



*L*YRICAL *O*pera THEATER

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

7903 S. Palladium Dr.  
West Jordan, UT 84088

Dear Opera Friends,

Opera is the divine portal of the heart's song. In a society that expects its entertainment to be totally engrossing, as infinitely varied as the flick of a television remote will permit, and, in large measure, escapist – opera is tailor-made to completely satisfy. Opera adds musical beauty, theatrical illusion, magic and passion to the entertainment world that transcends the human experience. It represents the continued evolution of music and culture and is a reflection of human nature that allows viewers to see themselves through the roles of the characters. Their stories still speak to us today making opera an art form that is as relevant today as when it was birthed over 400 years ago.

There are more companies, audiences are growing, and through the work of educational ventures like our “*Little Red Riding Hood...a children's opera*” assembly for elementary schools, people are no longer afraid of opera and are beginning to expect and to know that it can offer them rich and rewarding adventures.

Our 2023 opera productions presented a splendid palette of nuance and expression. February's production was a double-bill of two one-act operas. The comic opera *Gianni Schicchi*, by Puccini...a series of hilarious pranks, secret deals and one ridiculous plan and *Pagliacci*, by Leoncavallo...a play-within-a-play, in which actors re-enact on the stage a situation that has impinged on their personal lives.

September's production was *La Bohème* by Puccini, a popular classic set in Paris around 1830. Audiences experienced the Bohemian lifestyle of a group of young Parisian friends filled with simple joys and heartbreaking sorrows. It is a masterpiece that delights and entertains modern audiences.

We were thrilled to present three spectacular casts of local Utah artists in these beloved opera productions which enriched, educated and entertained our communities through participation in and enjoyment of these operas. They brought our community together in sharing a deeper level of cultural understanding and history.

*Classy Concerts*, our concert series, presented eight pre-show concerts, performed at the *Festa Italiana*, and entertained seniors at nine senior living centers.

I have no doubt that 2024 will be artistically excellent as we cultivate our Utah talent.

Lynnette Owens/Executive Director

# OUR MISSION

Opera improves the quality of life for all bringing people together in a shared sense of enjoyment, fulfillment, history, enrichment, and cultural education. It gives participants a high goal to reach for inspiring their learning and growth, a community to bond with, a deeper level of cultural understanding, and a sense of purpose.

**MISSION:** To enrichen Utah communities by providing innovative professional family operas and classical concerts ensuring arts education and performance excellence.

**MISSION EXPANDED:** LOT provides opera education and awareness by...

1. Increasing accessibility to the finest operas bringing affordable operatic productions into Utah's ethnically diverse, underserved, low-income communities.
2. Providing educational outreach assemblies for elementary students and opportunities for junior and senior high school students to attend LOT's dress rehearsals and performances where they can view our educational series, "An Insider's Guide," teaching them about opera. LOT provides "Behind the Scenes" educational videos for all ages.
3. Fostering the talents of local inexperienced and seasoned artists by providing training that culminates in performance opportunities where they can hone their skills by participating and performing in operatic productions and concerts while remaining close to home.
4. Promote the operatic voice demonstrating its virtuosity, emotional capacity and rich beauty by producing opera in intimate settings that give audiences close-up and personal operatic experiences.
5. We introduce this old art form to new audiences using innovative technology including full orchestral accompaniment tracks integrated with projection scenery containing supertitle translations and fun facts.

**VISION STATEMENT:** Lyrical Opera Theater enrichens, educates and entertains Utah communities through participation in and enjoyment of opera.

# OUR BOARD and VOLUNTEER STAFF



Jessie Pugmire  
President and  
Communications Officer



Deborah Siddoway  
Vice President and  
HR Officer



Sarah Seamons  
Secretary



Lynnette Owens  
Treasurer and  
Executive Director/  
Artistic Administrator



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Board of Directors and  
Choreographer



Kenn Crandall  
Board of Directors and  
Lighting volunteer



Sydney Leavitt  
Board of Directors and  
Stagehands consultant



Marc Navez  
Board of Directors and  
Props & Scenery



Accounting



Christopher Arbizu  
Marketing consultant

# Programs

**OPERA PRODUCTIONS:** We produced two full operatic productions that were affordably ticketed at rates for lower-income families and individuals to have better access and be exposed to the art of opera produced on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley in an ethnically diverse location. Opera performances bring people together in a shared sense of enjoyment and fulfillment that improves the quality of life for all. They give the community a shared sense of history, enrichment and cultural education as people talk about the events, characters, and music that opera evokes. They give participants a high goal to reach for inspiring their learning and growth, a community to bond with, a deeper level of cultural understanding, and a sense of purpose. Our audiences and artists came from Salt Lake, Davis, Tooele, Summit, Cache, Weber and Utah counties.

These operas were produced in the Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center in Taylorsville, UT. Roles were double cast with local Utah artists, were fully costumed with scenery and props, and had supertitle (language translation) projections. Local pianists and other musicians performed in the lobby as patrons arrived for 45 minutes prior to each performance and during intermissions. Our operas were preceded by a pre-show lecture series “An Insider’s Guide” educating attendees about the opera being performed.

*Gianni Schicchi*, by Puccini was a series of hilarious pranks, secret deals and one ridiculous plan and *Pagliacci*, by Leoncavallo was a play-within-a-play, in which actors re-enact on the stage a situation that has impinged on their personal lives.

In *La Bohème* by Puccini, a popular classic set in Paris around 1830, our audiences experienced the Bohemian lifestyle of a group of young Parisian friends filled with simple joys and heartbreaking sorrows. It was a masterpiece that delighted and entertained modern audiences.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:** We provided an educational outreach assembly, *Little Red Riding Hood...a children’s opera*, for 10 elementary schools, had junior and senior high students attend our *Night at the Opera*, and provided online educational materials for all showing how opera can expand cultural diversity and understanding. We presented “An Insider’s Guide” educational series prior to each opera performance. We fostered the talents of local, inexperienced, and seasoned artists by providing training that culminated in performance opportunities which allowed artists to hone their skills by participating in operatic productions and concerts while remaining close to home.

**CLASSY CONCERTS:** We provided concerts for classical music lovers at the *Festa Italiana* in Salt Lake City, eight pre-show concerts for patrons attending opera performances and nine senior living center concerts.

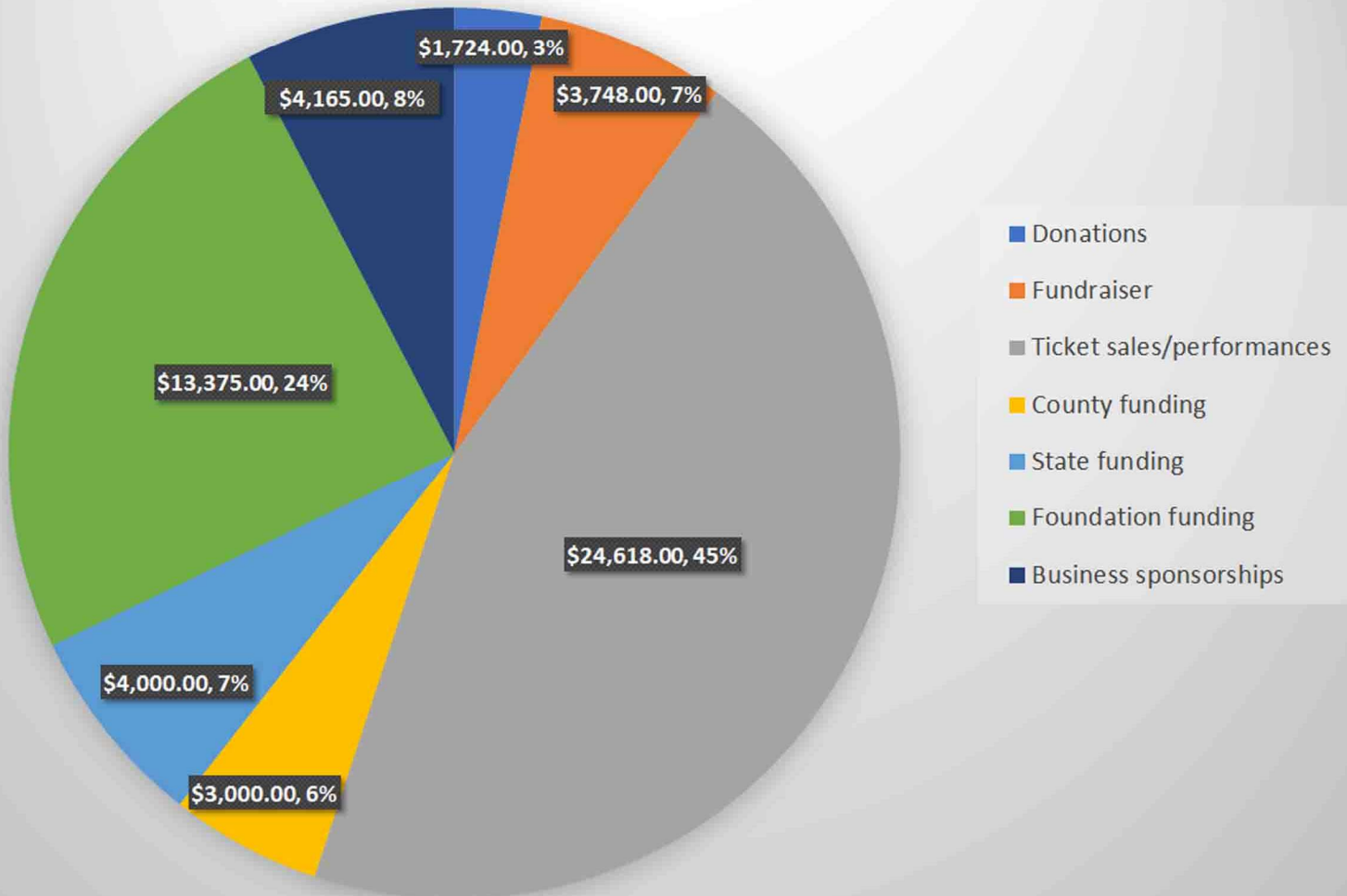
# FINANCIALS



**In Kind Donations:**

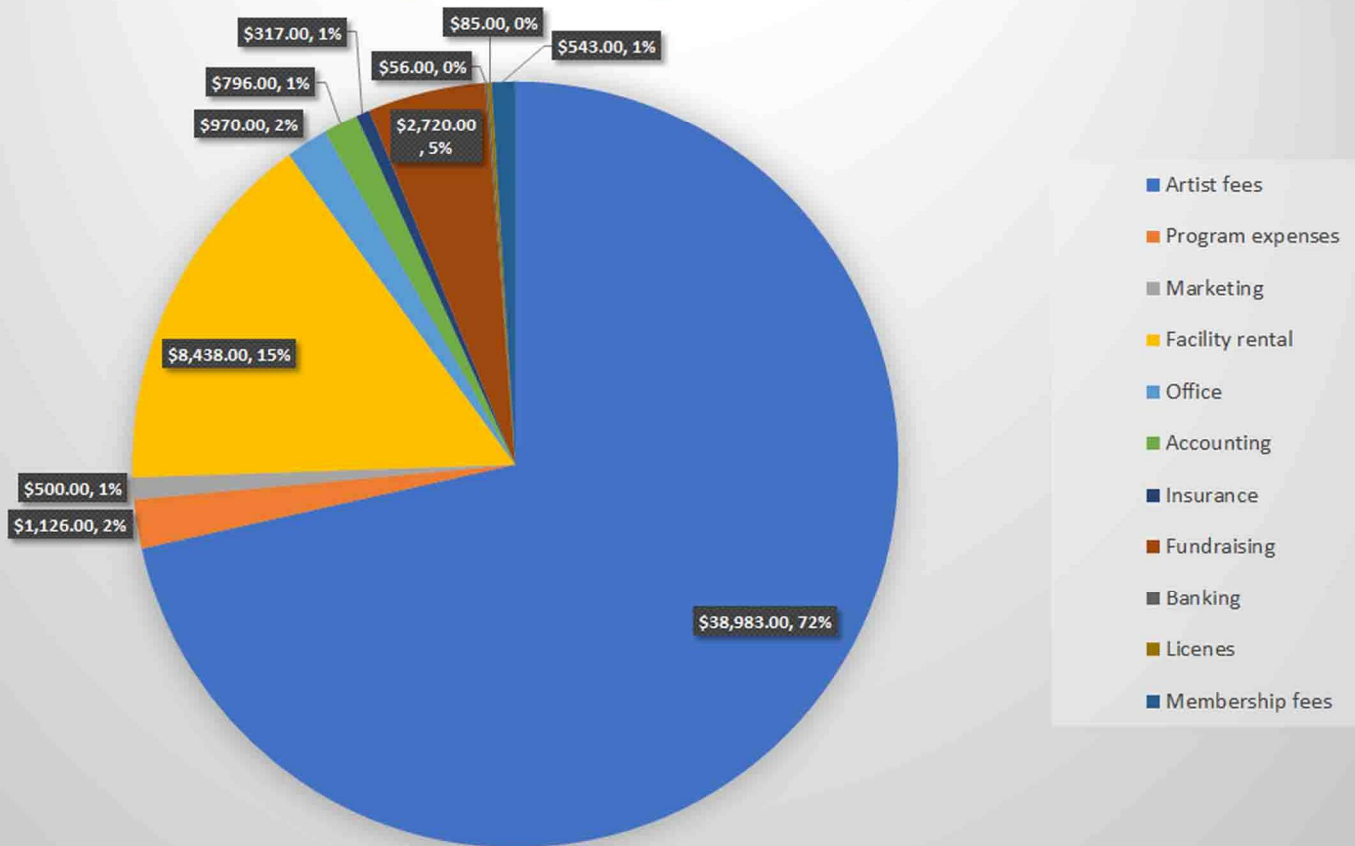
**\$70,652**

Lyrical Opera Theater's Income 2023: \$54,630



# FINANCIALS (cont.)

Lyrical Opera Theater's Expenses 2023: \$54,534



## ENGAGEMENT: 8,650

Adults: 1,776

Youth: 6,500

Seniors: 280

Artists: 94

# PHOTOS

## Educational Outreach: Westland Elementary School Little Red Riding Hood assembly



## Fairfield Village Senior Living Center





# Festa Italiana



# Gianni Schicchi



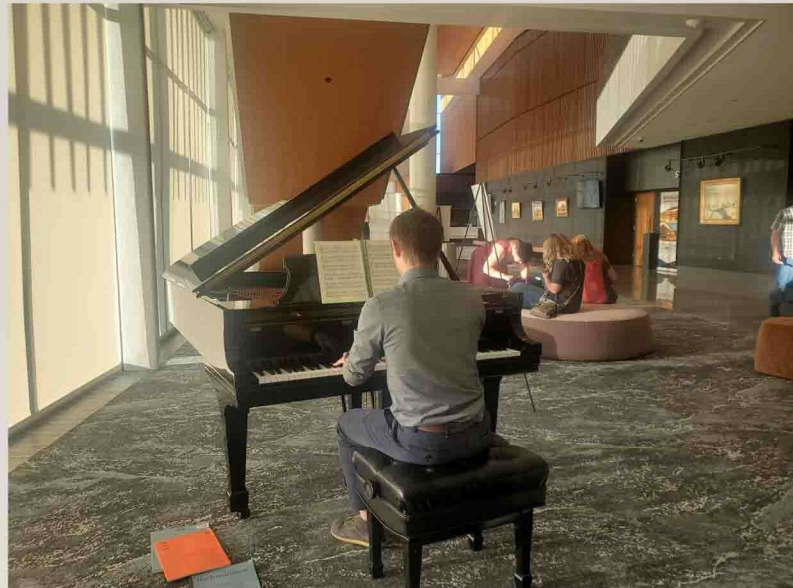
# Pagliacci



# La Boheme



# Classy Concerts



# PROGRAMS

*Lyrical Opera* THEATER Presents:

## GIANNI SCHICCHI

CAST: Cast A, Feb. 11 & 15 and Cast B, Feb. 17 & 19

Gianni Schicchi: John Knight Allen (Cast A), Bennett Chew (Cast B)  
 Rinuccio: Anthony Ruiz (Cast A), Josh Hooker (Cast B)  
 Lauretta: Alyssa Powers (Cast A), Kahli Dalbow (Cast B)  
 Zita: Sarah Neipp (Cast A), Alicia Fairbanks (Cast B)  
 Simone: Daniel Tuutau  
 Betto: Hayden Höglund (Cast A), Jordon LeBaron (Cast B)  
 Gherardo: Alex Harrelson (Cast A), José Miguel (Cast B)  
 Nella: Michelle Dean (Cast A), Angela LeBaron (Cast B)  
 Giulia: Emily Tuutau (Cast A), Smera Nair (Cast B)  
 Marco: Matthew Castleton  
 La Ciesca: Lily Peterson (Cast A), Madelynn Hunter (Cast B)  
 Spinelloccio & Notary: Ricky Parkinson  
 Pinellino and Guccio: Gary Later (Cast A), Kevin Burtenshaw (Cast B)

## PAGLIACCI

Canio/Pagliaccio: Christian Holden (Cast A), Antonio Miguellangelo (Cast B)  
 Nedda/Colombina: Madelynn Hunter (Cast A), Jin-Xiang Yu (Cast B)  
 Tonio/Taddeo: Matthew Castleton (Cast A), Layton Loucks (Cast B)  
 Peppo/Arlecchino: José Miguel (Cast A), Anthony Ruiz (Cast B)  
 Silvio: Jordon LeBaron (Cast A), Hayden Höglund (Cast B)  
 Villager (soloists): Kevin Burtenshaw (Cast A), Gary Later (Cast B)  
 Jaden Peterson  
 Villagers: Emily Mijarez, Deborah Siddoway,  
 Jocelyn van Wyk, Emily Jameson, Amy Banta  
 Rod Hansen, Jaden Peterson, Travis Neiswender,  
 Gary Later, Kevin Burtenshaw  
 Choreographer: Carly Schaub  
 Dancers: Nathaniel Woolley, Severin Sargent-Catterton  
 Stage Manager: Matilda Black  
 Stage hands: Elise Parry, Kyra Dunyan, Steven Talley, Madison Dowd  
 Lighting: Madison Dowd  
 Wigs & Makeup: Kat Millhouse  
 Sound, Scenery, Staging: Lyrical Opera Products

**PROGRAM ORDER:** Gianni Schicchi then a 20 minute intermission,  
 Pagliacci

**February 11, 15, 17 & 19, 2023**

Scan this QR code for a complete program



Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center  
 2525 Taylorsville Blvd.  
 Taylorsville, UT

*Lyrical Opera* THEATER Presents:

## PUCCINI'S La Bohème

Libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa

Opera in four acts set in Paris, France in 1830.

**CAST:**

Rodolfo: Anthony Ruiz (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Daniel Perez (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Mimi: Chelsea Alexandra (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Lily Peterson (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Marcello: Daniel Tuutau (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Jordon LeBaron (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Musetta: Jocelyn van Wyk (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Heather Shelley (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Schaunard: Marc Abbott (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Christopher Stockslager (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Colline: Ricky Parkinson (Sept. 9 & 13)  
 Matthew Castleton (Sept. 15 & 17)  
 Benoit: Rod Hansen  
 Alcindoro: Gary Later  
 Parpignol: Alex Harrelson  
 Chorus: Amy Banta, Emily Jameson,  
 Deborah Naylor, Emily Mijarez,  
 Heather Hillstead, Rod Hansen,  
 Jed Shirts, Aaron Read, Bran Read,  
 Smera Nair, Emily Tuutau,  
 Nita Nachimuthu, Alex Harrelson

Stage Manager: Matilda Black  
 Assistant Stage Manager: Jayden Dudley  
 Stage hands: Aaron Read, Kaden Larsen  
 Lighting: Jack Dingman  
 Wigs & Makeup: Daniel Perez  
 Sound, Scenery, Staging: Lyrical Opera Products, Inc.

**PROGRAM ORDER:** Act 1 then a 5 minute pause,  
 Act 2 then a 15 minute intermission,  
 Act 3 then a 15 minute intermission,  
 Act 4 to the end.

**September 9, 13, 15 & 17, 2023**

Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center  
 2525 Taylorsville Blvd.  
 Taylorsville, UT



Scan the QR code above for a complete program

[www.LyricalOperaTheater.com](http://www.LyricalOperaTheater.com)

*Lyrical Opera* THEATER Proudly presents a

## Classy Concert

February 11, 2023

Presenting:

Meg Lever.....Etude-Tableau in Eb Major, Op. 33 No. 7 by Rachmaninoff  
 Anjali Ahlman.....He's a Pirate, Klaus Badelt, piano arrangement  
 Alyssa Mccurdy.....Nuvole Bianche by Ludovico Einaudi  
 Meg Lever.....Paganini Etude No. 4 by Liszt  
 Emma Swanson.....Sonata in E flat major Hob. XVI:49 by Haydn  
 Meg Lever.....Les Collines de anacapri by Debussy

**Intermission #1 performance:**

Emma Swanson.....Liebestraum No. 1 by Liszt

**FESTA ITALIANA**

SCHEDULE

**FESTA ITALIANA SLC 2023**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH**

**10:30 am** 3rd Annual Vintage Bike Ride - ([Register Here](#))

**12:00** Festa Italiana Gates Open

**12:00 - 1:00** Lyrical Opera Theatre (Salt Lake City, UT)

*Lyrical Opera* THEATER Proudly presents a

## Classy Concert

September 9, 2023

Presenting:

Paula Bryant.....Mouet in G major, J.S. Bach  
 Jensen Haslam.....The Phantom of the Opera, piano arrangement  
 Aarya Nagar.....Moonlight Sonata, Beethoven, arrangement  
 Emerson Haslam.....Cruela De Vil, piano arrangement  
 Paula Bryant.....Chevaleresque, Johann Friedrich Burgmüller  
 Aarya Nagar.....Music of the Night, piano arrangement  
 Liam Heath.....Prelude in E minor, Chopin  
 Aubrie Weber.....Tabby Cat Walk, William Bolcom  
 Paula Bryant.....Für Elise, Ludwig Van Beethoven  
 Benton Ross.....Piano improvisation medley  
 Leah Hess.....2 part Invention No.13, Bach  
 Aubrie Weber.....Dumka Op.59, Tchaikovsky

**Intermission #1 performance:**

Emma Swanson.....Pathetique sonata, Beethoven

**Intermission #2 performance:**

Emma Swanson.....Visions Fugitives, Prokofiev

# Our Greatest Successes

**Lyrical Opera Theater** embarked on a challenging journey at the start of the year, presenting a captivating double-bill featuring Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." This ambitious endeavor required orchestrating the largest ensemble of artists to date. Despite encountering various hurdles, such as the logistical feat of staging a stage within a stage and constructing a collapsible wagon for transportation, we successfully overcame these challenges.

Transitioning to our production of "La Boheme," we assembled a fresh stage crew while grappling with the financial demands of union workers, necessitating the recruitment of a new lighting designer. We raised opera attendance by 29% by using innovative marketing strategies, leveraging Salt Lake County's promotional resources available to venue users.

Following the disruption caused by the pandemic, we reinstated our beloved *Classy Concerts* in senior living centers, rebuilding the relationships and programs that had been impacted.

Furthermore, we extended our educational outreach initiative, expanding the reach of our assembly featuring "Little Red Riding Hood," a children's opera, into the Tooele and Canyons School Districts, augmenting our existing outreach efforts in the Granite, Jordan, and Alpine School Districts.

## 2024 Goals

1. Expand our educational outreach assembly for elementary schools, "Little Red Riding Hood...a children's opera" from 10 schools in 2023 to 14 schools in 2024. Get into Utah's State POPs educational program.
2. Expand our "Night at the Opera" fieldtrip for junior and senior high students to two more school districts.
3. Get three more business sponsors, two more foundations and expand our regular donors list.
4. Expand our volunteer base by setting up a volunteer tracking and gratitude program.
5. Add one more "Classy Concert" event to our regular events...possibly with Excellence Concerts.

# Foundation Grantors

**NATIONAL  
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arts.gov



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**Utah Legislature**



Utah Division of  
**Arts & Museums**

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 **BW BASTIAN**  
FOUNDATION



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Foundation**

## Business Sponsors



## Business Partners



Salt Lake Ballet Cooperative

## Thank you to our donors!

Abel, Holly Seely	Elliot, Cherise	Lundie, Kimberly	Seamons, Sarah
Anderson, Andy	Ferrara, Teresa	Lundskog family	Siddoway, Deborah
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Anderson, Linda	Fulton, Teresa	Nichols, Cynthia	Solomon, Andi
Arbizu, Christopher	Gamonal, Ernie	Owens, Lynnette	Sorenson, Mary
Arbizu, Marcus	Gordo, Flaco	Owens, Max & Ruth	Southwick, Jeannie
Arbizu, Ray	Hamilton, Jane	Owens, Steven	Stuart, Peggy
Bedore, Bob	Hancock, Elijah	Parker, Steve	Suiter, Celeste
Benson, Jessica	Hans, Dell Loy	Pedersen, Aleena	Toftum, Jesse
Borgenicht, Louis	Heinrich, Marilyn & Lee	Persinger, Regena & family	Tollestrup, Sammie
Burke, Susan	Idehen, Sarra	Powers, Alyssa	Trapp, Gregory
Calder, Judy	Jaeger, Heidi	Powers, Candace	Trickett, Keith
Castleton, Matthew	Jefferies, Beatrix	Pugmire, Jessie	Vance, Lisa
Clavell, Erin	Jensen, Joshua	Richardson, Kelly	Wallingford, Doug
Clayton, Manuel	Jensen, Sonja	Robinette, Sue	Watts, Gregory
Clements family	Johnston, Copeland	Rudolph, Marilyn & Walter	Wheatly, Stan
Crabb, Jennifer	Lavea, Teuila Gerber	Schaub, Jacob	Young Christy
Dalbrow, Kahli	Lui, Shuk Han	Schaub, Lori	Zainer, Pamela
Din, Jeffrey	Lundie, Felicia	Schindler family	

## Thank you to our artists!

Abbott, Marc	Easter, Natalie	Liu, Alyssa	Perez, Daniel
Ahlman, Anjali	Fairbanks, Alicia	Lee, Clara Hurtado	Peterson, Jaden
Aiono-Netzler, Arial	Flowers, Dustin	Loucks, Layton	Peterson, Lily
Aiono-Netzler, Keanu	Forchic, Jamie	Lundie, Felicia	Powers, Alyssa
Alexandra, Chelsea	Fotheringham, Megan	Mathew, Betty	Pugmire, Jessie
Allen, John Knight	Frampton, Ivy	McMullin, Chris	Read, Aaron
Arbizu, Christopher	Giffin, Jo	Meneghin, Luiz	Read, Bran
Arbizu, James	Gordon, Jessica	Miguel, José	Reynosa, Jordan
Banfield, Holly	Hansen, Rod	Mijarez, Emily	Richardson, Kelly
Banta, Amy	Harrelson, Alex	Miller, Jim	Robinette, Bryce
Bellenger, Elias	Heath, Liam	Mitchell, Ashley	Ruiz, Anthony
Black, Matilda	Hedrick, Joseph	Murphy, Constanza	Seamons, Sarah
Bohannan, Lauren	Hillstead, Heather	Murphy, Daphne	Schaub, Carly
Broom, Chris	Höglund, Hayden	Murphy, Paul	Sheridan, Caroline
Bryant, Paula	Holden, Christian	Murphy, Sara	Scheelke, Peter
Burtenshaw, Kevin	Hooker, Josh	Murphy, Scarlett	Shelley, Heather
Caldwell, Monte	Hunter, Madelyn	Murray, Michael	Siddoway, Deborah
Castleton, Matthew	Jameson, Emily	Nair, Smera	Spicer, Ben
Chew, Bennett	Killian, Katelynn	Neipp, Sarah	Stockslager, Chris
Church, Andrea	Later, Gary	Neiswender, Travis	Swanson, Emma
Crandall, Kenn	Leavitt, Jason	Norton, David	Tuutau, Daniel
Dalbrow, Kahli	Leavitt, Sydney	Nelson, LeDuc	Tuutau, Emily
Dean, Michelle	LeBaron, Angela	Owens, Lynnette	Tuutau, Josh
Dowd, Madison	LeBaron, Jordon	Parkinson, Ricky	van Wyk, Jocelyn
Dunyan, Kyra	Lee, Anja	Parry, Elise	Weber, Aubrie
	Lever, Meg	Pelletier, Kayleigh	Welch, Cam
			Yu, Jin-Xiang