A. Miglioni

## SUSTAINER

\$100 TO \$249

Mr. Gordon Anderson  
 Mr. Gordon Andrus & Ms. Adele Kory  
 Mario & Josie Audino  
 Richard Ball  
 Mr. Fletcher Baragar  
 Victor Bartel  
 Dick & Minnie Bell  
 Audrey Belyea  
 Ruth Berry & Hugh Larimer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Bewell  
 Lucienne Blouw  
 Gerhard & Helga Bock  
 Mr. Roland Bohr  
 Margaret Braid  
 Ms. Jacqueline Brignall  
 Mrs. F. Buckmaster  
 Mr. Don Budlong  
 Jennifer Buffie  
 Mr. & Mrs. O. Buffie  
 Ms. Leona Burdeniuk  
 Mrs. Donna Byrne  
 Mr. Robert Campbell  
 Card Ct & Ctss de Ste. Animie  
 Ms. Shelley Chochinov  
 Margot Clayton  
 Pauline & Denis Collette  
 Dr. Peter Connelly  
 Ken & Marina Dalton  
 Judy & Werner Danchura  
 Kerry Dangerfield  
 Ms. L. Daniels  
 Elizabeth Derraugh  
 Anna M. Desilets  
 Jeanie M. Dubberley  
 Jackie Dubofsky  
 John & Ada Ducas  
 Mr. Spencer Duncanson  
 Jillian Epp  
 Don & Lyn Ewing  
 Mr. Richard J. Falk  
 Jim & Linda Feasby

James R. Ferguson  
 Ms. Nelma Fetterman  
 Dr. Paul Fieldhouse  
 Dr. & Mrs. D. D. Fillis  
 Gayle Fischer  
 John, Clara, & Meg Fjeldsted  
 Ronald & Naomi Guse  
 Jenny Harms  
 Margaret Harrison †  
 Ms. Joanne Harris  
 Evelyn Hecht  
 Ms. Elizabeth Hellinga  
 Eric & Judith Hinton  
 Ms. Rhonda Hogg  
 Charles Huband  
 William J. Hutton  
 Dr. Arno & Mrs. Betty Jansen  
 James & Pam Johnston  
 Lucie Joyal  
 Sue Jurkovic-Bracken ♦ &  
 Dr. John Bracken  
 J.H. Kaminsky  
 Mr. Gordon C. Keatch  
 H. Kilbrai  
 Mr. Allen Kimelman  
 Bruce Klassen  
 Richard & Karin Klassen  
 Ms. Kathleen Knight  
 Mona Koropatnick  
 Ms. Heather Kozubski  
 Ms. Tusia Kozub  
 Mrs. Edith Landy  
 Mr. Bruce H. Lang  
 Fred & Janet Lawrenson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stewart & Ellen Leibl  
 Sarah Luby  
 Robert & Claudette Lussier  
 Shirley Lynch  
 Raymond J. MacIsaac  
 Cam Mackie & Doris Mae Oulton  
 Mr. Alvin Mackling  
 Pat Trainor MacRae  
 Magikist Ltd  
 Priya Mani  
 Elaine & Neil Margolis  
 Mr. Christopher Matwichuk  
 Barbara McCandless  
 Mrs. Margaret Kellermann McCulloch  
 L. W. McLeod  
 Mr. Neil Middleton  
 Ms. Rosemary Miguez  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mildren  
 Ms. Myrna Mitchell  
 Veronique Mivelaz  
 Marc Monnin & Donna Miller  
 Mrs. Marg Morse

Mrs. Charlotte Murrell  
 Mrs. B. Nicolson  
 Robert & Barbara Olson  
 D. & E. Paryzek  
 Timothy & Katherine Penner  
 Ingrid Peters-Fransen  
 Ms. Evelyn Peters-Rojas  
 Hans Pinte  
 Ms. Marina Plett-Lyle  
 Judith Putter  
 Anne Ratuski  
 Levi & Tena Reimer  
 Mr. William Reynolds  
 Mr. Louis Ricciuto  
 Ms. Rita M. Romsa-Ross  
 Johnny Rule & Pearly Salangad  
 R. Runnells  
 Leslie Sarchuk  
 Arlene Sawatsky  
 Gail & Johann Schnabl  
 Ms. Vivian Schubert  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Snidal  
 Ellen Spencer  
 Mr. Peter Sribniak  
 Brenda Keith St. Clair  
 Maria Stapleton & Mike Lea  
 Mr. Leslie & Mrs. Linda Stechesen  
 Bill & Billie Stewart  
 Dr. Ian & Mrs. Karen Sutton  
 Ms. Kathy Szeler †  
 Robert & Catherine Thiessen  
 Ms. Winona Torch  
 Ms. Sonia Tunstead  
 Suzanne Ullyot  
 Marc Vachon  
 Dr. & Mrs. Eric Vickar  
 Jesse Vorst  
 Mr. A. M. C. Waterman  
 Clint Wilmot  
 Debbie Wilson  
 Mrs. Gustine Wilton  
 Mr. Donn K. Yuen  
 Twelve Anonymous Donors



Mezzo-soprano Laurelle Czaplinski poses with new friends after an "I Love to Read Month" presentation at Bairdmore School.

## CONTRIBUTOR

### \$50 TO \$99

All Charities Campaign  
 Ms. Mary Barrett  
 Liz Barron  
 Lydia Bartel  
 Mr. Oslen Belle  
 Mr. Ernest Bergbusch  
 Ms. Gertrude Bergen  
 Bryan & Judy Bjerring  
 Ms. Donna Blakeman Welch  
 Jeanette Block  
 Ms. Marilyn Boyd  
 Huguette Calvez  
 Gina Chodirker  
 Ms. Pam Christler-Martin  
 Dr. Raymond F. Currie  
 Vera & Greg Duncan  
 Colleen Einarson  
 Mrs. E. Entz  
 John J. Enns  
 Greg & Linda Fearn

Frank & Lucille Fiola  
 Barb & Denis Fletcher  
 Ms. Janice Freeman  
 Gitta Fricke & Andrea Cibinel  
 Ellen Frovich  
 Mr. George Gamvrelis  
 Mr. Andre Gautron  
 Lorraine Griffiths  
 Marion & Rodger Guinn  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bennie & Leona Gusnowsky  
 Esther Haluschak  
 Ann Hanks  
 Elizabeth Harland  
 Barbara Herriot-Miller  
 Cristina Ionescu  
 Joseph & Patricia Kaufert  
 Bev Kawchuk  
 Betty Knapp  
 Adele Kory & Gorden Andrus  
 Betty Laing  
 Ms. Shirley Layne  
 Stefanie LaZerte & Alex Koiter  
 Ms. Patricia MacKenzie  
 Rick MacLowick  
 Carolyn Mitchell  
 Mr. Tony Mitousis  
 Marilyn & Terry Patrick

Beverly Penner  
 B. Peterson & S. Slonosky  
 Beverley Phillips & Howard Curle  
 Norman & Edna Pohl  
 Mr. Arthur Rey  
 Mr. Christian Riou  
 Craig Ross  
 Beverly Ryman  
 Karn Sandy  
 Mr. Werner Scheurer  
 Rita Schroeder  
 Doug & Marg Scott  
 Shelagh Sinclair Fund  
 Muriel Smith  
 Mr. Jeff Spiegel  
 Ms. Helena Stelsovsky  
 Lorne & Lorna Stevens  
 Ms. Donna Stone  
 Mr. Chris Sunde  
 Mr. Norman D. Toms  
 Mrs. Shirley Tyderkie †  
 Ulloa-Pereira  
 Audrey Unger  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Voigt  
 Ms. Justina Wiens  
 Fourteen Anonymous Donors



Lauren Segal (Charlotte) and John Tessier (Werther), *Werther*, 2017. Photo: R. Tinker

## OPERA STORIES FROM OUR PATRONS

This season Manitoba Opera put out the call to patrons for stories about what impact opera as an art form, or Manitoba Opera in particular, has had on their lives. Dozens of stories, such as the two here, have been provided.

### THE IMPACT OF WERTHER

"In 2017 we had our first opera experience with *Werther*. It was like nothing we had experienced before.

The build-up of emotion with each act made you hungry for more with anticipation of what was to come. You became part of it. We felt connected and involved in the story, and you felt one with the emotions of Charlotte and Werther when he took his last breath. We were there with them and when I looked over at my mom I knew she felt it too.

This opera experience was very significant for my mom and me, and it really impacted us."

COLLEEN ASHBY

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

"My first live opera was Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. I had seen snippets of it in the movie *Amadeus* and was intrigued, so I decided to see the whole thing. It was love at first sight, and sound.

A few years later, my niece Billi, had to attend a number of music venues for a school project and my sister told her to talk to Auntie Cheryl. So one of the art forms we went to was the opera, of course, and for her as well, it was love at first sight, and sound. She's been my opera buddy ever since.

Then fast forward a few years and we find out that my nephew [also] loves classical music...He's been coming with Billi and me ever since."

CHERYL LAVIGNE

## Support

# TRIBUTES

## IN MEMORY OF

### JOANN ALEXANDER-SMITH

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

### JAMES BERGEN

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

### DAVID BLAIS

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

Leona Herzog ❖

Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers ♦

Daniela Ignat ❖

Drs. William Pope ❖  
& Elizabeth Tippet-Pope

### BRENT BOTTOMLEY

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

### MARIA CIULLO

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

### GRAHAM DIXON

Faye Dixon

### LARRY. R GANDER

Denise Cyr-Gander

### SUSANNE GREER

Larry Greer

### SHEILAGH GEER

Sheila Bay Katz

### ROSS HOUSTON,

### LEO & MARGARETH MOL

Ms. Patricia Gartrell

### STEFANIA JURKOVIC

Ms. & Mr. Abbie ❖ & Garth Grieder

### MAX KETTNER

Ms. Ruth Kettner

### M. JOAN KING

Ms. Sunny Oh

### HAROLD POLLOCK

Arnice Pollock

## BEQUESTS

The Estate of

Mr. Gordon P. Linney

## IN HONOR OF

### DR. PAUL ADAMS' 99TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. Marina Plett-Lyle

### JOHN GIESBRECHT'S BIRTHDAY

Lorna & Garry

### DARLENE RONALD ON HER BIRTHDAY

Ms. Linda Scholcz

Jane Stewart

Sybil Stokoloff

Anonymous

### BETTE JAYNE TAYLOR

Rev. Ross Taylor

## ENCORE CIRCLE

### MANITOBA OPERA'S PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Siana Attwell, PhD

Larry Desrochers ♦ & Laurie Lam

John Giesbrecht

Elba ❖ & Marshall † Haid

Drs. William Pope ❖  
& Elizabeth Tippet-Pope

Robert Vineberg ❖

Donn K. Yuen

## ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Brent Bottomley

Elba Haid ❖

In memory of Mr. Arnold Frieman

Elba Haid ❖

Mr. Fred Kisil

Marion Lewis

Barbara Scheuneman

Howie & Sue Simpson

In Honour of Elba Haid on Her Birthday

Drs. William Pope ❖

& Elizabeth Tippet-Pope

Terracon Development Ltd.

Faye Warren

One Anonymous Donor



Giles Tomkins (Basilio), Luisa Matheson, MO Board, and Andrew Owens (Almaviva) at the Camerata Event. Photo: A. Miglioranci



Monica Huisman (Donna Elvira), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: R. Tinker



Volunteers Shirley McLean, Eva Lavalee, and Darlene Ronald, Director of Marketing, at the Volunteer Recognition Reception.

Andrea Hill (Rosina) and Andrew Owens (Almaviva), *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: C. Corneau





MANITOBA OPERA

1060-555 MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG, R3B 1C3

**P** 204-944-8824 **F** 204-949-0377

MBOPERA.CA

Daniel Okulitch (Don Giovanni), *Don Giovanni*. Photo: C. Corneau