vancouveropera

ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019



Excellence. Creativity. Community.

vancouveropera

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VANCOUVER OPERA

Vancouver Opera is one of the preeminent performing arts organizations in the country and the largest professional opera company in Western Canada. Regarded worldwide for its artistic excellence on stage, leading education programs and innovative community collaborations, Vancouver Opera creates extraordinary experiences that inspire and entertain audiences.



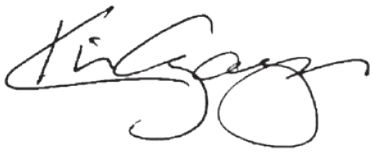
At Vancouver Opera we strive to create extraordinary experiences that engage, inspire and entertain our community.

The 2018–2019 season was a resounding success, offering a full year of adventurous and breathtaking opera, and the third annual Vancouver Opera Festival.

We opened the season in Viennese style with Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow (Die Lustige Witwe)*. This was followed in February by a new production of *La Bohème* that was literally an enormous vintage picture postcard of Paris.

In our season-ending festival we presented a major work from the French repertoire; Gounod's *Faust*. In the smaller Playhouse theatre we presented Rossini's delightful *La Cenerentola*, which was perfect for families and younger audiences. We also had the great honour to present the world premiere of Brian Current's *The River of Light*—a large scale oratorio for chorus, soloists and orchestra. On April 28th, our Party on the Plaza offered free community stage performances, workshops and activities, and a curated ArtWalk for festival goers to enjoy. We also previewed our new opera for young audiences called *The Flight of the Hummingbird*. The first edition of our new vocal competition, VOX, took place on April 26 and we are gearing up for the next one on May 1, 2020.

It took many people working together to make our season and festival a success and my heartfelt thanks go to the staff, board, volunteers, ticket-buyers, sponsors, donors, public supporters and everyone else whose contributions make all that we do possible.



Kim Gaynor
General Director

COVER: VANCOUVER OPERA'S 2019 PRODUCTION OF LA BOHÈME. PHOTO BY TIM MATHESON.
VANCOUVER OPERA'S 2018–2019 SEASON & FESTIVAL ARTWORK BY OLA VOLA. KIM GAYNOR PHOTO BY EMILY COOPER.



BY THE NUMBERS

21

Main Stage Performances

30,000+

audience members reached

500+

artists, staff and volunteers

200,000+

reached through digital, social media and email

1,500+

students reached through our education programs

2018–2019 SEASON & FESTIVAL

THE MERRY WIDOW
Franz Lehár
October 20–28, 2018
Four performances at the
Queen Elizabeth Theatre

We opened the season in champagne-popping style with an Art Nouveau-inspired production directed by Canadian Kelly Robinson and conducted by rising star Ward Stare. The brilliant Lucia Cesaroni made her role debut as wealthy widow, Hanna, and tenor John Cudia played the dashing Count Danilo in this delightful comedic operetta.

"Lehar's operetta packed a lavish punch" **– Vancouver Sun**





LA BOHÈME
Giacomo Puccini
February 14–24, 2019
Five performances at the
Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Canadian designer and director duo André Barbe and Renaud Doucet created a gloriously extravagant new production of one of opera's most enduring love stories. Making their VO debuts were Canadian conductor, Judith Yan; Korean-born tenor Ji-Min Park as the romantic Rodolfo; Quebec's soprano France Bellemare as Mimi; and Sharleen Joynt as the glamorously exotic Musetta.

"What shines most brightly about this Bohème is the diversity of the casting and its boasting of female Canadian conductor Judith Yan in her Vancouver Opera **debut" – myvancity.ca**

VANCOUVER OPERA'S 2018–2019 PRODUCTION PHOTOS BY TIM MATHESON.

VANCOUVER OPERA FESTIVAL | April 27–-May 5, 2019
The third annual Vancouver Opera Festival, presented by BMO, engaged, inspired and entertained our community through voice, music, theatre and the visual arts. In addition to our two mainstage operas, *Faust* and *La Cenerentola*, Festival highlights include the world premiere of Brian Current's *The River of Light*, a free day of community performances at the Party on the Plaza, *The Troubadour and the Tallow Candle*, a new work by Lesley Sutherland featuring the Kettle Choir and Writer's Guild, and the CBC Chamber Music Series.



FAUST
Charles Gounod
April 27—May 5, 2019
Three performances at the
Queen Elizabeth Theatre

This exuberantly evocative opera, directed by François Racine, captivated audiences with its sensuous melodies and drama. The all-Canadian cast included David Pomeroy in the title role and local favourite, Simone Osborne as Marguerite who both delivered impressive vocal performances. Maestro Jonathan Darlington returned to conduct the Vancouver Opera Orchestra in this enduring 19th century French opera.

"Faust builds a devilishly dark and intense world at the Vancouver Opera Festival"
– The Georgia Straight

LA CENERENTOLA
Gioachino Rossini
April 27–May 12, 2019
Nine performances at the
Vancouver Playhouse

This enchanting journey from rags to riches, directed by Rachel Peake, was performed nine times in the intimate Playhouse Theatre. Led by Maestro Leslie Dala, the orchestra performed the re-orchestration of Rossini's score. Simone McIntosh won audiences over with her charming character and exquisite vocals, tenor Charles Sy was a delight and members of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists Program rounded out this refreshingly young cast.

"La Cenerentola was three hours of irresistible, effervescent fun"
– Opera Canada



VOX | April 26, 2019, Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Our inaugural VOX singing competition and Gala was a highlight of this season raising $400,000 to support young artists and education programs. Showcasing emerging opera talent from across Canada, eight young singers competed for cash prizes in front of a live audience and a panel of judges. Following the competition, Gala guests continued their evening on stage amid the set of *Faust*, where they enjoyed a sumptuous meal, fine wines, a luxury auction and entertainment by members of the Young Artists Program.

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

This years' Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists Program provided six artists—four singers, a pianist and a stage director—with the opportunity to train with industry leaders through master classes, one-on-one coaching and performance opportunities as part of a residency program.

VANCOUVER OPERA IN THE COMMUNITY

VO's community and education programs illustrate the powerful role opera can play in learning through storytelling.

THE KETTLE PROJECT

The Kettle Society work with people living with mental illness, poverty, homelessness, and substance use. The partnership with VO provides clients access to singing and writing programs. Each year VO produces a performance of their original work.The impact on clients has been dramatic. Clients have secured regular work in the arts community, returned to post-secondary programs, and report an overall improvement in mental health. Now in its fifth year, the program has become a model for best practice within the opera sector.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Throughout the season, we offer programs that bring students and opera artists together to create, explore and think critically about the art form.

Vancouver Opera in Schools

This season VO partnered with Pacific Opera Victoria to commission a new opera for young audiences entitled *The Flight of the Hummingbird*. Featuring a libretto and creative design by award winning Haida artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, with music by Maxime Goulet, the opera will be touring schools in British Columbia in early 2020.

Opera Experience

This program for secondary schools includes an in-class workshop with professional artists from a variety of art forms, a backstage tour of the theatre and tickets to attend a main stage performance.

Work Experience

Open to Grade 11 and 12 students in Metro Vancouver, this program is designed for students considering a professional or amateur career in the arts. Participants watch rehearsals, interview cast and production staff and complete hands-on tasks as part of preparing for a major production.

Camp Programs

Spring break and summer opera camps are fun filled musical and theatrical experiences. Children and youth learn about all aspects of producing an opera from writing the libretto and score to designing costumes to performing on stage.

Project Opera

Project Opera is an interactive program in which students and teachers collaborate with Vancouver Opera teaching artists to write, stage and perform their own opera based on source material from the classroom.

CREATING ACCESS

Student Dress Rehearsal

Over 1,200 students from across Metro Vancouver attended a dress rehearsal this season. This program provides teachers and music educators with a study guide specific to each production and special discount pricing.

Student Rush and $40 under 40

Over 300 post-secondary students took advantage of our student rush tickets and 1,200+ young adults purchased $40 under 40 tickets, enabling younger audiences to attend a main stage performance, at an affordable price.

Relaxed Performance

In partnership with the Canucks Autism Network, VO staged a relaxed performance of *La Cenerentola*. Relaxed performances are designed to soften the sensory experience of attending the opera and create a more casual environment in the theatre. This approach removes barriers for audience members with sensory processing conditions. The more relaxed atmosphere also makes the performances ideal for families with infants and very young children.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

VANCOUVER OPERA ASSOCIATION

The Vancouver Opera Association ("VOA") is a registered charity with a mandate to produce professional presentations of opera at a high musical and theatrical standard for a wide audience. VOA ended the season with net income of $1,071K and reduced its accumulated deficit to $1,410K.

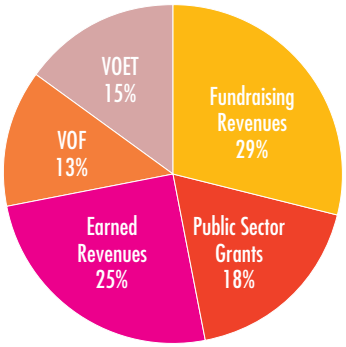
Condensed Statement of Financial Position
(As at June 30, in thousands)

ASSETS	2019	2018
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2	$ 25
Restricted cash	91	112
Investments	120	120
Accounts receivable	1,669	489
Prepaid expenses	247	4
	$ 2,129	$ 750
Prepaid expenses	$ 2	$ 122
Other receivables	26	26
Capital assets	588	695
	$ 2,745	$ 1,593
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	$ 634	$ 295
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	389	370
Loans payable	857	966
Deferred revenue and contributions	1,975	2,081
	$ 3,855	$ 3,712
Loans payable	-	20
Deferred capital contributions	300	342
	$ 4,155	$ 4,074
Net deficit	(1,410)	(2,481)
	$ 2,745	$ 1,593

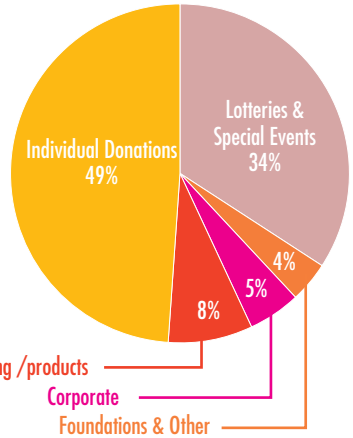
Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in net assets
(For the year ended June 30, in thousands)

REVENUES	2019	2018
Box office	$ 2,456	$ 2,227
Other earned revenues	84	118
Fundraising	2,932	3,186
Grants from the VOET	1,475	55
Grants from the VOF	1,303	500
Public sector grants	1,752	1,691
	$ 10,002	$ 7,777
EXPENSES		
Progamming	$ 5,157	$ 5,445
Fundraising	1,211	1,056
Marketing	1,156	1,054
General and administrative	834	802
Facilities	452	442
Net production write off	-	175
Amortization of capital assets	121	142
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	15
	$ 8,931	$ 9,131
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	1,071	(1,354)
Net deficit, beginning of year	(2,481)	(1,127)
Net deficit, end of year	$ (1,410)	$(2,481)

2018–2019 SEASON TOTAL REVENUE



2018–2019 FUNDRAISING REVENUES



VANCOUVER OPERA FOUNDATION

Vancouver Opera Foundation ("VOF") is a registered charity with the primary objective to solicit, hold and administer funds for the benefit of VOA. These funds are not included in the financial statements of VOA. VOF is the sole trustee of the Vancouver Opera Endowment Trust ("VOET"), which is an independent registered charity that supports the VOA. The net assets, revenues and expenses of VOET are not consolidated in the Foundation's financial statements. Net assets of VOET at December 31, 2018 were $14K.

Condensed Statement of Financial Position
(As at December 31, in thousands)

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash	$ 125	$ 157
Loans receivable	837	946
Investments	12,485	12,897
Other assets	2	3
	$13,449	$14,003
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Due to Vancouver Opera Association	$ 57	$ 5
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	8	29
Deferred contributions & investment income	1,460	138
Fund balance	11,924	13,831
	$13,449	$14,003

Full audited financial statements are available.
Please contact Catriona Cheng, Chief Financial Officer,
at ccheng@vancouveropera.ca

Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Fund Balance
(For the year ended December 31, in thousands)

REVENUES	2018	2017
Fundrasing and grants	$ 123	$ 40
Investment income	592	2,207
	$ 715	$ 2,247
EXPENSES		
Disbursements to VOA	$ 503	$ 2,629
Professional Fees	82	142
Scholarships and bursaries	8	8
Administration	9	8
	$ 602	$ 2,787
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses before the following	$ 113	$ (540)
Changes in fair value of investments	(51)	(82)
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	$ 62	$ (622)
Fund balance, beginning of year	$13,831	$14,509
Change in fair value of endowment funds	(2,170)	(1,284)
External contribution to endowment funds	201	1,228
Fund balance, end of year	$11,924	$13,831



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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BMO Financial Group

GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

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The Illahie Foundation

Donors who wish to remain anonymous (1)

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund

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For more information about Vancouver Opera, visit vancouveropera.ca or call 604 682 2871.