



# MANITOBA OPERA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20





MANITOBA OPERA

**OUR MISSION**

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

MBOPERA.CA



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink dress and boots, is hanging from two thick ropes. She is looking upwards with a concerned expression. The background is a dark stage with blue lighting. The right side of the page has a red gradient background with white text.

# CONTENTS

- 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- 3 ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING**
- 5 *SUSANNAH***  
**Artistic Team & Cast**
- 7 *CARMEN***  
**Artistic Team & Cast**
- 9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- 11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
***Susannah***
- 13 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
***Carmen***
- 15 STUDENT PROGRAMMING**
- 17 STUDENT PROGRAMMING**  
**Discover Opera**
- 19 SPECIAL EVENTS**
- 20 *CARMEN***  
**Gift-In-Kind Donors**
- 23 *CARMEN* OPENING NIGHT**  
**At-Home Sing-Along**
- 24 BOARD CHAIR HONOURED**  
**WITH NATIONAL AWARD**
- 25 ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT**
- 30 FINANCE**
- 32 VOLUNTEERS**
- 33 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**& COMMITTEES**
- 34 STAFF**
- 35 PARTNERS IN OPERA**
- 36 GRATITUDE**  
**Camerata, Friends of Manitoba Opera,**  
**Corporate Support, and Tributes**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manitoba Opera's 47th season will undoubtedly be remembered for the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and the first-ever cancellation of a mainstage production, but this season should also be remembered for a number of major accomplishments also important to the company.



Patrons enjoy the photo wall at the *Susannah* Student Night at the Opera. Photo: C. Corneau



Al Simmons, *The Barber of Seville*, Laura Secord School. Photo: R. Tinker

Our fall production of *Susannah* was a critical and artistic success, receiving 4.5 stars from the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Manitoba Opera has always prioritized supporting local artists and *Susannah* put this strategy in the spotlight. Of the cast of 12, 10 of the leading performers were home-grown Manitobans.

In a career milestone, Winnipeg soprano Lara Ciekiewicz won universal praise for her “tour-de-force performance” (*Winnipeg Free Press*). Ms. Ciekiewicz demonstrated her considerable vocal and dramatic prowess in her portrayal of the title character. In the words of one reviewer, “...you won’t hear it sung better anywhere.” (*Schmopera.com*)

We also held a number of community engagement events in conjunction with *Susannah*, including square dance lessons, opportunities to learn about the music, and a panel discussion and conversation about sexual abuse in faith-based communities. Participants discussed the importance of creating safe spaces for victims of abuse and how communities can support individual healing.



Lara Ciekiewicz (*Susannah*) and Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker

The Education Department had an active year of programming including Al Simmons’ one-man comic rendition of *The Barber of Seville*, which delighted thousands of students at 18 schools in and around Winnipeg.

Our spring production of *Carmen* was on track to sell out at the box office. However, in March, during the first week of rehearsals, we made the necessary decision to cancel the production due to the rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic. Within a matter of days, stakeholders were notified, artists were paid and sent home, production elements were returned to their vendors, and ticket returns and tax receipts were





*Susannah, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau*

“James McLennan’s portrayal of Little Bat McLean...was full of nervous energy and sung impeccably.”

**SCHMOPERA**  
*Susannah, 2019*

being processed. The board and staff acted quickly and decisively, and as a result, were able to mitigate the damage from the cancellation. By prioritizing the processing of ticket returns/tax receipts in the weeks following the cancellation, we were able to quickly process thousands of orders. This strategy freed up staff time in May to manage a successful year-end

matching donation campaign. Other remaining events were cancelled or re-envisioned, such as Dinner at De Luca’s which was held online as De Luca’s at Home in June. The Gail Asper Award Gala Reception honouring Mrs. Tannis Richardson was postponed to the spring of 2021.

We are grateful  
for a community  
who rallied  
around its opera  
company

In 2019, Manitoba Opera also embarked on a multi-year project to forge meaningful, respectful, and informed connections with Indigenous communities in

Winnipeg and Manitoba. With the assistance of an Innovation Grant from Opera America, this project explores the role our organization may play in Canada’s journey toward reconciliation and seeks to understand the company’s place in the telling of Indigenous stories on our stage.

These past few months have been a time of resiliency and teamwork. We are grateful for a community who rallied around its opera company in its time of need, and are thankful for the generosity of our patrons, donors, corporate partners, and emergency government programs. Combined, they helped us to end the fiscal year in a position of financial stability.

Though this season will surely be characterized by the impact of the pandemic, this season should also be remembered for important artistic achievements, meaningful community engagement, and reflections on our role in reconciliation.

As we look forward to the months ahead and embrace the changes that are to come, we hope you will come with us on the journey of discovering new ways to experience opera.



*Holly Janzen and Christine Girardin enjoying the Opening Night Dinner Reception, presented by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries. Photo: L. Norman*



*Members of the chorus and crew enjoying themselves at the Opening Night Reception. Photo: B. Bunko*

# ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

## MANITOBA OPERA'S 47<sup>TH</sup> SEASON WAS SHAPING UP TO BE A BANNER YEAR - and then the world changed.

The season began promisingly in November with a production of American composer Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. Based on the apocryphal tale, *Susanna and the Elders*, and inspired by the folk melodies of Appalachia, *Susannah* tells the story of a beautiful Tennessee girl who innocently incites the lust of her church elders, leading to her denouncement as a sinner.

The cast was strongly led by Winnipeg-based soprano Lara Ciekiewicz in the title role. South Carolina's Kristopher Irmiter (Rev. Olin Blitch) and Louisiana's Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam Polk) made welcome returns to our stage. Winnipeg's James McLennan also returned, this time in the role of Little Bat McLean. The four church elders were sung by David Watson (Elder McLean), Peter John (P.J.) Buchan (Elder Gleaton), Terence Mierau (Elder Hayes), and Tom Goerz (Elder Ott). Singing the roles of the

elders' wives were Donnalynn Grills (Mrs. McLean), Dawn Bruch-Wiens (Mrs. Gleaton), Naomi Forman (Mrs. Hayes), and Shannon Unger (Mrs. Ott).

Canadian-born and New York-based stage director, Kelly Robinson, received a warm reception after an absence of many years. Assisting Mr. Robinson was Winnipeg choreographer Brenda Gorlick. 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. Winnipeg's Bill Williams provided the lighting design.

The rented production, designed by Erhard Rom, came from Virginia Opera with costumes from Opéra de Montréal.

In April, Manitoba Opera was to be back on the Centennial Concert Hall stage with a production of arguably the world's most popular opera, Georges Bizet's *Carmen*.

We were eagerly anticipating the company debut of Quebec-born and Berlin-based mezzo-soprano Nora Sourouzian in the title role. Newfoundland tenor David Pomeroy was cast as Don José. We were looking forward to two other company debuts: American bass-baritone, Timothy Renner, as the bullfighter Escamillo, and



*Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



“Winnipeg soprano  
shines in dark opera”

★★★★☆ /5

**WINNIPEG FREE PRESS**  
*Susannah*, 2019

Winnipeg-based soprano Lida Szkwarek as Micaëla. Canadian bass Giles Tomkins was to sing the role of Zuniga. Winnipeggers Lara Secord-Haid and Laurelle Czaplinski were cast in the roles of Frasquita and Mercédès, respectively. Canadians Johnathon Kirby (Moralès/Le Dancaïre) and Jean-Philippe Lazure (Le Remendado) completed the cast.

Edmonton’s Brian Deedrick was to direct the production, with Winnipeg’s Brenda Gorlick again on board to assist with choreography. Tyrone Paterson was back in his role as conductor. Tadeusz Biernacki prepared the 44-voice Manitoba Opera Chorus, and the 16-voice Children’s Chorus was prepared by Carolyn Boyes.

Winnipeg’s Robert Borges was hired to provide the fight direction, and Scott Henderson was doing the lighting design. The rental production, designed by Camellia Koo, was to have come from Edmonton Opera, with costumes again provided by Opéra de Montréal.

As we say  
backstage,  
“Stand by.”

The visiting artists arrived in Winnipeg on the weekend of March 7/8, and we began staging rehearsals with the cast and artistic team on Monday, March 9. Within days of beginning rehearsals, public events across North America were being cancelled or postponed due to the emerging global pandemic. As the week progressed, it became clear that in consideration of the health and safety of all those involved, we would not be able to proceed with the production as planned.

Rehearsals were halted on Saturday, March 14, and the next day was spent making travel

arrangements for the visiting artists. All arrived home safely by Tuesday, March 17. By end of day Wednesday, March 18, all the various production elements - props, wardrobe, etc. - had been packed for shipping and were ready to be returned to their respective points of origin. Thursday, March 19, was the last day in the office for staff and as of Friday, they were working from home-based offices.

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 will be honoured when we are once again able to welcome these artists to the company, and we look forward to the day when we can bring these great stories, told through beautiful music, to life once more.

As we say backstage, “Stand by.”





# SUSANNAH



FLOYD

A MUSICAL DRAMA IN TWO ACTS  
LIBRETTO AND MUSIC BY Carlisle Floyd

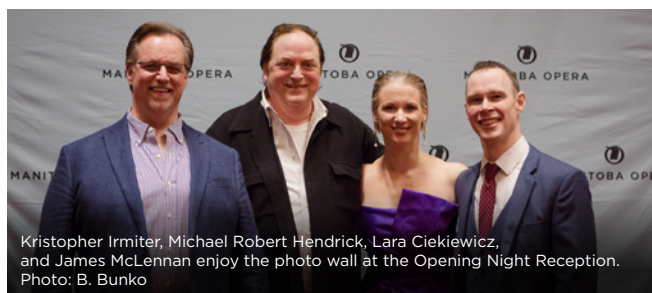
SUNG IN ENGLISH

## ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST

<b>Conductor</b>	Tyrone Paterson
<b>Director</b>	Kelly Robinson
<b>Scenery Design by</b>	Erhard Rom
<b>Lighting Design by</b>	Bill Williams
<b>Choreographer</b>	Brenda Gorlick
<b>Fight Choreographer</b>	Jacqueline Loewen
<b>Scenery and Properties provided by</b>	Virginia Opera
<b>Costumes provided by</b>	Opéra de Montréal, Harlequin Costumes
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Robert Pel
<b>Assistant Stage Managers</b>	Kathryn Ball, Heather Lee Brereton

## PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

<b>Director of Production</b>	Sheldon Johnson
<b>Répétiteur</b>	Tadeusz Biernacki
<b>Apprentice Stage Manager</b>	Will Medwick
<b>Chorus Rehearsal Pianist</b>	Cary Denby
<b>Wardrobe Supervisor</b>	Alena Zharska
<b>Wardrobe Alterations</b>	Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet
<b>Hair/Wig Designer</b>	Lori Houston
<b>Hair/Wig Assistant</b>	Jill Buhr
<b>Hair Crew</b>	Abel Martinez, Adriana Oliphant, Nicole Pielou, Jessica Sproul
<b>Make-Up Designer</b>	Christian Hadley
<b>Make-Up Assistant</b>	Jean-Marc Lafond
<b>Make-Up Crew</b>	Jessica DesJarlais, Erin Kiazky, Emily King, Theresa Thomson
<b>Firearms Safety Co-ordinator</b>	Dave Brown
<b>Projected Titles Cueing</b>	Michelle Mourre, Sarah-Jo Kirsch



Kristopher Irmiter, Michael Robert Hendrick, Lara Ciekiewicz, and James McLennan enjoy the photo wall at the Opening Night Reception. Photo: B. Bunko





Shannon Unger (Mrs. Ott), Naomi Forman (Mrs. Hayes), Donnalynn Grills (Mrs. McLean), Dawn Bruch-Wiens (Mrs. Gleaton), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



*Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah) and James McLennan (Little Bat), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



Kristopher Irmiter (Olin Blitch), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker

## PRINCIPAL CAST (In order of vocal appearance)

<b>Mrs. Gleaton</b>	Dawn Bruch-Wiens
<b>Mrs. Ott</b>	Shannon Unger
<b>Mrs. Hayes</b>	Naomi Forman
<b>Mrs. McLean</b>	Donnalynn Grills
<b>Elder McLean</b>	David Watson
<b>Olin Blitch</b>	Kristopher Irmiter
<b>Elder Hayes</b>	Terence Mierau
<b>Elder Ott</b>	Thomas Goerz
<b>Elder Gleaton</b>	Peter John (P.J.) Buchan
<b>Susannah Polk</b>	Lara Ciekiewicz
<b>Little Bat McLean</b>	James McLennan
<b>Sam Polk</b>	Michael Robert Hendrick
<b>Also Appearing</b>	
<b>First Man</b>	Don Larsen
<b>Second Man</b>	John Anderson

## CHORUS

### Soprano

Linda Feasby  
Svetlana Gharagyozyan  
Deborah Ginther  
Kadri Irwin  
Katherine Mayba

### Tenor

Russ Foster  
Peter Klymkiw  
Michal Kowalik  
George Nytepchuk  
Jonathan Stitt

### Supernumeraries

#### Adults

Savannah Boyko  
Kamal Chioua  
Gabrielle Hill  
Jacob Janzen  
Vaibhav Patel

### Mezzo

Ember Benson  
Micheline Hay  
Celoris Miller  
Christina Pyrz-Kowall  
Nikita Silagy Labdon

### Bass

John Anderson  
Chris Caslake  
James Dutton  
Don Larsen  
Ted Wiens

#### Children

Anna Gould  
Emily Gould  
Johan Malolos  
Janna Soronow  
Kylah Soronow  
Camryn Trapp  
Illan Ybanez



**MUSIC BY** Georges Bizet

**LIBRETTO BY** Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

**BASED ON THE NOVEL BY** Prosper Mérimée

**SUNG IN FRENCH**

## ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST

AT THE TIME OF CANCELLATION

<b>Conductor</b>	Tyrone Paterson
<b>Director</b>	Brian Deedrick
<b>Scenery Design by</b>	Camellia Koo
<b>Costume Design by</b>	Dominique Guindon
<b>Lighting Design by</b>	Scott Henderson
<b>Scenery and Properties provided by</b>	Edmonton Opera
<b>Costumes provided by</b>	Opéra de Montréal, Harlequin Costumes (Wpg.)
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Robert Pel
<b>Assistant Stage Managers</b>	Kathryn Ball, Heather Lee Brereton
<b>Projected Titles by</b>	Sheldon Johnson



Some of the cast and crew out for a walk.  
L-R: Timothy Renner, Robert Pel, Nora Souroujian, Brian Deedrick, Johnathon Kirby, Brenda Gorlick, Victor Bargen, and Jean-Philippe Lazure.  
Photo by Jean-Phillipe Lazure (@tenor.jp)

## PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

<b>Director of Production</b>	Sheldon Johnson
<b>Chorus Directors/ Répétiteur</b>	Tadeusz Biernacki (Adult), Carolyn Boyes (Children)
<b>Choreographer</b>	Brenda Gorlick
<b>Fight Director</b>	Robert Borges
<b>Apprentice Stage Manager</b>	Sarah McDowell
<b>Chorus Rehearsal Pianists</b>	Cary Denby, Deena Grier
<b>Wardrobe Supervisors</b>	Alena Zharska, Heather Thorleifson
<b>Wardrobe Alterations</b>	Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet
<b>Hair/Wig Designer</b>	Lori Houston
<b>Hair/Wig Assistant</b>	Jill Buhr
<b>Hair Crew</b>	Abel Martinez, Adrianna Oliphant, Nicole Pielou, Jessica Sproul
<b>Make-Up Designer</b>	Christian Hadley
<b>Make-Up Assistant</b>	Jean-Marc Lafond
<b>Make-Up Crew</b>	Jessica Desjarlais, Sarah Leighton, Stephanie Porrior, Theresa Thomson
<b>Projected Titles Cueing</b>	Cary Denby



**PRINCIPAL CAST** (In order of vocal appearance)

**Moralès/  
Le Dancaïre**  
JOHNATHON  
KIRBY



**Zuniga**  
GILES TOMKINS



**Mercédès**  
LAURELLE  
CZAPLINSKI



**Micaëla**  
LIDA SZKWARK



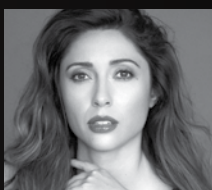
**Carmen**  
NORA  
SOUROUZIAN



**Escamillo**  
TIMOTHY  
RENNER



**Don José**  
DAVID POMEROY



**Frasquita**  
LARA  
SECORD-HAID



**Le Remendado**  
JEAN-PHILIPPE  
LAZURE

**ALSO APPEARING**

**Lillas Pastia**  
DON LARSEN

**CHORUS****Soprano**

Janine Bremault Bamford  
Grace Budoloski  
Linda Feasby  
Deborah Ginther  
Kadri Irwin  
Joanne Kilfoyle  
Alison Petten  
Marlise Ritchie  
Deanna Smith  
Ana Toumine  
Cathy Wach-Dueck

**Mezzo**

Jacqueline Arthur  
Ember Benson  
Kathy Gawlik  
Micheline Hay  
Celoris Miller  
Jane Petroff  
Christina Pyrz-Kowall  
Mavis Ritchie  
Amanda Stegmaier  
Alison Stenekes Loewen  
Karla Weir

**Tenor**

Matthew Baron  
Kyle Briscoe  
Chris Donlevy  
Russ Foster  
Michal Kowalik  
David LaRue  
George Nytepchuk  
Lawrence Pauls  
Ernst Stiglmayr  
Jonathan Stitt  
Adam von Lau

**Bass**

John Anderson  
David Boyes  
James Dutton  
Alex Hryndzio  
Don Larsen  
Eric Loepp  
Devan Ryner  
Fred Simpson  
Dan Szymanski  
Jean van der Merwe  
Ted Wiens

**CHILDREN'S  
CHORUS**

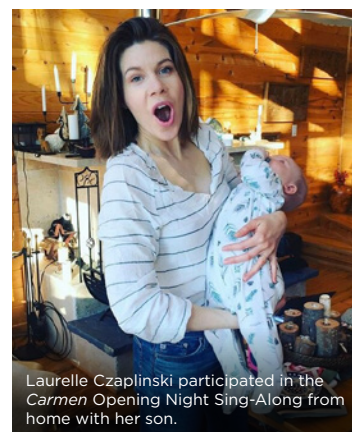
Sophie Caron  
Davis Cordero  
Tin Tin Gasgonia  
Henry Harrington  
Bianca Imperial  
Elijah Kanhai  
Greer Kanhai  
Andrew Kilfoyle  
Matthew Lee  
Nadia Lee  
Jacob Moore  
Lila Naismith  
Hannah Schaeffer  
Alexandra Schaeffer  
Janna Sonorow  
Amélie Tétrault

**Supernumeraries**

Tim Brenan  
Mark Brubacher  
Thomas Miles  
Vaibhav Patel



David Pomeroy and Giles Tomkins during a rehearsal.  
Photo by Giles Tomkins (@gilestomkins)



Laurelle Czaplinski participated in the *Carmen* Opening Night Sing-Along from home with her son.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Once again this season, Manitoba Opera presented a wide variety of community engagement activities related to our productions including an evening of learning to square dance; a presentation on tarot cards; a thought-provoking discussion on *Carmen* in the Era of #MeToo; and a panel discussion about sexual abuse in faith-based communities.

Through our community engagement activities, the company reaches out to new groups and individuals, provides context to the operas performed, and provides forums for discussions about issues that have relevance to 21st century society.

This year over 2,500 people participated in community engagement events.



Presenters Kelly Bernardin-Dvorak and Jaymie Friesen at the *Susannah* Panel Discussion. Photo: B. Bunko

## OPERA ACCESS PROGRAM

Manitoba Opera annually donates tickets to social services agencies for client use. In 2019/20, 150 tickets to *Susannah* were distributed to 13 organizations, providing an opportunity for individuals who may not otherwise be able to attend a performance.

Organizations receiving tickets included Thrive Community Support Circle, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Macdonald Youth Services, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, Girl Guides of Canada, Ka Ni Kanichik, Sexuality Education Resource Centre MB, and Opportunities for Employment.

In addition, 114 ticket vouchers were donated in response to fundraising requests from community organizations.

## OPERA PRIMER

Opera Primer is a one-hour lecture presented by music expert Don Anderson that helps prepare audiences to get the most out of their night at the opera. The opera is given context, complete with historical background on its creation and premiere, and anecdotes about the composer's life, interspersed with DVD clips of key moments in the opera.

The Opera Primer for *Susannah* was held Sunday, November 17, at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR). The *Carmen* Opera Primer scheduled for Sunday, March 22, and also to be held at the CMHR, was cancelled due to the pandemic.



Tarot cards at A Taste of Tarot.





Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, and *Susannah* director Kelly Robinson at the *Susannah* Sitzprobe. Photo: B. Bunko

## UNDERSTANDING THE MUSIC

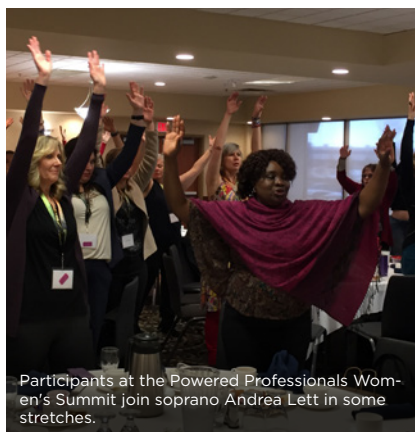
Understanding the Music is a one-hour presentation that unpacks some of the mystery and nuance in the music of the season's productions by examining the composer's approach and providing historical and social context.

Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello, Assistant Professor of Musicology, University of Manitoba, Desautels Faculty of Music, presented the lecture for *Susannah* on Saturday, November 9, at the Millennium Library's Carol Shields Auditorium.

Dr. James Maiello, Associate Professor of Musicology, University of Manitoba, Desautels Faculty of Music, presented the lecture for *Carmen* on Saturday, March 7, at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

## 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 the *Susannah* pre-show chat was soprano Ashley Rees who is also a host for Classic Radio 107. *Carmen's* pre-show chat, which was cancelled, was to have been presented by music lover and former CBC Radio host, Andrea Ratuski.



Participants at the Powered Professionals Women's Summit join soprano Andrea Lett in some stretches.

## SIT IN ON THE SITZ

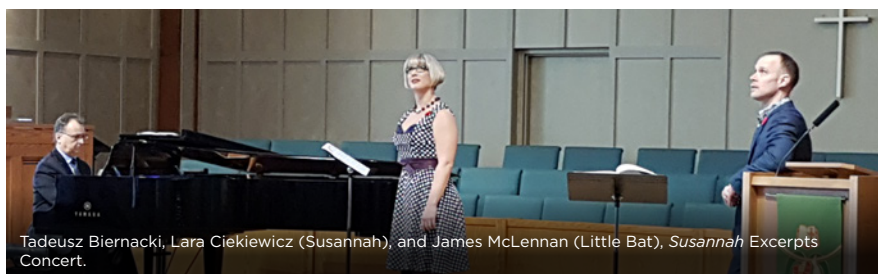
Each year, donors of \$100 or more are invited to attend the Sitzprobe rehearsals to enjoy a sneak peek of the opera and a conversation about the production with the stage director, hosted by Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. The *Susannah* Sit in on the Sitz was held on Tuesday, November 19, with the production's director, Kelly Robinson. *Carmen's* Sit in on the Sitz was cancelled.

## DISCOVER OPERA

As part of the Discover Opera program, soprano Andrea Lett and pianist Lisa Rumpel presented free recitals for Trailblazers Life Choices locations in Winnipeg in November. The audience responded enthusiastically to their performances, and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to sing along and to talk about the music that they love. Complimentary tickets to attend *Susannah* were provided to interested participants.

"I appreciate the effort you put into organizing these events. I attended some last year and found them so very helpful prior to hearing the performance by the Opera."

**SONIA KOWALEWICH**  
Patron



Tadeusz Biernacki, Lara Ciekiewicz (*Susannah*), and James McLennan (*Little Bat*), *Susannah* Excerpts Concert.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# SUSANNAH

### FILM SCREENING

#### *Susannah*

Early in the summer of 2019, and again in the fall, Manitoba Opera presented free screenings at Cinematheque of a production of *Susannah* by the St. Petersburg Opera. The screenings provided an opportunity for patrons to hear the music and become familiar with the story in advance of the Manitoba Opera premiere of this work.

### FOLK SONG TRADITIONS

Much of the music of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* is rooted in folk music of Appalachia. In this presentation, musicologist Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello explained how Floyd created a soundscape of Tennessee in the opera by drawing

on Appalachian folk music traditions. Ethnomusicologist Matthew Knight explored the parallel soundscape of Manitoba with a discussion of local folk traditions. Baritone Mel Braun and pianist Laura Loewen performed selections from their recording *By the Red—Folk Songs from the Red River Valley*. This event was held at Canadian Mennonite University on Sunday, October 27.

"Thank you also for having counselors available for audience members who may have had difficulty processing what they experienced."

ANONYMOUS PATRON



Learning how to square dance at the Norwood Legion.

### GET TO KNOW

#### SUSANNAH

#### Excerpts Concert

Manitoba Opera presented a free recital starring the main cast of *Susannah* singing iconic excerpts from the opera. The recital featured Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah Polk), Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam Polk), and James McLennan (Little Bat McLean), and was emceed by baritone Paul Bruch-Wiens, a member of the company's board of trustees. The event took place at Westworth United Church on Sunday, November 10, and gave patrons a sampling of Carlisle Floyd's unique musical idiom for *Susannah*.



Singer Mel Braun and friends demonstrate some traditional folk singing at the presentation on folk song traditions.



Understanding the Music of *Susannah* with Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello.



"Bravo to your organization and the courage that it took to plan and host the important discussion that we had last evening on sexual abuse in the Church! I felt that the panelists all did an excellent job in facilitating a discussion on a very sensitive topic...they were also willing to be real and honest..."

**KURT SCHWARZ**  
Patron

## A CONVERSATION ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE IN FAITH COMMUNITIES

On Wednesday, November 13, Manitoba Opera hosted a conversation about sexual abuse within faith communities, a theme that is part of the central conflict of the opera. Panelists for this discussion included Kelly Bernardin-Dvorak, Family Therapist, Jonah Counseling

& Consulting; Jaymie Friesen, Abuse Response and Prevention Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee MB; Stan McKay, Cree Elder from Fisher River Cree Nation; and John Neufeld, Lead Pastor, The Meeting Place. The panel was moderated by Carolyn Klassen, Therapist, Conexus Counseling.

This free event was open to the public and held at the Manitoba Museum Auditorium. It is also available for viewing on Manitoba Opera's YouTube page.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT Manitoba Square & Round Dance Federation

Along with his music, Carlisle Floyd uses square dancing as the backdrop for a pivotal scene in *Susannah* to transport his audience to rural Appalachia. Square dancing is a fun and social all-ages activity that is a long-standing favourite pastime of rural communities, with a rich history in Manitoba.

In partnership with members of the Manitoba Square & Round Dance Federation, led by caller Brian Lewis, Manitoba Opera presented an evening of square dance

lessons on Thursday, October 10, at the Norwood Legion.

Club members also presented a square dancing demonstration on the Piano Nobile during the intermission of each performance.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT Klinic Community Health

Recognizing that sometimes the subject matter in an opera can be intense or triggering for a viewer, Manitoba Opera invited Klinic Community Health to provide information in the program about presenting and experiencing art in a trauma-informed way.

Representatives from Klinic were also available in the lobby, and their presence served to remind us that while our response to trauma is deeply individual, it does not need to be solitary.



Ashley Rees gives a pre-show chat before *Susannah*.



A Conversation about Sexual Abuse in Faith Communities panel. Photo: B. Bunko



Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam) and Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah), *Susannah* Excerpts Concert.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# CARMEN

Even though our production of *Carmen* had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, the weeks leading up to Opening Night were filled with events that provided a fresh look at the world's most popular opera.

Nearly 400 people attended community engagement events around *Carmen*.



Soprano Andrea Lett performing at the Powered Professionals Women's Summit.



Understanding the Music of *Carmen* with Dr. James Maiello.

### FILM SCREENING

#### *Carmen Jones*

The story of *Carmen* has been creatively adapted repeatedly since its inception. Manitoba Opera presented a screening of the 1954 Golden Globe Award-winning movie *Carmen Jones*. The film sets the story in mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century America. It was groundbreaking in that it featured an all-Black cast starring Dorothy Dandridge and Harry Belafonte. The film was screened on Saturday, February 29, at Cinematheque.

### A TASTE OF TAROT

The stereotypical image of the fortune-teller, the Roma woman reading tarot cards, actually grew out of the popularity of the opera in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, owing to the scene where *Carmen* foretells her own death in the cards.

To demystify and explore preconceived notions of what the tarot is and how it is used, patrons were invited to spend an evening with Francesca Cesari of Sacred Glow, who led an exploration into the mysteries of the tarot. Participants also enjoyed French-inspired savoury and dessert items, accompanied by French wine. A Taste of Tarot was held Thursday, March 5, at Frenchway Café.

### **CARMEN** Lectures & Discussion in French

Composed by Georges Bizet, *Carmen* is the best-known French opera and this provided an opportunity for the company to partner with the Université de Saint-Boniface (USB) to present an event for the Francophone community.

**From the Frigid North: When Nietzsche Met *Carmen*** was presented by Professor Antoine Cantin-Brault, PhD. USB president Sophie Bouffard, PhD, presented ***Carmen: Beyond Seduction***. A lively discussion followed the



Francesca Cesari teaches patrons about tarot during A Taste of Tarot at the Frenchway Cafe.





lectures, which were presented in French at the university on Wednesday, March 11.

### CARMEN IN THE ERA OF #METOO

A recurring topic in the performing arts is the question of whether the works of the historical canon, many of which display outdated attitudes towards sexism and race, are still relevant for modern audiences.

The speaker was Arthur Schafer, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Manitoba and Founding Director of the University's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics. He engaged patrons in a conversation about performing "classic" operas and plays such as *Carmen* and



*The Merchant of Venice* in a 21st century world which has very different attitudes towards sexism and racism. The conversation took place on Saturday, March 14, in the Carol Shields Auditorium, Millennium Library.

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

In recognition of the strong female characters in each of this season's productions and to support the empowerment of women, Manitoba Opera was a sponsor of the Powered Professionals Women's Summit held Thursday, March 12, at the Victoria Inn.

Soprano Andrea Lett, who made her MO debut last season as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and appeared on our stage again as the maid Berta in *The Barber*

*of Seville*, was the featured speaker at the event's lunch session. She shared her story on becoming a professional singer and led the participants in some typical warm-up exercises before treating them to a sample of her vocal talent.

### THE CARMEN T-SHIRT FOR THE PRODUCTION THAT NEVER HAPPENED

These commemorative t-shirts had already been printed when the production was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nonetheless, when the word went out that the t-shirts were available to purchase, many patrons jumped on the chance to own a unique piece of opera history!

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC MUSICOLOGY

In January, Manitoba Opera's Education & Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Scott Miller, was invited to present a lecture

on community engagement and public musicology to undergraduate music majors at The University of Manitoba.

The presentation focused on the necessity for artists and academics to engage with their communities, and on understanding how the



skills that the students are developing – as performers, creators, collaborators, and researchers – will prepare them to meaningfully connect with a wide variety of audiences.

# STUDENT PROGRAMMING

## INSPIRING THE CHILDREN OF TODAY

TO CREATE THE AUDIENCES OF TOMORROW

### STUDENT NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Student Night at the Opera (SNO) provides students with the opportunity to attend production dress rehearsals for just \$14 per person. This season, nearly 100 students enrolled in high school and post-secondary programs from Winnipeg and surrounding communities, experienced the Manitoba Opera



Kristopher Irmiter (Olin Blitch) and Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau

debut of *Susannah* in November. (As *Carmen* was cancelled, there was no Student Night at the Opera in the spring.)

SNO 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 Niverville, Headingly, and Steinbach.

Comprehensive study guides are available on Manitoba Opera's website for teachers and students. These resources provide information about opera, as well as context for each production. Study guides help students create links between the opera and literary,

artistic, and social topics, both modern and historical.

Student Night at the Opera is generously supported by TD.

### OPERA IN A TRUNK

In its 10th season, Opera in a Trunk is a program for grades K-6. The trunk is free of charge for schools and is designed to be used to connect opera to a number of the core subjects.



*The Barber of Seville* as styled by Al Simmons. Photo: R. Tinker

“...So much needed (and positive) discussion has taken place after the event (Student Night at the Opera, *Susannah*). Thanks so much to Manitoba Opera for having the courage to produce such an event...”

**ESTHER NAGTEGAAL**  
Homeschool Parent



Trunks are themed around six operas: *The Magic Flute*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Aida*, *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment* and contain 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 600 students at 10 schools in Manitoba (including schools in Winnipeg, Ritchot, and La Salle) experienced the magic of Opera in a Trunk.

**“Opera in a Trunk invites a rich opportunity for students to explore the opera while encouraging multiple literacies.”**

**LANE GIBSON**  
Teacher, Belmont School



Soprano Andrea Lett presents a B.E.E.P. workshop for students at Margaret Park School.  
Photo: R. Tinker

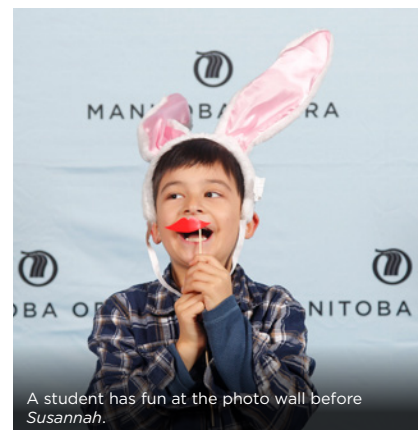
Nathan Sawatzky-Dyck and Stephen Haiko-Pena.

Students learn about the art form, who makes it happen, and how it all comes together to tell powerful stories. Every Opera Class workshop is unique, as the performers and students collaborate to use song, dance, costumes, props, and acting to perform their very own mini opera!

This season, 26 Opera Class workshops were presented at 18 schools in Winnipeg and the surrounding region, involving the participation of nearly 800 students. This program was offered at no cost to schools thanks to a grant from TELUS.

**“Students loved the presentation and were eager to learn more about the opera. Two students said, ‘It was the best moment of my life!’”**

**MARINE VERNESSE**  
Teacher, École Bannatyne



A student has fun at the photo wall before Susannah.

## OPERA CLASS

Opera Class is a 45-minute workshop led by an opera singer who introduces students to opera through an imaginative hands-on learning experience in their classroom. Presenters this season were sopranos Jessica Kos-Whicher and Katherine Mayba, and bass-baritones



Baritone Nathan Sawatzky-Dyck with École Bannatyne students at an Opera Class.

## STUDENT PROGRAMMING

## DISCOVER OPERA

## I LOVE TO READ MONTH

February is “I Love to Read Month” in Manitoba 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, two presenters, soprano Katherine Mayba and bass-baritone Stephen Haiko-Pena, visited six schools in Winnipeg and read to over 400 students.



Costumes are always a big hit at the B.E.E.P. workshops. Photo: R. Tinker



Students from Margaret Park School with props during a B.E.E.P. workshop. Photo: R. Tinker

## B.E.E.P.

For the seventh consecutive year, Manitoba Opera participated in the Seven Oaks School Division’s Balanced Experiential Education Program (B.E.E.P.). Soprano Andrea Lett 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 Elwick School, Margaret Park School, Constable Edward Finney School, Governor Semple School, and O. V. Jewitt Community School throughout the summer.



Students from Edward Finney School have fun as the three little pigs during an Opera Class.

“This was such an amazing show. The students were so engaged and Al captured their attention. I have never seen our students listen to this degree.”

**JILL BOYCHUK**  
Principal,  
École Robert Browning



Soprano Andrea Lett gives an opera lesson at a B.E.E.P. workshop, Margaret Park School. Photo: R. Tinker



## AL SIMMONS WINTER SCHOOL TOUR

Without a doubt, the highlight of our education programming this season was the Al Simmons' one-man rendition of *The Barber of Seville*, which toured to schools in Winnipeg and the surrounding region. From January through March 2020, 20 shows were presented at 18 schools to over 6,300 students.

This is a great entry point into opera for elementary-aged students, many of whom have already heard the famous tunes in cartoons and movies. When Al calls for them to sing "Figaro!" his audience participates with sheer unbridled enthusiasm.

Al plays 10 different characters in the opera – wearing a different hat, wig, or costume for each – and even delivers some scenes in the original Italian. What's that? The students don't all speak Italian? Well, then Al just repeats the scene in English!

Jokes, puns, antics, and zany props (like carrot scissors) aside, the show is packed with opera knowledge that Al shares with the students. They learn about

Rossini, who wrote nearly 40 operas before retiring at the age of 38, and most importantly, they learn that opera is just a fun way to tell stories.

In 2018, a fire damaged Al's storage shed, destroying many of the one-of-a-kind gadgets, and custom costumes that he uses in his shows. With Manitoba Opera's support, Al was able to rebuild his show, replacing all manner of wigs, hats, props, and garments that he dons (or shares with mannequins) to bring the characters in the opera to life.

### Sponsors for the Al Simmons Winter School Tour:

- Thomas Sill Foundation
- Manitoba Hydro
- Payworks
- S. M. Blair Family Foundation



Al Simmons. Photo: R. Tinker



Al Simmons takes on the role of Rosina in his adaptation of *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

**"Al included many comical parts which had the students laughing out loud. It was a great experience for the adults as well."**

**WADE GREGG**  
Principal, Queenston School



Al Simmons and students at Laura Secord School. Photo R. Tinker



Al Simmons works on re-making costumes for his adaptation of *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R. Tinker

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SUSANNAH OPENING NIGHT DINNER

Before the curtain lifted on the company premiere of *Susannah* on Saturday, November 23, Manitoba Opera's 2019/20 season kicked off with the popular Opening Night Dinner. Event sponsors were Bergmann's on Lombard (catering), Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries (wine), and Planned Perfectly (linens).

The pre-dinner reception included hors d'oeuvres and sparkling wine, as well as a sampling of bourbon and whiskey from Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries' premium Distinctions line.

Maria Mitousis was the winner of a draw held by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries for a tasting for two at the Grant Park Liquor Mart Distinctions Room.

Following the reception, guests enjoyed a three-course dinner on the Piano Nobile with table wine selected by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries. At the dinner, lead donors Craig McIntosh and Lorraine Beck were thanked for their generous contribution to the Debt Reduction Campaign.

Friday, November 30. Event sponsors were Bergmann's on Lombard (catering) and Planned Perfectly (linens).

Guests enjoyed an Appalachian-inspired buffet dinner. Over dessert, Ashley Rees, soprano and Classic Radio 107 host, presented an informative pre-show chat.

*"[Susannah] brought many in the opening-night crowd to tears."*

**SCHMOPERA**  
*Susannah, 2019*

### SUSANNAH CLOSING NIGHT DINNER

The final performance of *Susannah* began with the Closing Night Dinner on



Patrons enjoy the *Susannah* Opening Night Dinner. Photo: L. Norman



Board Chair Elba Haid and General Director & CEO, Larry Desrochers (far right), present Craig McIntosh and Lorraine Beck with a gift to recognize their generous support. Photo: L. Norman



# CARMEN

## GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS

The generosity of our *Carmen* ticket holders was central to Manitoba Opera's year-end success. Over 1,000 patrons donated back their tickets for the cancelled production.

Thanks to the individuals below, Manitoba Opera was able to fully honour the contracts of the artists and crew involved in the production. (Listing includes ticket donations made between March 1 and May 31, 2020.)

Mr. Denis Abakumov  
Lois Abraham  
Margarete Acht  
John & Carolyn Adair  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Karen Adams  
Mrs. Christine Adamson  
Ms. Doreen Adamson  
Ms. Dorothy Adrian  
Mrs. Lisa C Adriaansen  
Jose Alatorre  
Katie Alguire  
Ms. Diane Allison  
Ms. Margaret Alto  
Polina Anang  
Mr. & Mrs. Cherrill D Andrelunas  
Mr. Gorden Franklin Andrus  
Christine Andrusiak  
Mrs. Cynthia Angus  
Grace Aoki  
Tatiana Arcand  
Ms. Linda L. Armbruster  
Erin Armstrong  
Ms. Maggie Armstrong  
Mrs. Olivia Arnason  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh & Melinda Arthur  
Ahmad Arzhang  
Dr. Linda Asper  
Jim & Margaret-Lynne Astwood  
Mr. Ashok Athavale  
Mr. Frank Atnikov  
Siana Attwell  
Mario & Josie Audino  
Dr. Terry Babick  
Ms. Anneliese Baerg

Ken Baessler  
Evelyn Bagel  
Jackie Bain  
Janet & John Bailey  
Judy Baker  
Patricia Baker  
Leone Banks  
Ms. Sandra Bannatyne  
Mr. Fletcher Baragar  
Dr. Paul Barchet  
Mrs. Dorota Barczak  
Ms. Mary Barrett  
Ms. Emily Eileen Barstead  
Victor Bartel  
Mr. Robert Bartolo  
Ms. Shannon Baryliuk  
Craig McIntosh & Lorraine Beck  
Dick & Minnie Bell  
Mr. Oslon Belle  
Pam Bell  
Audrey Belyea  
Norbert Bender  
Betty Bender  
Mr. & Ms. Julian D. Benson  
Wayne & Ember Benson  
Ms. Merrill Berg  
Mr. & Ms. Paul & Aileen Bergan  
Diane Beresford  
Katharine Bergbusch  
Ms. Gertrude Bergen  
John Bergen  
Ms. Audrey Bergman  
Mariam Bernstein  
Ana Berry

Ruth Berry & Hugh Larimer  
Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Bewell  
Ms. Carole Ann Bhakar  
Dale Bially  
Frances Bidewell  
Ms. Joanne Biggs  
Ms. Anna Bigland-Pritchard  
Irene Bilan  
Dr. & Mrs. David R.H. Bird  
Mr. Bryan Davis Bjerring  
Mrs. Jennifer Bjornson  
Mrs. Carol Blais  
Michael Blais ♦ & Brian Rogowsky  
Ms. Irene Blank  
Mr. & Ms. Dianne Blewett  
Jeanette Block  
Ms. Lucienne Blouw  
Gerry Blyth  
Mr. Kenneth Bos  
Dr. Youngok Kang-Bohr  
Mrs. Yvette Boily  
Mrs. Joanne Bolger  
Mrs. Sandra Bookatz  
Ms. Kimberley Boothe  
Mr. Guenter Bormann  
Roger Bourget  
Frances Bourque  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Cathie Bowerman  
Mrs. Susan Bowden Twaddle  
Ms. Dawn Bowie  
Mr. Sheldon Bowles  
Ms. Marilyn Boyd

Patricia Bozyk  
Sue Jurkovic-Bracken & Dr. John Bracken  
Ms. January Bradco  
Peter & Marg Braid  
Ms. Judy Braun  
Karla Braun  
Ms. Barbara Breitenmoser  
Ms. Jacqueline Brignall  
Maestro Nedzad Bric  
Sheila & David Brodovsky  
Melanie Brohm  
Mr. & Dr. Eugene Brokopiwi  
Mrs. Colette M Brown  
Ms. Margaret Brown  
Dr. Rob Brown  
Ms. Kimberly F. Browning  
Ms. Victoria Brunel  
Ms. Barbara Bruske  
Coralie Bryant  
Mrs. F. Buckmaster  
Narendra Budhia  
Ms. Heather Buechel  
Jennifer Buffie  
Giles Bugaliskis  
Ms. Sonja Buhl  
Bethany ♦ & Holden Bunko  
Ms. Leona Burdeniuk  
Geraldine Burge  
Ms. Sheila Burland  
Mr. Raymond Burns  
Ms. Maureen Burnham  
Mr. John Burstow



*Susannah*, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Barbara Burt  
Mrs. Jean Burton  
Ms. Karen Buss  
Patricia Busca  
Mr. Michael Buyachok  
David Byrne  
Dr. Patricia Caetano  
Huguette Calvez  
Patricia Cameron  
Aline Campagne  
Carol Campbell & Andrew Krentz  
Ms. Lisa Campbell  
Allan & Gloria Cantor  
Ms. Consuelo Capovilla  
Mr. Ken Carpenter  
Dr. Stefan Carter  
Maureen McCartney  
Sylvia Cassie  
Mr. Kevin Cassidy  
Mr. Gordon Challes  
Ms. Judith Chambers ♦  
Ms. Colleen Chamberlin  
Melissa Charriere  
Mr. Richard Chartier & Liza Maheu  
Mrs. Norma Chernick  
Mr. Victor G Chiarella  
Mr. Frederic Chieux  
Ms. Shelley Chochinov

Gina Chodirker  
Margaret's Choir  
Bjorn Christianson, Q. C.  
Ray Chrunyk  
Minna Rose Chung  
Ms. Andrea Cibinel  
Daniel Ciekiewicz  
Danielle Claeys  
Brenda Keith St. Clair  
Mr. Douglas Brian Clark  
Dr. Gerald Claydon  
Ms. Elizabeth Clayton  
Ms. Margot Clayton  
Ron Clement  
Ms. Lor Cleveland  
Ms. Susan Clubb  
Janice Cox  
Syd Cohan  
Mr. Micah Cohen  
Mrs. Pauline Collette  
Mr. Don Collins  
Prof. Emmet Collins  
Ms. Margot Colquhoun  
Shalom Coodin  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Coombs  
Ken & Lynn Cooper  
Trudy Cooper  
Joy Cooper  
Mr. David Cordingley  
Misses Victoria Costa

## CARMEN GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS CONTINUED

Diane Coughlin  
Mr. Daniel Cowan  
Ms. June Cowan  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Lorraine Coyle  
Ms. Jane Coyne  
Caroline Crawford  
Mr. James Crean  
Marlene Crielard  
Ms. Margaret Cuddy  
Ms. Tracey Cullen  
Mrs. Katherine Anne Cullihall  
Ms. Marlene McCulloch  
Mr. Bradley J. Curran  
Raymond & Charlene Currie  
Karen Cyr  
Ms. Jolanta Czaplinski  
Peter Czaplinski  
Dr. Piotr Czaykowski  
Ms. Ashleigh Czerny  
H. & D.  
Mr. Bheesham Dabie  
Mr. John & Mrs. Norma Daly  
Judy & Werner Danchura  
Ms. L. Daniels  
Mr. Dennis Gregory Dart  
Mrs. Sylvie M Dargis  
Robert & Alison Darling  
Mr. Gary R. Davis  
Ms. Lillian Davis  
Ms. Nicola Davies  
Ian Davies & Laurel Daman  
Susan Dawes  
Margaret Day  
Ms. Toby Decker  
Dr. David Delay  
Diane DeLucia  
Mr. Thomas R. Denton  
Pamela Deol  
Ms. Elizabeth Derraugh  
Dries Desender  
Anna M. Desilets  
Christine Dewar  
Karen Dewar  
Drs. Diana Dhalilwal  
Brittany Dheilly  
Jane Dick  
Mr. Andrew Dickson  
Alan Dinson  
Faye Dixon  
John & Gay Docherty  
Mr. Robert Dolan  
Mr. Chris Doole  
Mr. Philippe J. Le Dorze  
Ms. Laurie McDougall  
Carling Douglas  
Mr. Peter Douglas  
Ms. Helene Drobko  
Jeanie M. Dubberley  
Jackie Dubofsky  
Drs. Harry W. & Mary Lynn Duckworth  
John & Ada Ducas  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron & Wendy Dueck  
Ms. Sharon Dueck  
Cathy Wach-Dueck  
Mr. Greg Duncan

Patricia Duncan  
Ms. Althea Suzanne Dunlop  
Rehana Durocher  
Mr. Roger Dutton  
Esther Dyck  
Ms. Helene Dyck  
Riley Dyck  
Dr. Michael Dyck  
& Ms. Lisa Bueckert  
Mary Eaton  
Ms. Lisa Edel  
Private Music Educator  
Nancy M Edwards  
Mary Wilson Edwardsson  
Ms. Colleen Einarson  
Ms. Brenda Elford  
Professor Brenda Elias  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Gail Eliasson  
Lawrence & Brenda Ellerby  
Ms. Sylvia Ellis  
Dr. & Mrs. Iain Forbes Elliott  
Ms. Kim Elphick  
Empiricus Medical  
Corporation Inc.  
Mrs. Gloria L Emslie  
Henry Engbrecht  
Donna Engel  
Ms. Carol Engstrom  
John J Enns  
The Estate of Mr. Siegfried Enns  
Mr. & Mrs. H.R. Entz  
Mrs. Janice Dyck Epp  
David Epp  
Mr. Jeff Epp  
Ms. Jillian Epp  
Ernst Hansch Foundation Inc.  
Kathleen Estey  
Debra Evaniuk  
Eileen Ewanchuk  
Flavia Fabio  
Ms. Frances Fahner  
Sheri Fandrey  
Alicia Faucher  
Mr. Gregory Fearn  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Linda Feasby  
Mr. David Fehr  
Mr. Earle Ferguson  
Ian Ferguson  
Mr. James R. Ferguson  
Ms. Nelma Fetterman  
Mr. Bruce Fink  
Mrs. Elaine Finnbogason  
Gayle Fischer  
Ms. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Ms. Clara Fjeldsted  
Ms. Sylvia Flam  
Mr. Denis Fletcher  
Ms. Karen Fletcher  
Dr. David Folk  
& Ms. Laurel Malkin  
Ms. Debbie Forrest  
Ms. Sandy Forrest  
Linda Fortier  
Mr. Russ Foster  
Theo Fourie  
Ms. Sheryl Fowler

Ms. Kelley Fry  
Dr. Jennifer Frai  
& Dr. Matthew Decter  
Jeff Frank  
Ms. Carole Free  
Ms. L. Freed  
Ms. Janice Freeman  
Jesse Vorst & Friends  
Mr. Michael Raymond Friesen  
Marian Friesen  
Brian Froese  
Mr. John Froese  
Mrs. Irma Froese  
Betty Frost  
Ellen Frovich  
John Fullen  
Alexandra Funk  
Ms. Saratu Funk  
Mrs. Carol Galbraith  
Meghan Gallant  
Phyllis Gallimore  
Denise Cyr-Gander  
Ms. Anne B. McGarry  
Judy Garton



Robert Pel, stage manager, Kristopher Irmeter (Olin Blitch), and Tyrone Paterson, conductor, at the Opening Night Reception for *Susannah*. Photo: B. Bunko

Ms. Patricia Gartrell  
Mr. Dustin Gatz  
Archbishop Albert Le Gatt  
John Gatta  
Mr. Andre Gautron  
Gavriela Malka Geller  
Kaitlin & Megan George  
Mr. Peter George  
& Ms. Tamara Bodi  
Ms. Patti D. Germann  
Lia Gervino  
Chris Patrick Gibbons  
Mr. John Giesbrecht  
Rob Giesbrecht  
Ms. Penny Gilbert  
Joan Gillis  
Ms. Renée Gillis  
Ms. Deborah L. Ginther  
Mr. Fernand Girard  
Ms. Ghislaine Giroux  
David Gislason  
& Judy Richardson  
Jackie Glowacki

Jacqueline Goddard  
Mrs. S. Goldberg  
Maria Mitousis  
& Barry Gorlick  
Brenda Gorlick  
Bruno Gossen  
Mrs. Laurie Gossen  
Tania Gottschalk  
Ms. & Mr. Cathy Gough  
& Tim Wildman  
Ms. Vera Goussaert  
Prasad Gowdar  
Mr. Hugh Grant  
Mr. John M. Granelli  
Mrs. Jacqueline Gratton  
Ken Green  
Bob Greenhalgh  
Mr. Eric Gregory  
Ms. Victoria Gretchen  
Ms. Carole Grier  
Ms. & Mr. Abbie  
& Garth Grieder  
Ms. Susan Louise Grief  
Deanna Griffen  
Ms. Donnalynn Grills

Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Charles Gross  
Mr. Perry Grosshans  
Rodger & Marion Guinn  
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie  
& Leona Gusnowsky  
Linda Guse  
Ms. Micheline Hay  
Mr. & Mrs. P Haakman  
Ms. Karen von Hacht  
Mr. Allan Hadley  
Ms. Susan Hagemester  
Ms. Judy Haid  
Helen Halpin  
Dr. Sara Halwas  
Irene Hamilton & Tim Killeen  
Ms. Janis Hanec  
Ann Hanks  
Marie Hannaford  
Ms. Nadia Hanuschak  
Marie Harnois  
Ms. Joanne Harris  
Beth Harrison

Ms. Ruth Hartnell  
Bridget Hartwich  
Dr. Carol J. Harvey  
Judge Mary Kate Harvie  
Mr. Bart Hasselfield  
Carol Hauser  
Helen Hay  
Ms. Rebecca Hayward  
Darlene Ronald  
& Stewart Heaton  
Ingrid Heim-Heyer  
Virginia Heinrichs  
Martha Helgerson  
Ms. Elizabeth Hellinga  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig John Henderson  
Mr. Saul Abram Henteleff  
Mr. Yude Henteleff  
Leona Herzog  
& Colleen Heshka  
Lori & Loren Hiebert  
Mary Ann Higgins  
Mr. Raymond Hignell  
Mr. Eric Hinton  
Mr. Brian Hirsch  
Mr. Vladimir Hlas  
Svetlana Hobaica  
Reannah J Hocken  
David & Barbara-Anne Hodge  
Mrs. Helene Hoffer  
Ms. Rhonda Hogg  
Ms. Muriel Hogue  
Mr. & Mrs. N. & L. Holliday  
Mr. Christopher Holman  
Walter Dowhan  
Ms. Mary Holmen  
Shan Holmes  
Ms. Adele Holunga  
Pam Homenick  
Ms. Elly Hoogterp-Hurst  
Dr. Ken Hotz  
Ms. Therese van Humbeck  
Stella Hyrniuk  
Charlene Ilas  
& Cameron & Sally Inglis  
Audrey Inglis  
Derek Inglis & Leslie Batte  
Yvonne Ingram  
Ms. Cristina Ionescu  
Kadri A. Irwin  
Eleanor Isaak  
Ray Joseph MacIsaac  
Cary Jackson  
Robert B. Jackson  
Mrs. Marilyn Jacynas  
Dr. Stephan Jaeger  
Mr. Jonathan Jandavs-Hedlin  
Ms. Margaretha Janssen  
Herta Janzen  
Jacob & Judi Janzen  
Margaret Jeffries  
Mr. Paul Jensen  
& Ms. Maureen Prendiville  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Jewell  
Young-Sook Jo  
Günter Jochum  
Ms. Muriel St. John

Mr. Baldur Johnson  
Grace Johnson  
Kathy Johnson  
Ms. Ardith Johnston  
D'Arcy Johnston  
Dr. James B. Johnston  
Medical Corporation  
Mr. Wayne Jones  
Patricia Jordan  
Ms. Natasha Juck  
Mr. Rae Kabernick  
Olivia Kang  
Dr. Irene Eugenie Karpiak  
Ms. Adrienne Katz  
Mr. Ken Katz  
Ulrike Kauenhowen  
Ms. Bev Kawchuk  
Ms. Rheanna L O'Keefe  
Dianne Kennaugh  
Don Kennedy  
Mr. Jonathan Kennedy  
Peter Jean Kennedy  
Mr. Roger Kennedy  
Pat Kennett  
Ms. Debbie MacKenzie  
Ms. Patricia MacKenzie  
Michael McKernan  
Ramon Khan  
Mr. & Mrs. Margarita Kibalnik  
H. Kilbrai  
Mr. John Derek King  
Marion Kinnear  
Mr. Adrian E MacKinnon  
Jean Kinsner  
Ms. Elizabeth Kircher  
Mrs. Alicia Kitt  
Mr. Richard Klappecki  
Mr. Bruce Klassen  
Mrs. Karin Klassen  
Ms. Marlene Klassen  
Mr. Bruno Klassen  
Mr. Victor Kliever  
Mr. Peter Klymkiw  
Mr. B. Roslycky & Dr. P. Kmet  
Mrs. Kristin Knockaert  
Ms. Ann Kos  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kolomaya  
Ms. Gisele Koncz  
Ms. Frances Koncan  
Lyle Koncan  
Barry Konzelman  
Ms. Doris Kopp  
Ms. Donna L. Korban  
Mona Koropatnick  
Ms. Stephanie Kostiuk  
Ms. Vera Kostyshyn  
Ms. Christina Livia Kovacs  
Michelle Kowalchuk  
Sonia Kowalewich  
Ms. Candace Kowalyk  
Ms. Anne-Marie Kowatsch  
Ms. Tusia Kozub  
Ms. Heather Kozubski  
Maureen Krauss  
Ms. Charlotte Rempel Kroeker  
Ms. Geraldine Louise Krone



Mr. Alex Krozin  
Mr. Thomas G. Kucera  
Katarina Kupca  
Carole Kuryk  
Marjorie Kuryk  
Claudia Kuryk-Serray  
Lydia Kuryk  
Miss Amanda M Kuzbyt  
Dr. Brent Kvem  
Mr. Ralf Kyriz  
Geoffrey Lo  
Mr. & Mrs. Israel  
    & Maylene Ludwig  
Viola Labun  
Ms. Lori-Ann Lach  
Lynne Lachance  
Mr. Michel Lagace  
Betty Laing  
Mrs. Lucille Lang  
Mrs. Edith Landy  
Ms. Megan Latouche  
Chris Laurie  
Ms. Cheryl Lavigne  
Don Lawrence  
Letty Lawrence  
Fred & Janet Lawrenson  
Ms. Candice Lawson  
Ms. Shirley Layne  
Mel & Karyn Lazareck  
Dr. Steffi Lazerte  
Dr. Hermann Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart & Ellen Leibl  
Dr. Christopher Leo  
Gail Lefebvre  
Marianna Legat  
Mrs. Jacqueline Legay  
Mr. Camille Legare  
Barb Lehmann  
Ms. Katherine McLennan  
Mr. Robert McLennan  
Mrs. Marilyn McLeod  
Thomas McLeod  
Eva Marie Lessing  
Joanne Levy  
Sherrill Levene  
Marion Lewis  
Judith Lichtman  
Dr. Daniel Lindsay  
Mr. Callum Lionel Goulet-Kilgou  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Mrs. Alison Katherine Loewen  
Bill & Shirley Loewen  
Ms. Loris Loewen  
Ms. Diana Lynn Logan  
Ms. Betty Lorimer  
Mr. & Mrs. Colin  
    & Jenny-Lou Ryan  
Jacqueline Lour  
Ms. Leni Louiser  
Dr. Kristin Louvrien-Meuwese  
Mr. Graeme Stuart Lowden  
Mr. Rick MacLowick  
Ally Loyns  
Mr. Brian Lukie  
Ms. Claudette Lussier  
Ms. Marina Plett-Lyle

Shirley Lynch  
Dr. David Lyttle  
Mr. Stephen May  
Mr. David Cameron MacDonald  
Henry MacDonald  
Dr. Kelly S MacDonald  
Ms. Lois MacDonald  
Ms. Roberta Mack  
Mr. Julian Nedohin-Macek  
Roberta Mack  
Cam Mackie & Doris Mae Oulton  
Alvin & Patricia Mackling  
Mrs. Pauline Macrodimitis  
Hayley Main  
Mrs. Anita Mainella  
Christopher Mainella & Christine  
Van Cauwenberghie  
Mrs. Giselle Majersky  
Michael Malabre  
Mr. Glenn Malazdrewicz  
& Ms. Ronda Glaeske  
Ricuou-Manfreda  
Moira Mardero  
Claudia Mardero  
Mrs. Tracy Marino  
Ms. Elinor Marks  
Vesna Maroti  
Sonia Marrone  
Armin & Denise Martens  
Ms. Pam Christer-Martin  
Alysha Martin  
Ms. Kate Martin  
Miss Marissa Martin  
Carla Martin  
Mr. Kevin Masse  
Mr. & Ms. Mary Theresa Masse  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald  
& Luisa Matheson  
Mr. Richard Mathis  
Dr. John & Natalie Mayba  
Annabelle Mays  
Ruth McCleary  
Marilyn McCorrister  
Ms. Pat McCullough, M.D.  
Claudette & Michel McDonald  
Dr. Donald & Mrs. Julie McInnes  
Marilyn McLeod  
Shauna McQuarrie  
Bruce & Shelley  
Bertrand Meadows  
Eta Meinders  
John Melnyk & Jacqueline Ryz  
Barb Melnychuk  
Robert Mensies  
Rita & Don Menzies  
Mr. Michael Blain Menzies  
Miss Emma Metzlaiff  
Mr. Joe Michalchyszyn  
Sandi Mielitz  
Ms. Jasna Milanovic  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mildren  
Judith Jensen-Millan  
Jocelyn Millard  
Barbara Herriot-Miller  
Ms. Celoris Miller  
Mr. Hans Miller  
Mr. Tobias Milne

Dr. Earl Minuk  
Mr. Jonathan E. Mitchell  
Ms. Myrna Mitchell  
Samantha Steele-Mitchell  
Veronique Mivelaz  
Marc Moir  
Ms. Lois Mombourquette  
Mr. Michael Mongeon  
Mr. Marc Monnin  
Mrs. Monica Maria Montalvo  
P. Morgan  
Margaret & Ben Moroz  
Mr. Derek Morphy  
J. MacMorran  
Ms. Janice Morris  
Ms. Sagan Morrow  
Ms. Lynne Moss  
Lucille Mourant  
Ms. Josephine Muirhead  
Ms. Sophia Munro  
Helen Murdoch  
Miss Kathleen Murphy  
Mrs. Charlotte Murrell  
Ms. G. Noelle Muruve  
Valerie Muzychuk  
Mr. Tony Nanton  
Ms. Barbara McNeill  
Carla & Josef Nejmark  
Dr. Anna Nikola  
Mr. Jason John Neufeld  
Ms. Anita Neville  
Elizabeth Jocelyn Newnham  
Judy Nichol  
Ms. Janine McNicholl  
Doug Nicholson  
Ms. Brittany Nickel  
Ms. Janis Nickel  
Vivienne Nickerson  
Ms. Susan Mae Nicol  
Mrs. B. Nicolson  
Corinna Nolan  
Linda Norman  
Ms. Adella Novak  
Father Thomas Novak  
Jim & Carol Nowell  
Mrs. Alison Nye  
Ms. Sunny Oh  
Rheanna O'Keefe  
Rod O'Keefe  
Robert O'Kelly & Arlene Young  
Lorraine O'Leary  
Mr. Joseph O'Neill  
Dr. Maria & C Onofrei  
Ms. Linda Oracheski  
Reta Owens  
Ms. Norma Anne Padilla  
Mary Paetkau  
Mrs. Zina Paley  
Ms. Carla Palidow  
Mr. Douglas Glen Palmenton  
L M Paluck  
Mr. Dariusz Paluszek  
Wayne & Linda Paquin  
Mr. Les R Parry  
Ms. Debra Parrish

E. & D. Paryzek  
Elisabete Pasko  
Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D.  
& Michael Paterson  
Mr. Paul Paterson  
Ms. Gaetanne Patry  
Marilyn & Terry Patrick  
Linda de Pauw  
Matt Pauls  
Sylvia Pawlik  
Myron Pawlowsky  
Mr. Christopher James Pearce  
Mrs. Ingrid Pearce  
Lesia Peet  
Mrs. Denise F Penley  
Miss Bariah Jaelle Penner  
Ms. Charlotte Penner  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Penner  
Kassia Penner  
L. Penner  
Brian Perchaluk  
Ms. Wiebke Peschken  
Ms. Leonore Peters  
Ms. Kim Peterson  
Alison Petten  
Allan McPhaden  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim McPhee  
Beverly Phillips & Howard Curle  
Catharine Phillipson  
Ms. Blair Philippott  
Dr. Annette Saint-Pierre  
Mr. Rick Pinchin  
Hans Pintea  
Mrs. Barbara Pirie  
Ms. Evelyn Patricia Piush  
Mrs. Donna Plant  
Ms. Joy Plohma  
Norman & Edna Pohl  
Ms. Gisele Diane Poirier  
Marie T. Poitras  
Ms. Elizabeth Polakoff  
Bradley Pollock  
Drs. Bill Pope ❖  
& Elizabeth Tippet Pope  
Ms. Sandra Popham  
Mrs. E. Susan Popkes  
Mr. Zlatko Popovic  
Ms. Rose Popowich  
Dr. Hart Poskar  
Mrs. Serena Paolina La Posta  
Freda Powell  
Mrs. Christine Price  
Connie Price  
Vernie Price  
Mr. Jim Pringle  
Dr. Orest Prodan  
Mile Road Productions  
Ms. Louise Proven  
Dr. Shannon Prud'homme  
Ms. Kimberley Puhach  
Pat Trainor MacRae  
Ms. Myrna Raber  
Ms. Maraya Raduha  
Ethan E Ralph  
Ms. Sybil Iris Ramprashad  
Dr. Diane V. Ramsey

E.J. (Ted) Ransby  
Mr. Sergio Raposo  
Mrs. Anne Ratuski  
Ms. Margaret Rauliuk  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted & Marilyn Redekopp  
Mrs. Emily Diehl-Reader  
Mr. Bill Redekopp  
Mr. Anthony Ray Redekopp  
Martin Reed & Joy Cooper  
Ms. Valerie Regehr  
Pat Reid  
Heidi Reimer-Epp  
Levi & Tina Reimer  
Louise Remillard  
Ms. Hanna Rempel  
Ms. Carol Renner  
Ms. Anne Rennie  
Laurel Repski  
Mr. Mark Joseph Reyes  
Eleanor Riach  
Mr. Louis Ricciuto  
Heather & Hartley Richardson  
Diana Richardson  
Margaret J. Ricketts  
Tracy Ridley  
David H. & Helene Riesen  
Mr. Christian Riou  
Drs. Stuart I. Rittberman  
Mr. Sidney Robinovitch  
Marilyn Robinson  
Mr. John Robson  
Paul Rodermond  
Ms. Cindy Lorraine Rodych  
Ms. Evelyn Peters-Rojas  
Irene Romaniw  
Mr. Ronald Romanowski  
Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Denise George  
Ms. Rita M. Romsa-Ross  
Craig Ross  
Mr. Morley Rosenbloom  
Ms. Alexa Rosentreter  
Mrs. V. Rosolowich  
Val Ross

Ms. Zoya Rubinchik  
Ms. Mari Ann S Ruczak  
Elena Ruday  
Tania Ruday  
Barbara Ruff  
Olga Runnalls  
Roger Rigelhof  
& Marjorie Russell  
Anne & Glenn Rusnak  
Donna Ryland  
Beverly Ryman  
Mrs. Nadia Sadowy  
Michelle Samagalski  
Ms. Esther Samphir  
Eleanor Samson  
Mrs. Kam Sandy  
Ms. Patricia Sanders  
Kam Sandy  
Constance. J. Sarchuk  
Ms. Lucille Andrea Sauli  
Gilbert Savard & Roxane Sarrafin  
Arlene Sawatsky  
Dr. Wilfrid & Catherine Schlosser  
Barbara Scheuneman  
Ms. Charlene Jenny  
Van Schijndel  
Tanya Schink  
Ms. Sandra Schmidtke  
Gail & Johann Schnabl  
Mr. Dustin Schneider ❖  
Sisler High School  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schroeder  
Rita Schroeder  
Ms. Vivian Schubert  
Ms. Sandy Schumann  
Mr. Gunter Schupke  
Mr. Robert Schuppel  
Mr. Kurt Schwarz  
Ms. Brenda Sciberras  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Scott  
Susan Scott  
Mr. Sam Searle  
Alan Sellen  
Ms. Marlene Serafin



## CARMEN GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS CONTINUED

Andrew & Claudia Serray  
Ms. Wendy Sersun  
Ms. Claire Sevenhuysen  
Ms. Emily Shane  
Roan Shankaruk  
Ms. Barbara Sharp  
Ms. Caroline W Sharp  
Nadine Shelton  
Joan Shelton  
Alexander Shewchuk  
Ruth Shields  
Jeff Sisler ❖  
& Cathy Rippin-Sisler  
Mrs. Marie Sichler  
Mr. Robert Siddall  
Ms. Christina Sikorsky  
Roslyn Silversides  
Mrs. Pamela Simmons  
Howie & Sue Simpson  
Mr. Fred & Mrs. Edith Simpson  
Keith ❖ & Alora Sinclair  
Mr. Robert Sinding  
Ms. Catherine Skene  
Ms. Arlene Skull  
Ms. Wanda Slawik  
B. Peterson & S. Slonosky  
Mr. David M. Slonosky  
Mr. Chris Beaumont-Smith  
Mr. Alan Smith  
Ms. Cheryl Smith  
Deanna Smith  
Mrs. Jody Ann Smith  
Lillian Smith  
Muriel Smith  
Dr. John R.M. Smith  
& Douglas H. Arrell  
Martha Smith  
Michelle Smith  
Mr. T. David  
& Mrs. Lorraine Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Snidal  
Ms. Jennifer Snyder  
Ms. Elizabeth Sokoloski  
Ms. Adeline Sokulski  
Mr. Peter Somers  
Dr. Nash Soonawala  
Lucinda Soulsby  
Mr. George E. Spencer

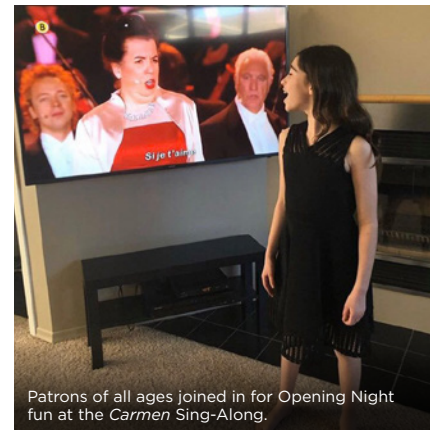
Mr. Jeremy Spencer  
Mr. Peter Sribniak  
Muriel St. John  
Mike Stainton  
K. Stansfield  
Jody Stark  
Mrs. V. Stark  
Mr. Leslie Stechesen  
Mr. Anthony J. Steffes  
Dr. & Mrs. Murray R. Steinbart  
Mrs. R. Steinhoff  
Ashley Stepaniuk  
Ms. Jane Stewart  
Karin & Ernst Stiglmayr  
Ms. Donna Stone  
Mary A. Stones  
Lynne Strome  
Loreta Stukaite  
Mr. Werner Stunzi  
Mr. Grant Suderman ❖  
Mr. Chris Sunde  
Pat Sundmark  
Ms. Joan Sutter  
Shelley Sweeney  
Ms. Lois Swistun  
Mr. Roman Szczeba  
Ms. Lida Szkwarek  
Marika Szkwarek  
Katrina Tamagi  
Kristy Tanguay  
Ms. Andriana Tarasiuk  
Mr. Jacques Tardif  
Ms. Bette Jayne Taylor  
Ms. Cheryl Taylor  
Draeden Taylor  
Rev. Ross Taylor  
Ms. Rosalie Tennison  
Mr. Brian Testar  
Rachelle Tétrault  
Jo-Ann Theriault  
Ms. Patricia Thibodeau  
Vic & Ruth Thielmann  
Ms. Bonnie Thiessen  
Ms. Lisa Thiessen  
Ms. June Thompson  
Mr. Russ Thompson  
Kristjan Thompson  
Sharon Tiessen

Colleen & Peter Tilbrook  
Mr. Graham Matthew Todd  
Ms. Sonia Tokaryk  
Mrs. Susan Tole  
Deborah Tolton  
Ms. Ruth Tomac  
Ms. Winona Torch  
Professor Virginia Torrie  
Murray Trachtenberg  
& Adeena Lungen  
Ms. Jean Travis  
Ms. Elizabeth Magdalena Treidler  
Liliane Tremblay  
Mr. Brad Trupp  
Ms. Yoko Tsuyuki  
Ms. Sonia Tunstead  
Mrs. Christine Y Turenne  
Suzanne Ulliot  
Katy Unruh  
Ms. Aileen A. Urquhart  
Ms. Roseline Usiskin  
Ms. Tharina Uys  
Dr. Marc Vachon  
Marcel Van Woensel  
Brad & Dorothy Vannan  
Ms. Marieke Veldhuis  
Mrs. Delores Margaret Velie  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Vickar  
Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne  
Mr. David Violago  
Christine Vorster  
Ms. Xun Wu  
Mr. Grant William Wainikka  
Mr. Darren Wall  
Ms. Anne Walli  
Karen Wall

Mrs. Patricia Wallace  
Edna Walpole  
Garnet Ward  
Gerard. A. Ward  
Faye Warren  
Ms. Laura Anne Warszycki  
Ms. Karen Watchorn  
Rev. A.M. Watts  
Ms. Evelyn Weber  
Mrs. Dorcas Wehner  
Mrs. Helga Weiss  
Ms. Donna Blakeman Welch  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael & Lydia West  
Dr. Lynn Whidden  
Stefania Whidden  
Mrs. Erin McWhirter  
Ms. Linda Joyce Whitford  
Florence & Donald Whitmore  
Mr. Alfred Wiebe  
Mr. Walter & Mrs. Elsie Wiebe  
Laurel Wiebe  
Ms. Justina Wiens  
Mrs. Norma R Wiens  
Rick Wiens  
Mr. Ted Wiens  
Mr. Roger Wight  
Ms. Antoinette(Toni)  
R.L. Wildman  
Shirley & Herb Wildeman  
Ms. Nancy Williamson  
Gregory J. Wilson  
Debbie Wilson  
V. Wilson  
Sheila Wilson-Kowal  
Mrs. Gustine Wilton  
Ms. Frances Winkworth

Marge Winters  
Ms. Janis Wisher  
Ms. Krysta Lorraine Wojtowicz  
Ms. Elsa Wolf  
Ms. Diane Wolfman  
Gord F Wong  
Ms. Beverly Wood  
Jane Wood  
Grant Woods  
Susan Woodward  
Mr. Dave Wreford  
Ms. Linda Wright  
Jens Wrogemann  
Anne Yankiwski  
Valerie Yarmie  
Ms. Diane Yaroshko  
Xi Yin  
Ms. Lori Anne Yorke ❖

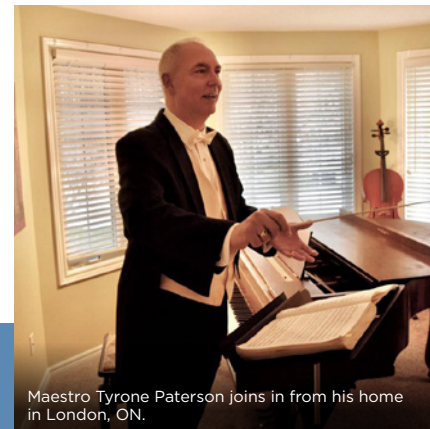
Dr. Kathryn Young  
Mr. Donn K. Yuen  
Noreen Yuen  
Ms. Rochana Yuthasastrakosol  
Ms. Gail Zahradnitzky  
Mr. Martin Zeilig  
Ms. Nancy Zeilstra  
Mrs. Sherill Zellis  
Mr. Ivan Zimmer  
Dr. Waldemar Ziomek  
Ms. Mary Louise Zornik  
Ms. Pearl Von Zuben  
Cheryl Zubrack  
36 Anonymous Donors



Patrons of all ages joined in for Opening Night fun at the *Carmen* Sing-Along.



Joining in on the fun to support Manitoba Opera's virtual Opening Night.



Maestro Tyrone Paterson joins in from his home in London, ON.

## AT-HOME SING-ALONG HELD TO MARK OPENING NIGHT OF *CARMEN*

The cancellation of *Carmen* due to the pandemic was very disappointing for patrons

and equally disappointing for the company to not be able to share this iconic opera.

To mark the occasion of Opening Night, Saturday, March 28, patrons were invited to join in a six-minute *Carmen*

sing-along at 7:30 pm (curtain time) and post a photo on social media. The sing-along video was provided courtesy of the South Netherlands Philharmonic 2018 sing-along.



# BOARD CHAIR HONoured WITH NATIONAL AWARD



Elba Haid, Chair, Board of Trustees

Elba Haid, Chair of the Board of Trustees, was named the 2020 recipient of the Opera.ca National Opera Directors Recognition Award (NODRA).

NODRA is awarded by Opera.ca, the national association for opera companies and professionals in Canada. The award highlights the tenets of good governance, celebrates models of volunteer excellence, and raises the bar for board director commitment.

"The strength and stability of an opera company correlates to the calibre of its volunteer leadership, and strong governance is a crucial factor in an opera

company's success. Elba Haid's contributions to Manitoba Opera are exemplary, enabling the company to increase its fundraising, eliminate debt, and build a strong foundation for the future," stated Christina Loewen, Executive Director of Opera.ca. "We are delighted to honour Elba Haid with this award and to celebrate the impact she has made and continues to make."

Elba joined the board in 2007. Prior to becoming chair, she served as Chair of the Annual Gala and of the Camerata Committee (for donors starting at \$1,250) during which time gifts and donations increased by 20%. In 2018, she was instrumental in the development of a new fundraising initiative - The Gail Asper Award - named after Winnipeg philanthropist Gail Asper and awarded to individuals who, like its namesake, demonstrate exemplary leadership or pursuit of a visionary goal. The event raised \$255,000 in its first year.

Elba Haid has been instrumental in board recruitment and diversification. She has been able to draw in members from

a variety of diverse communities in fields including finance, business, health care, and law.

Her leadership has not gone unnoticed in the community. In 2018/19, on the strength of her leadership, a private donor stepped forward with a challenge gift of \$100,000 to eliminate a long-standing debt the company had carried for 30 years.

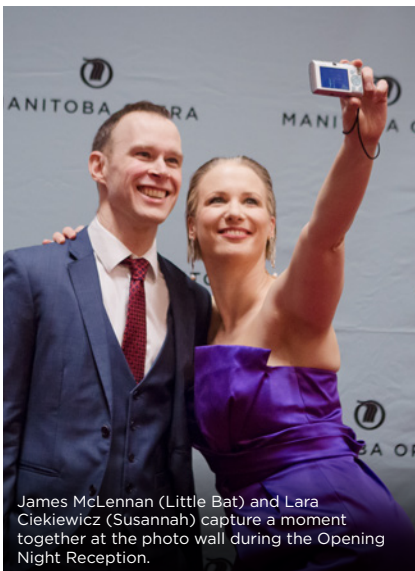
Elba Haid's personal support of Manitoba Opera is exemplary. She hosts donor events in her home, has pledged \$100,000 to the Endowment Fund, and has included Manitoba Opera in her estate planning.

In describing Elba's impact on Manitoba Opera, nominator Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, said, "Elba is an inspiring leader. She wins people over with her warmth and charm and because she is genuinely interested in them. She is poised and gracious. She's a mentor, a teacher, a strategist, a planner, and an optimist. She sets the bar high and encourages us all to reach for it. She is so deserving of this recognition by Opera.ca."

# ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Board of Trustees and the 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 the community 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 organization. By evolving the organization along these lines, we deepen our impact on the community.



James McLennan (Little Bat) and Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah) capture a moment together at the photo wall during the Opening Night Reception.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the 2019/20 Annual General Meeting on July 14, 2020, members of the organization elected Timothy E. Burt, Terence Douglas, and Flavia Fernandez Fabio as new trustees. Appointed to the Board during the 2019/20 season, Lana Maidment was elected to her first term as a trustee. The Board and staff welcome the new trustees and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Current trustees re-elected were Judith Chambers, Dr. David Folk, Elba Haid, Keith Sinclair, Peter George, Alex Robinson, and Dr. Jeffrey Sisler.

Returning trustees in mid-terms are Paul Bruch-Wiens, Charlene Ilas, Grant Suderman, Daniela Ignat, Maria Mitousis, Dustin Schneider, and Lori Yorke.

Manitoba Opera thanked two trustees who retired this year. Abbie Grieder completed four full terms on the Board of Trustees. Abbie was an instrumental trustee; she served on the Community Engagement Committee, the Workplace Safety & Health Committee, and many special event committees over the years including the Bravo Gala. Her generous and caring spirit will be missed by her colleagues at Manitoba Opera.

This year marked Luisa Matheson's final year as a trustee for Manitoba Opera. Luisa completed four full-terms and one two-year term as part of a special resolution. Always an ardent supporter of the company, Luisa recruited many new patrons and donors to the art form over the years, and served on special event committees. Luisa co-chaired the Bravo Gala from 2011 to 2013 and was the sole chair in 2014.



James McLennan (Little Bat) and Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau



Manitoba Opera is grateful for their passion, support, and generous volunteer work for the organization during their time on the Board.

In September 2019, 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.

### STAFF Professional Development

In June 2019, Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO; Michael Blais, Director of Administration; and Darlene Ronald, Director of Marketing, travelled to San Francisco to attend the Opera America Conference. This annual gathering of more than 700 opera professionals allows staff to connect with colleagues and counterparts at other companies and delve into important topics and learning opportunities for the opera sector.

Drawing on the innovative spirit of the San Francisco Bay area, the 2019 conference focused on examining the traditional landscape of opera and its repertoire, and exploring ways that new performance practices, business innovations, and enhanced civic-centered practices can evolve the art form in the 21st century.

In October 2019, Larry Desrochers, Darlene Ronald, and Scott Miller, Education & Outreach Coordinator attended Creative Convergence Winnipeg. Hosted by The Canadian Network for Arts & Learning, the conference focused on the work that arts organizations are doing to create lasting connections in their communities through outreach, education, and collaboration.



Bass-Baritone Stephen Haiko-Pena teaches an Opera Class at Sistema Elwick.

Since January 2020, Jayne Hammond, Grants & Corporate Giving Manager, has been participating in a mentorship program through the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Jayne is mentored by Kristine Betker, Director of Fund Development for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Jayne has also participated in learning sessions through the Winnipeg Foundation throughout the year.

### STAFF Boards

Larry Desrochers completed the third 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. He continues to be actively involved in Opera.ca as well.

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



Dr. Bill Pope, MO Board, and Lena Horne, volunteer, enjoy refreshments at the Sitzprobe for *Susannah*. Photo: B. Bunko



L-R: Mel and Marlene Chambers; Deputy Mayor, City of Winnipeg, Markus Chambers, MO Board; Judith Chambers, MO Board; Cam Mackie and Doris Mae Oulton at the Opening Night Dinner Reception. Photo: L. Norman



Susannah, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau

## STAFF CHANGES

In June 2019, Sandra Schmidtke, Grants & Corporate Giving Manager left Manitoba Opera to pursue other career opportunities. During her time at Manitoba Opera, Sandra developed strong connections with corporate partners, foundations, and sponsors. She was instrumental in the development and launch of new initiatives including Trivia Night, Fashion Fridays, and the Tweet Seat program.

In September 2019, Jayne Hammond joined the team as Grants & Corporate Giving Manager. Jayne is a trained singer with experience working in the non-profit sector. As a performer, Jayne previously performed with MO at the Camerata event, the Dinner at

De Luca's and in the chorus for *Don Giovanni* and *Madama Butterfly*. Jayne holds degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Manitoba.

In January 2020, Tania Douglas joined the company as the Director of Development. Tania brings over 15 years of experience in the charitable sector, working with such organizations as the Children's Hospital Foundation, Inclusion Winnipeg, and Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA). Tania is a past-president of the Association for Fundraising Professionals, Manitoba (AFP) Chapter and a session instructor for AFP's Fundamentals of Fundraising course. She holds a Certified Fundraising Executive designation from CFRE International.

## GOVERNANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

The 2019/20 season marked Dr. Bill Pope's second year as the Chair of the Governance Committee. Building on the committee's previously developed Accessible Customer Service Policy, the committee focused this season on the Employment Standard of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*. The committee developed Workplace Emergency Response Information, and Workplace Emergency Assistance documentation for staff. These two protocols were put into place in April 2020 to keep all employees safe during an emergency.

The committee continued its regular review of governing documents and policies. Areas of review included Board engagement measures, meeting frequency, and enhanced criteria for Board recruitment.

Organizational advancement ensures Manitoba Opera continues to be a leader in the field locally, nationally, and internationally. Efforts to move the company forward solidify our future, reach new audiences, expand our programming, and increase our impact on the community.



Manitoba Opera staff donned their orange shirts in support of residential school survivors on Orange Shirt Day, September 30.



Susannah, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau



## BUILDING BRIDGES WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Manitoba Opera embarked on a multi-year project this season geared towards developing relationships with Indigenous communities in Manitoba. This program is supported in part by a two-year grant from Opera America's Innovation Program.

The project was designed with guidance from our community consultant Jessica Dumas. Jessica is a band member of the Anishinaabe community from Keeseekowenin First Nation in Manitoba and is president of Jessica Dumas Coaching and Training. Jessica has experience in conflict resolution, social justice advocacy, public speaking, and Indigenous history awareness. She is also the current chair of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

The first year focused on learning and listening and the project commenced with an Indigenous Awareness survey. Circulated to board members and staff, the purpose of the survey was to establish a benchmark for



Jessica Dumas



Members of the Board of Trustees and staff joined Jessica Dumas and Elder Betty to do the Blanket Exercise.

gauging the board and staff's understanding of Indigenous culture, Indigenous history, and an understanding of the effects of the Indian Act and the residential school system. Further survey work will be conducted throughout the duration of the project to gauge changes amongst participants.

### Blanket Exercise

In December, we held our first training session. The session was started with an explanation of a smudging ceremony, followed by a smudge. Led by Jessica Dumas, the Blanket Exercise traced the history of North America from an Indigenous perspective.

Participants reported that this was a meaningful experience, and that they gained an understanding of the trauma experienced by Indigenous people in Canada. A particularly powerful moment was when Elder Betty Ross shared her story and experience in the residential school system. The session culminated with a sharing circle that left the experience on a high note for participants.

### Legacy Discussion

Held in mid-February 2020, this session included focused presentations and discussions on topics such as residential schools and the Indian Act. The session also explored resources about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Participants engaged in a discussion to further understand the impact of these topics and how they have shaped the landscape today. The session concluded with a Q & A, followed by discussion.

At the culmination of this session, a small working group of staff and board members was established to further develop the next steps for the program. The next year of the project will focus on identifying and addressing knowledge gaps, exploring engagement and training opportunities, cultivating relationships with Indigenous organizations and leaders, and identifying which of the 94 Calls to Action should be addressed by MO. The Calls to Action were a result of The Truth & Reconciliation Commission's documentation of the effects of

the residential school system on Indigenous people. These calls, if acted upon, offer a chance at meaningful reconciliation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Building Bridges project was put on hiatus in mid-March and was reconvened online in late May. The working group looks forward to continuing the project next season and will continue to educate the board and staff and develop policies and priorities to build strong and deep connections with Indigenous communities in Manitoba.



Members of the Children's Chorus at the Opening Night Reception for *Susannah*.  
Photo: B. Bunko



Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam), *Susannah*, 2019.  
Photo: R. Tinker

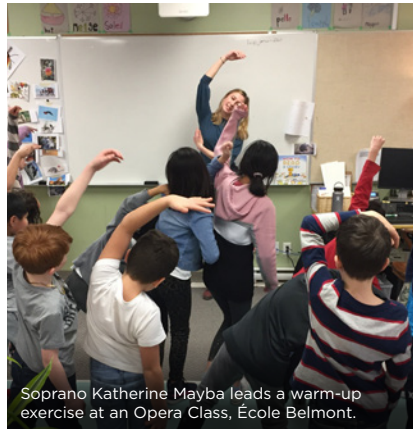


Former staff members Alicia Faucher and Sandra Schmidtke with Liz Miller, Annual Giving Manager, at the Opening Night Reception for *Susannah*.  
Photo: B. Bunko

## ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

To promote public health efforts to mitigate COVID-19, Manitoba businesses closed their doors in mid-March. MO staff worked with our technology partners at Clear Concepts, Arts Management Systems, and SAGE Simply Accounting to move our business activities fully online.

With the ability to connect with, and provide service to our patrons, maintain financial controls, and connect with our colleagues, we were able to carry on our core business functions as usual.



Soprano Katherine Mayba leads a warm-up exercise at an Opera Class, École Belmont.

This technology will continue to benefit Manitoba Opera by increasing the accessibility of our services and programs. We anticipate a future with pop-up stores to buy tickets, increased venue options with real-time house management and registration, and full patron service at all our events.

**"...Lara Ciekiewicz. Her tour-de-force performance, infused by her deeply felt compassion and benevolent understanding of her character, proved once again this Canadian opera star's gifts as a singing actress."**

**WINNIPEG FREE PRESS**  
*Susannah*, 2019



Kristopher Irmiter (Olin Blitch) and Lara Ciekiewicz (*Susannah*), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



# FINANCE

Manitoba Opera posted an operating surplus of \$1,370 on a budget of \$1,972,497.

## GRANTS

Operational funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, and Province of Manitoba, remained the same at \$240,000, \$220,000, and \$150,000, respectively. Funding from the Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC) was reduced from \$135,000 to \$121,500 due to a cut in WAC's funding from the City of Winnipeg.



*Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker

A supplemental grant of \$25,000 was received from the Province of Manitoba. Other grants included \$70,967 from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy; \$11,930 from Cultural Spaces for a new surtitles projector; and \$5,000 from the Manitoba Arts Council, also for the projector. As well, \$6,169 of a \$35,000 Opera America Innovations Grant for the Building Bridges project was booked into the 2019/20 fiscal year.

## BOX OFFICE

The cancellation of *Carmen* resulted in a significant drop in single ticket sales and overall box office revenues.

Subscriptions decreased to 2,359 from 2,711 in 2018/19. Single tickets decreased to 736 from 2,987 in 2018/19. Total box office cash revenues decreased to \$182,030 from \$555,283 in 2018/19. Subscription prices for the season averaged \$58.24 versus \$58.20 per ticket in 2018/19, and single tickets averaged \$51.07 versus \$68.82 per seat in 2018/19.

**"As the Rev. Olin Blitch, Kristopher Irmiter's mighty voice matched his outsized stage presence... Irmiter's outstanding singing and powerful dramatic authority left no one doubting who is in charge of that church meeting."**

**SCHMOPERA**  
*Susannah*, 2019

## FUNDRAISING

Many special events were postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. The *Carmen* Opening and Closing Night Dinners and a patron trip to New York City to see performances at The Metropolitan Opera were cancelled. Dinner at De Luca's was rescheduled as an online event in June of 2020. The Gail Asper Award honouring Mrs. Tannis Richardson has been rescheduled to the spring of 2021.



Members of the Manitoba Square & Round Dance Federation demonstrated some of their dances during the intermission at *Susannah*. Photo: B. Bunko

As a result of the generosity of patrons, approximately \$150,000 in revenue from *Carmen* tickets, affiliated special events, and parking was donated back to the company.

Total fundraising from all operating campaigns decreased to \$869,000 from \$1,236,000 in 2018/19. Camerata donations decreased to \$133,530 from \$135,362 in 2018/19. Major gifts increased to \$108,289 versus \$55,713 in 2018/19. Gifts from Friends, including Pass the Hat and other miscellaneous donations, increased to \$245,586 from \$87,466 in 2018/19 including the approximately \$150,000 referenced above. Cash sponsorships decreased to \$147,000 from \$154,500 in 2018/19. Corporate donations increased to \$17,300 from \$16,750 in 2018/19.

Gifts from foundations stayed the same as in 2018/19 at \$75,000. Net proceeds from Special Events were -\$870 compared to \$205,188 in 2018/19 due to the postponement or cancellation of the events mentioned above.

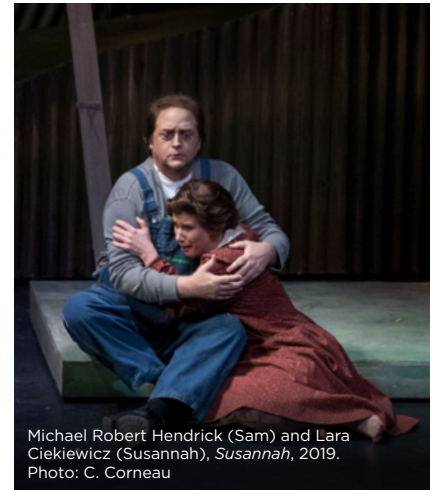
### IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS & COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

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 \$28,649 versus \$83,755 in 2018/19. Similarly, Manitoba Opera receives in-kind

contributions for donated advertising, marketing, and musician services. These services were recorded at their fair value in the statement of operations at \$107,287 versus \$217,372 in 2018/19. The reduction in both areas was as a result of the cancellation of *Carmen*.

### EXPENSES

Overall, savings were achieved in all departmental budgets.



Michael Robert Hendrick (Sam) and Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau

### 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 2019/20, the fund grew by \$150,262. As of May 31st, the Manitoba Opera Fund has a balance of \$450,303.



Kristopher Irmiter (Olin Blitch), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker



Gerald Matheson, Luisa Matheson, MO Board, and Judith Chambers, MO Board, at the *Susannah* Opening Night Dinner. Photo: L. Norman



# VOLUNTEERS

Manitoba Opera is grateful for the service of our dedicated volunteers. This season, volunteers, including members of the Board of Trustees and committee members, provided over 300 hours of service to Manitoba Opera (volunteer hours provided are less this season as a result of the cancellation of *Carmen*).

Volunteers are invaluable to the organization and assist with tasks including preparing mailings, stuffing inserts into the program book, and providing a wide range of services on performance nights.

## PERFORMANCE NIGHT SERVICES INCLUDE

- Collecting ticket upgrade and subscription renewal forms
- Assisting staff in the box office
- Greeting patrons at the elevator
- Staffing the boutique
- Assisting patrons at the photo wall
- Collecting donations for Manitoba Opera's student programs through our Pass the Hat initiative

## 2019/20 SEASON VOLUNTEERS

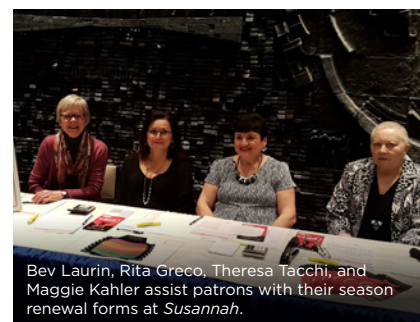
Barb Allen  
Tatiana Balik  
Carol Beardsley\*  
Jan Carmichael  
Margot Christie  
Donna Cuming  
Jeannie Dubberly  
Althea Dunlop  
Hedie Epp  
Lynne Fairhall  
Francine Gillman  
Ray Gislason  
Barb Gislason  
Rita Greco  
Liz Harris  
Annette Hay  
Randall Hay  
Barb Herriot-Miller  
Lena Horne  
Mira Hummerston  
Maggie Kahler  
Susan Kelso  
Elaine Kisiow

Irena Kovacevic  
Bev Laurin  
Eva Lavallee  
Letty Lawrence  
Cheryl Liessens  
Andrea Mahalek  
Anna Malzensky  
Shirley McLean  
Ted Miller  
Maraya Raduha  
Linda Scholz  
Kurt Schwarz  
Marilynn Sløbogian  
Crystal Smith  
Jane Stewart  
Teresa Tacchi  
Maria Tschritter  
Adrijana Ves  
Anita Winter  
Ljiljana Zlatanovic-Kovacevic

\* This winter, we bid farewell to one of our long-time volunteers, Carol Beardsley, who passed away. Carol had volunteered since 2012 and will be deeply missed.



Volunteers Adrijana Ves, Barb Allen, and Eva Lavallee help out with the Boutique table at *Susannah*.



Bev Laurin, Rita Greco, Theresa Tacchi, and Maggie Kahler assist patrons with their season renewal forms at *Susannah*.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES & COMMITTEES

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**ELBA HAID**

CHAIR

**MARIA MITOUSIS**

VICE-CHAIR

**PETER GEORGE**

TREASURER

**LEONA HERZOG**

SECRETARY

**PAUL BRUCH-WIENS**

**JUDITH CHAMBERS**

**DR. DAVID FOLK**

**ABBIE GRIEDER**

**DANIELA IGNAT**

**CHARLENE ILAS**

**LANA MAIDMENT ♦**

**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

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Bill Pope, Chair

Michael Blais ♦

Larry Desrochers ♦

Elba Haid\*

Maria Mitousis

Keith Sinclair

Robert Vineberg

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Leona Herzog, Chair

Elba Haid\*

Larry Desrochers ♦

Dr. David Folk

Abbie Grieder

Jayne Hammond ♦

Dr. Scott Miller ♦

Darlene Ronald ♦

Dr. Colette Simonot-Maiello

## WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

Abbie Grieder, Co-Chair

Sheldon Johnson ♦, Co-Chair

Michael Blais ♦

Elba Haid\*

Dale Sulymka ♦

## SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Abbie Grieder, Chair

Diane Berger

Judith Chambers

Elba Haid\*

Andrea Mancini

Luisa Matheson

Thomas Miles

Shelley Robertson

Alex Robinson

Dustin Schneider

Grant Suderman

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Peter George, Chair

Larry Desrochers ♦

Elba Haid\*

Daniela Ignat

Dale Sulymka ♦

Lori Yorke



# 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

## TANIA DOUGLAS

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
(Since January 2020)

## JAYNE HAMMOND

GRANTS & CORPORATE GIVING MANAGER  
(Since November 2019)

## SHELDON JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

## LIZ MILLER

ANNUAL GIVING MANAGER

## DR. SCOTT MILLER

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

## DARLENE RONALD

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

## SANDRA SCHMIDTKE

GRANTS & CORPORATE GIVING MANAGER  
(Until June 2019)

## DALE SULYMKA

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Susannah, 2019. Photo: C. Corneau



Manitoba Opera staff in a weekly Zoom staff meeting.



Liz Miller, Annual Giving Manager, and Scott Miller, Education & Outreach Coordinator, join in the Carmen Opening Night Sing-Along.

# PARTNERS IN OPERA

Manitoba Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of our 2019/20 season corporate sponsors. Each partner organization helped Manitoba Opera to share opera experiences that enrich us all and to weather one of the most significant storms in our organization's history. We are immensely grateful for their steadfast support.

2019/20 SEASON PRESENTED BY **BMO** 

## SEASON SPONSORS



## PRODUCTION & PERFORMANCE SPONSORS



Stronger  
Communities  
Together™



MEDIA SPONSORS



## EDUCATION, OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSORS



STUDENT NIGHT AT THE OPERA



## OFFICIAL SPONSORS

PROJECT SUPPORTER



OFFICIAL  
SUPPORTER



CATERING SPONSOR



LINENS  
SPONSOR



OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION &  
DINNER WINE SPONSOR



IT SPONSOR



WEBSITE  
SPONSOR



## PUBLIC FUNDERS





# GRATITUDE

The 2019/20 season was indeed one to remember. Our incredible community of individual and corporate donors rose to the occasion, helping Manitoba Opera to navigate some of the most challenging months in our history. Thank you to every one of our supporters. (Listings include donations made between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020.)



## IMPRESARIO CIRCLE \$5,000 +

Elba Haid ♦  
In Memory of Marshall Haid  
Audrey F. Hubbard  
June & Bob Jackson Memorial  
Fund for the Performing Arts  
Bill & Shirley Loewen  
Armin & Denise Martens  
Craig McIntosh & Lorraine Beck  
Michael F. B. Nesbitt  
Mrs. Donna Plant  
Drs. Bill Pope ♦  
& Elizabeth Tippet Pope  
E.J. (Ted) Ransby  
Heather & Hartley Richardson  
Mrs. Tannis Richardson  
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation  
on Behalf of Richard Irish

## 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  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Barbara Burt  
John & Gay Docherty  
Dr. David Folk ♦ & Laurel Malkin  
Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson  
Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers ♦  
Christopher Mainella  
& Christine Van Cauwenberghe  
Mr. B. Roslycky & Dr. P. Kmet  
Jeff Sisler ♦ & Cathy Rippin-Sisler  
Vic & Ruth Thielmann  
Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson  
In Memory of Dr. Robert H.  
Thorlakson  
Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne

## VIRTUOSO \$2,000 to \$2,999

Melinda & Hugh Arthur  
Robert & Alison Darling  
Ms. & Mr. Abbie ♦ & Garth Grieder

Leona Herzog ♦  
Richard Irish  
Mr. Ralf Kyrityz  
Dr. David Lyttle  
Pendeshuk Family Fund- Dennis Estate  
Darlene Ronald ♦ & Stewart Heaton  
Ross Robinson  
Family Foundation Fund  
Keith ♦ & Alora Sinclair  
Dr. Anne Worley & Dr. Piotr Czaykowski  
Two Anonymous Donors

## CAMERATA \$1,250 to \$1,999

Dr. Linda Asper  
Michael Blais ♦ & Brian Rogowsky  
Ms. Judith Chambers ♦  
Bjorn Christianson, Q. C.  
Dr. Michael Dyck & Ms. Lisa Bueckert  
Sheldon Johnson ♦  
Katarina Kupca  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald & Luisa ♦ Matheson  
Maria Mitousis ♦ & Barry Gorlick  
Sanford & Deborah Riley  
Mr. Michael Ziesmann  
Two Anonymous Donors

# Friends of Manitoba Opera

## BENEFACTOR \$500 to \$1,249

Tatiana Arcand  
B & S Bertrand-Meadows  
Cathie & Brian Bowerman  
Sheldon & Penny Bowles  
Sheila & David Brodovsky  
Ron Clement  
Tracy Dahl  
Ben & Shari Diamond  
Ms. Tania Douglas ♦  
Ms. Fran Falzarano  
Mr. & Mrs. James  
& Linda Feasby  
Penny Gilbert  
Donald & Diana  
Hodgson Foundation  
Kadri A. Irwin  
R. Jaskiewicz  
Adam & Joanne Kilfoyle  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Konzelman  
Donna Korban & Family

Dr. T. G. Kucera  
Drs. Herman Lam  
& Laura Chan  
Dr. John & Natalie Mayba  
Ron & Sandi Mielitz  
Norma Anne Padilla  
Wayne & Linda Paquin  
Constance. J. Sarchuk  
Barbara Scheuneman  
Marr-Slonosky Family  
Foundation  
Dr. & Mrs. Murray  
R. Steinbart  
Strategic Charitable Giving  
Foundation on Behalf of  
the Circle Foundation  
Dale ♦ & Velvet Sulymka  
Edna Walpole  
Florence  
& Donald Whitmore  
Mr. Dave Wreford  
Two Anonymous Donors



Craig McIntosh, Kaitlyn McIntosh, Lorraine Beck, and Joanne Provinciano at the *Susannah* Opening Night Dinner Reception. Photo: L. Norman

## SUPPORTER \$250 to \$499

John & Carolyn Adair  
All Charities Campaign  
Mario & Josie Audino  
Richard Ball  
Jacqueline Brignall  
Mark Brubacher  
Carol Campbell  
& Andrew Krentz  
Mr. Richard Chartier  
& Liza Maheu  
Joy Cooper & Martin Reed  
Kerry Dangerfield  
Mrs. Julianne Rita Dick  
Harry & Mary Lynn  
Duckworth  
Ms. Helene Dyck  
Ms. Wendy Dyck  
Lawrence & Brenda Ellerby  
Ms. Sylvia Ellis  
Kathleen Estey  
Ms. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Jean Giguere  
Kathy Gough  
& Tim Wildman  
Barry Haines  
Irene Hamilton & Tim Killeen  
Annette & Randall Hay  
Margaret Jeffries  
Ms. Debbie MacKenzie  
Cam Mackie  
& Doris Mae Oulton  
Ms. Iona McPhee  
Celoris Miller  
P. Morgan  
Ms. Arlene Oman  
D. & E. Paryzek  
Rick Pinchin  
Mr. Jason Regula

Ricou-Manfreda  
Roger Rigelhof  
& Marjorie Russell  
Dr. Wilfrid  
& Catherine Schlosser  
M. Serafin  
Mr. Fred  
& Mrs. Edith Simpson  
Mr. T. David  
& Mrs. Lorraine Smith  
Dr. John R.M. Smith  
& Douglas H. Arrell  
Thomas & Wanda Struthers  
Nicola Spasoff  
Cathy Wach-Dueck  
Mark Witiuk  
Seven Anonymous Donors

## SUSTAINER \$100 to \$249

Mr. Gordon Anderson  
Mr. Gordon Andrus  
& Ms. Adele Kory  
Audrey Belyea  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Bewell  
Ms. Lucienne Blouw  
Gerhard & Helga Bock  
Mr. Roland Bohr  
Margaret Braid  
Alexandre Brassard  
& James McLennan  
Phyllis Briercliffe  
Mrs. Colette M Brown  
Coralie Bryant  
Don Budlong  
Jennifer Buffie  
Mr. & Mrs. O. Buffie  
Mr. Robert Campbell  
Card Ct  
& Ctss De Ste. Animie

## 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.  
Jilmark Construction  
Payworks  
Price Industries Limited

### ARTISTS

\$500 to \$999

Bruce Benefits  
Edmond Financial Group  
TD Bank Group

### FRIENDS

\$100 to \$499

Crosier Kilgour & Partners  
GHY International  
Patill/St. James Insurance





*Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker

Shea, Donna & Alun  
 Ms. Carrie Lynn Chmilowsky  
 Ms. Margot Clayton  
 Dr. P. Connelly  
 Margaret Cuddy  
 Judy & Werner Danchura  
 Ms. L. Daniels  
 Cathy Davis  
 Anna M. Desilets  
 Diamond Gallery  
 Jeanie M. Dubberley  
 Mr. Spencer Duncanson  
 Jillian Epp  
 Mr. Richard J. Falk  
 Mr. James R. Ferguson  
 Ms. Nelma Fetterman  
 Dr. Paul Fieldhouse  
 Dr. & Mrs. D. D. Fillis  
 Gayle Fischer  
 Donna Fletcher,  
 James Hickerson  
 & Amalia Hickerson  
 Mr. Russ Foster  
 Mr. Paul Gemmiti  
 Gary Goodwin  
 Brenda Gorlick  
 Esther Haluschak  
 A. Hanks  
 Joanne Harris  
 Evelyn Hecht  
 Ms. Elizabeth Hellinga  
 Eric & Judith Hinton  
 D & G Holding  
 Charles Huband  
 Dr. Arno  
 & Mrs. Betty Jansen  
 Lucie Joyal  
 J.H. Kaminsky  
 Loretta Kampeas  
 & John Gartner  
 Dr. Joseph Kaufert

H. Kilbrai  
 Mr. Allen Kimelman  
 Ms. Kathleen Knight  
 Mona Koropatnick  
 Ms. Heather Kozubski  
 Mr. Bruce H. Lang  
 Ms. Beverly Laurin  
 Letty Lawrence  
 Fred & Janet Lawrenson  
 Ms. Shirley Layne  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stewart  
 & Ellen Leibl  
 Chris, Lori & Sarah Luby  
 Raymond J. MacIsaac  
 Alvin & Patricia Mackling  
 Mr. James Steele MacLean  
 Ms. Daphne MacMillan  
 Magikist Ltd  
 IATSE. Wardrobe. Dresser  
 David & Francesca McBean  
 Barbara McCandless  
 Locksley McLeod  
 Mr. Neil Middleton  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mildren  
 Ms. Myrna Mitchell  
 Veronique Mivelaz  
 Mr. Marc Monnin  
 Tom Monteyne  
 Margaret Morse  
 Mrs. Charlotte Murrell  
 Mrs. B. Nicolson  
 Judith Oatway  
 Ms. Sunny Oh  
 Mr. John Osler  
 Lesia Peet  
 Hans Pinte  
 Ms. Marina Plett-Lyle  
 Jacqueline Ratte Kohut  
 Mrs. Anne Ratuski  
 Mr. William Reynolds

Mr. Christian Riou  
 Ms. Rita M. Romsa-Ross  
 Craig Ross  
 Johnny Rule  
 & Pearly Salangad  
 R. Runnells  
 Leslie Sarchuk  
 Arlene Sawatsky  
 Ms. Vivian Schubert  
 J. Shaw & S. Giesbrecht  
 Dr. Colette Patricia  
 Simonot-Maiello  
 Eileen Smith & Robert Pel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Snidal  
 Ellen Spencer  
 Maria Stapleton & Mike Lea  
 Dr. Ian & Mrs. Karen Sutton  
 Ms. Lisa Thiessen  
 Catherine  
 & Robert Thiessen  
 Barb & Bill Toews  
 Pat Trainor MacRae  
 Suzanne Ulyot  
 Eve Vickar  
 Mr. A.M.C. Waterman  
 Ms. Justina Wiens  
 Clint Wilmot  
 Ted Wolstencroft  
 Mr. Donn K. Yuen  
 Sixteen Anonymous Donors

Rodger & Marion Guinn  
 Jayne Hammond ♦  
 & David Foley  
 Ann Hanks  
 Mr. Kurt Hollander  
 Maureen Hunter  
 Betty Knapp  
 Tusia Kozub  
 Stan & Charlotte Kroeker  
 Ms. Marlene McCulloch  
 Brendan McKeen  
 Peter Miller  
 Carolyn Mitchell  
 Derek Morphy  
 Marilyn & Terry Patrick  
 Beverly Penner  
 Ms. Evelyn Peters-Rojas  
 B. Peterson & S. Slonosky  
 Norman & Edna Pohl  
 Dr. Diane V. Ramsey  
 Mr. Arthur Rey  
 Mrs. V. Rosolowich  
 Jay Ross  
 Mrs. Karn Sandy  
 Mr. Werner Scheurer  
 Rita Schroeder  
 Shelagh Sinclair Fund  
 Ms. Marilyn Slobogian  
 Ms. Adeline Sokulski  
 Mr. Jeff Spiegel  
 Penny Staples  
 Ms. Helena Stelsovsky  
 Sung Sunwoo  
 Dr. Teresa Sztaba  
 Mr. Graham Todd  
 Mr. William Toms  
 Ms. Winona Torch  
 Rosemarie van Der Hooft  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Voigt  
 Nine Anonymous donors

## CONTRIBUTOR \$50 to \$99

Ms. Lydia Bartel  
 Dr. & Mrs. David R.H. Bird  
 Donna Blakeman Welch  
 Jeanette Block  
 PJ Buchan  
 Giles Bugailikis  
 Gina Chodirker  
 Lara Ciekiewicz  
 Jessica Cranmer  
 Marlene Crielaard  
 Mr. Bradley J Curran  
 Greg & Linda Fearn  
 Frank & Lucille Fiola  
 Mr. Drew Fisher  
 Kelley Fry  
 Mr. George Gamvrelis  
 Kathryn Girard  
 Lorraine Griffiths

Many thanks to  
 all of our donors  
 who generously  
 supported  
 Manitoba Opera  
 with donations  
 under \$50.

## GRATITUDE

## TRIBUTES

## IN MEMORY OF...

**Aubrey Asper**

Roger Rigelhof &amp; Marjorie Russell

**Larry R. Gander**

Denise Cyr-Gander

**Ross Houston & Leo & Margareth Mol**

Ms. Patricia Gartrell

**Matthew Lagacé**

Ms. &amp; Mr. Abbie ♦ &amp; Garth Grieder

**Harold Pollock**

Arnice Pollock

**Ian T. Ramsey**

Dr. Helen A. Ryding

**Lois Eleanor Ronald (Morris)**

Kristina Laurin

**Anna Stelmaschuk**

Gordon &amp; Linda Morrison

**Audrey Thomson**

Ian R. Thomson &amp; Leah R. Janzen

## IN HONOUR OF...

**Drs. Bill Pope****& Elizabeth Tippet Pope**

Dr. F Silviu-Dan

## ENCORE CIRCLE

Manitoba Opera's  
Planned Giving Program**Siana Attwell, PhD****Larry Desrochers ♦ & Laurie Lam****John Giesbrecht****Elba ♦ & Marshall ○ Haid****Audrey F. Hubbard****Drs. Bill Pope ♦****& Elizabeth Tippet Pope****Robert Vineberg****Donn K. Yuen**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

**The Estate of Mark Bernstein****In Memory of Mr. Arnold Frieman**

Elba Haid ♦

**In Honour of Elba Haid receiving  
the National Opera Directors  
Recognition Award**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Israel &amp; Maylene Ludwig

Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson

**Mr. Fred Kisil****In Memory of Matthew Lagacé**

Staff of Manitoba Opera ♦

**Marion Lewis****In Memory of Ion Pase**

Ms. &amp; Mr. Abbie ♦ &amp; Garth Grieder

**In Memory of Ian Ramsey**

Drs. Bill Pope ♦

&amp; Elizabeth Tippet Pope

**In Memory of Lois Ronald**

Ms. &amp; Mr. Abbie ♦ &amp; Garth Grieder

Daniela Ignat ♦

Drs. Bill Pope ♦

&amp; Elizabeth Tippet Pope

Staff of Manitoba Opera ♦

**Barbara Scheuneman****Howie & Sue Simpson****Terracon Development Ltd.****In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson**

Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson

**Faye Warren****One Anonymous Donor**

## BEQUESTS

**The Estate of Elaine Heinicke****The Estate of Elizabeth Pawlicki**Patrons having fun at Student Night at the Opera for *Susannah*. Photo: C. CorneauAl Simmons interacts with students during a performance of *The Barber of Seville* at Laura Secord School. Photo: R. TinkerAshley Rees gives a pre-show chat before *Susannah*. Photo: L. Norman









MANITOBA OPERA

1060-555 Main Street, Winnipeg, R3B 1C3

**P** 204-944-8824

*mbopera.ca*

Lara Ciekiewicz (Susannah), *Susannah*, 2019. Photo: R. Tinker