

2017 ANNUAL REPORT CHAUTAUQUA OPERA GUILD

Dear Opera Guild Members, I'd like to invite you to read the First Annual Report of the Chautauqua Opera Guild. I believe that it is important to bring all members up to date not only of our financial picture, but also of our accomplishments this year and our goals for the next few years.

As you know, our Guild's Mission is to support and advocate for the Chautauqua Opera Company (CO). In 2017, that support included the following: we awarded each of the Chautauqua Opera Young Artists a one-year membership to Opera America. Additionally we awarded the Young Artists a total of \$11,500 to assist them with their artistic efforts as they go forward in their careers. We continued to financially support the successful Opera Invasions that our General and Artistic Director, Steven Osgood began in 2016. We also arranged and paid for 4 cast parties and a Welcome Picnic for the Young Artists and CO staff. Our pre-opera dinner at the Women's Club was a sell out again this season and we held a wonderful post-opera picnic after Hydrogen Jukebox. In addition to our events and financial support, we continue to provide more personal support to the Young Artists in the form of our Adopt-an-Artist program, where this season 25 families "adopted" Young Artists and staff.

Our education initiatives are also a large part of our advocacy and support for the Company. The Guild's opera education program at the Children's School that began in 2014, has reached over 500 young children each summer. We also reach out to young people through children's opera story readings at the library each summer.

To date, our accounts stand at \$112,952. At the end of the 2017 Season our Board of Directors decided that it would be fiscally responsible to set aside the equivalent of a year's budget as a financial cushion to insure the stability of the Opera Guild. That amount will be retained in reserve as we move forward.

Looking ahead to 2018

2018 will be a major fundraising year for us. Our goal for the 2018 season is to raise \$25,000 to support COs 2019 season, which will be a special celebration of Chautauqua Opera's 90th Anniversary. Our 2018 initiatives will include a gala concert on August 8th to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Chautauqua Opera Young Artist Program. The concert, "A Grand Night for Opera" will feature prominent Young Artist alumni, and will be followed by a fundraising dinner.

In addition, our 2017 Board approved up to \$6,000 as seed money to support CO in building new Initiatives in 2018 that the Institution and the Opera Company are exploring together, including an opera education program that will bring CO programs to over 10 Chautauqua County schools this June.

With our ongoing efforts to increase membership and additional fundraising, we hope to continue to support many new programs in the future.

A brief financial breakdown of Revenue and Expenses for 2017 follows:

REVENUE

Membership	\$46,675
Boutique	\$ 2,024
Donation Baskets	\$ 2,876
Pre-opera dinner	\$ 1,990
Adopt-an-Artist Picnic	\$ 589
Hydrogen Jukebox Picnic	\$ 580
Bank Interest	\$ 34
Total:	\$54,768

EXPENSES:

General Expenses:

Archangel event	\$ 409
Soiree	\$ 3,844
Annual meeting	\$ 374
Administrative (Printing, Postage, Gift bags, PO Box, Gift to President)	\$ 735
Brochure	\$ 1,096
Intern	\$ 1,800
Norton Hall	\$ 208
Board Retreat	\$ 179
Hydrogen Jukebox Picnic	\$ 613
Boutique	\$ 1,591
Pre-Opera Dinner	\$ 1,982

Young Artist Expenses

AA (Welcome) Picnic	\$ 2,150
Artistic Awards	\$11,500
Cast Parties	\$ 6,574
Opera America Memberships	\$ 1,260

Building Audiences expenses

Operalogue honoraria	\$ 250
Education Program at Children's school	\$ 76
Opera Invasion support	\$ 714
Production photography support	\$ 1,222
Opera Periodical Advertisements	\$ 5,000

Total: \$41,577

Thank-you for your ongoing support of Chautauqua Opera!

Mary Mitchell

President of the Chautauqua Opera Guild