

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE

2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT

"A destination for the world's great operatic artists" Globe and Mail

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A PASSION FOR SUCCESS A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Opera is passion and the Canadian Opera Company its vital companion. The COC's 2015/2016 season demonstrates the astonishing strengths and vibrancy that

have propelled us to the top tier of international opera producers while making us one of the most successful and best-managed companies in Canada. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and support, as well as Alexander Neef and Johannes Debus for their visionary artistic and musical leadership, which continues to inspire the COC's community of artists, volunteers, team members, and supporters in fulfilling our mission.

As you will discover in the following pages, we lead with our commitment to artistic excellence on the mainstage. For the second year in a row we presented an all-COC lineup of productions—a diverse repertoire brought to life by the best Canadian and international artists, as well as the renowned COC Orchestra and Chorus.

Beyond the mainstage, we engaged our various communities and stakeholders more deeply than we ever have before. Guided by the ongoing implementation of our COC365 strategic plan, we reached approximately 50,000 people of all ages with free concerts, learning opportunities, artistic mentorship and cultural enrichment, as well as interactive events to expand opera's transformative impact in the communities we serve and reflect.

Our overall financial position remains remarkably strong. I am pleased to report a modest surplus of \$32,000 for our fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Although a moderate amount, it reflects the sustained effort we have made over the last five seasons to adapt to the financial challenges facing virtually every arts organization in North America. Avoiding the pitfalls that have compromised many companies both at home and abroad, the COC has patiently transformed itself, leveraging diverse revenue streams and recalibrating our operations in 2014/2015 with a six-opera model that promotes sustainability, artistic excellence, and long-term financial health. The positive outcomes of this multi-year self-reinvention are evidenced by the fact that for the second year in a row the company did not require additional support from reserve funds to break even, and that transfers from the Canadian Opera Foundation were reduced to less than 4% of total Endowment holdings, both significant achievements.

While you will note that several categories of revenue have decreased, a direct comparison of 2015/2016 to 2014/2015 numbers can be somewhat misleading without context. The drop in Box Office revenue, for example, is accounted for by several factors—such as last season's one-time tour of *Semele* to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, ancillary fees, and other opportunities—which generated supplemental income over and above our regular ticket sales. Bracketing out such unique revenue opportunities, mainstage ticket sales for our core product were actually higher in 15/16 than in 14/15. That being said, financial accessibility continues to be a major priority for us, and we're exploring multiple strategies—some of which have already been implemented, while others will soon be unveiled—to ensure that everyone who wants to experience the beauty of this multi-faceted art form can do so at a price they can afford.

Meanwhile, our supporters and community members have shown extraordinary enthusiasm and engagement, contributing a total of \$11.7 million (combined operating and endowment) in fundraising revenue to the COC's vision. Annual donations from individuals were up by \$400,000 in 15/16 over the previous season, after excluding the effect of an extraordinary one-time gift in 14/15.

I believe I speak for the vast community of supporters who are deeply invested in the COC, when I say how proud we are of our past successes and how confident we are in our brilliant future. I am extremely grateful to the thousands of supporters and audience members, as well as our many corporate, foundation, and government partners, whose commitment to the COC drives this company forward and lifts us to the heights of excellence.

The COC is more than an opera producer.

We are a community of individuals who share a belief in the extraordinary power of this art form. We are a creative powerhouse that links highly respected companies, festivals, and arts organizations all across the globe with our stage right here in Toronto. We are also a profoundly local organization, one that delivers education and outreach programming to our diverse communities, explores artistic partnership on a grassroots level, and extends our infrastructure, mentorship, and administrative support to smaller peers within Canada's cultural landscape. On any given day, the work of the COC might extend from our opera house in downtown Toronto to a school gymnasium in Sudbury, or from a choral workshop in our dedicated education space to a prop-making seminar at our production headquarters in the city's east end.

Above all, the COC is a destination for the most exciting artists in the world to create opera at the highest levels of production excellence.

Our job is to open the door to that world of opera—where music and art, drama and dance, and above all, the beauty of the human voice, unite to reveal the greatest stories ever told.

Thank you for your continued support. I'll see you at the opera, and that's a promise!

Sincerely,

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Colleen Sexsmith Chair, Board of Directors Canadian Opera Company

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COC365 STATEMENT OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

At the heart of the new mission and vision for the company is our unequivocal belief in artistic excellence. Under Alexander Neef's leadership, the COC has become a destination of choice for the world's greatest Canadian and international artists. Our goals can only be achieved if the quality of our art remains at the core of our thinking and planning.

VISION We will bring the transformative experience of opera to our local, national, and global audience every day of the year.

> Acting on the vision of COC365 means sharing with as many people as possible all the wonderful, complex, fascinating, relevant, breathtaking, and musical work that an opera company does 365 days of the year to create the world's most powerful art form.

ABOUT US The Canadian Opera Company is the largest producer of opera in Canada, and one of the five largest in North America.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$40,310,000 \$40,278,000 \$32,000	Revenue Expenses Operating surplus
\$11,700,000	Total fundraising revenue (combined operating and endowment)
\$9,968,000	Total box office revenue
\$5,947,000	Subscription ticket revenue (mainstage only)
\$3,534,000	Single ticket revenue (mainstage only)
56 6	Mainstage performances Productions
105,228	Mainstage attendance (average 91%)
60,899	Subscriber tickets sold
40,008	Single tickets sold
22,113	Tickets sold to new patrons*
9,712	Tickets sold to young people (ages 29 and under)
5,605	Individual donors
1,308	New donors**
80%	Of fundraising dollars come from individuals
33	Foreign countries represented by ticket buyers
33	U.S. states represented by
	ticket buyers (including D.C.)
13	Canadian provinces and territories represented by ticket buyers

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

2020/2021	Season currently in the planning stages
10+	New COC-owned productions planned between 2016/2017 and 2020/2021 (including <i>Arabella</i> with Santa Fe and Minneapolis opera companies; <i>La forza del destino</i> with the Metropolitan Opera and English National Opera; and <i>Parsifal</i> with the Metropolitan Opera and Opéra de Lyon).
2	New commissions (<i>Hadrian</i> by Rufus Wainwright; and <i>La Reine-</i> <i>garçon</i> by Ana Sokolović)

OUTREACH

48,321 35,881 390 185 120 114 91	Total community reach Participants in education and outreach programs Education and outreach events Events for children (ages 5 - 12) Participants in the Opera Access for New Canadians program (an estimated 350 for 16/17 season) Events for adults and youth (ages 13 and up) School events (kindergarten to post- secondary, and teacher workshops)
24	Dora Award nominations (8 wins)
12,440	Total audience for Free Concert Series
551	Canadian performers in Free Concert Series (563 total)
175	Average attendance per
73 30	Free Concert Series events Canadian composers in Free Concert Series
11	Age of youngest performer in Free Concert Series (piano prodigy, J.J. Bui)
10	Canadian (7) and world (3) premieres in Free Concert Series
2,563,515	Website page views
148,839	Minutes watched for COC videos
18,541	Total Twitter followers
500,000 sq. ft.	Footprint of three COC-owned facilities (FSCPA, the Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Opera Centre, COC Scene Shop)
400,000	Honeybees on roof of the FSCPA
7	Bee hives on the roof of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (FSCPA)

Defined as a patron who has not bought a COC ticket since 2003

** Defined as a patron who has not donated since 2003 "Although set in a very specific time and place... [La Traviata] resonates in our time with great force. We too have women who cannot escape our social norms, who struggle to live an authentic life. Violetta lives their tragedy as well as her own." – Globe and Mail

NEW PRODUCTION

LA TRAVIATA

GIUSEPPE VERDI

October 8 - November 6, 2015 COC co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago and Houston Grand Opera

In Verdi's most personal opera, Parisian society is a warped moral space that embraces the role of the highsociety courtesan just as it condemns her attempt to assert any measure of autonomy. Director Arin Arbus and her designers set this new COC production in its original period, precisely to allow the historical specificity of the story to be fully appreciated: the lush decadence; the dramatic stakes of entering into a relationship with a man above one's station; the complex hypocrisies to which Violetta's life and happiness are ultimately sacrificed—all were rendered with clarity and urgency. Anchoring the love story were real-life married couple Ekaterina Siurina and Charles Castronovo as Violetta and Alfredo, with Quinn Kelsey as Alfredo's conflicted and ambiguous father, Germont. The large production—including a second cast starring Canadians soprano Joyce El-Khoury, Ensemble Studio tenor Andrew Haji, and Ensemble graduate baritone James Westman—also showcased many other Ensemble members and graduates. Conductor Marco Guidarini received much praise for illustrating the beauty amidst a beastly world.

GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY David Roffey and Karen Walsh





"Great art connects us with our own humanity. It enables us to empathize with people who we would otherwise judge in life." —Arin Arbus, director



NEW TALKS AND INTERACTIVE EVENTS

This season we introduced Opera Insights—a free, interactive series allowing our audience to deepen their engagement with opera and discover more about our productions. Drawing an audience of nearly 1,000, these 10 events ranged from intimate conversations with artists to choral singing workshops to dance clinics. At left, COC costume supervisor Sandra Corazza, together with *Globe and Mail* society columnist Nolan Bryant, discuss the evolution, cultural significance, and lasting relevance of the ball gown. "Pyramus and Thisbe emerges as a haunting, three-part musical meditation on love and loss, stunningly sung and imaginatively staged... the rewards awaiting the conscientious listener and viewer are considerable." —Toronto Star

WORLD PREMIERE

PYRAMUS AND THISBE WITH LAMENTO D'ARIANNA AND IL COMBATTIMENTO DI TANCREDI E CLORINDA

BARBARA MONK FELDMAN AND CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

October 20 - November 7, 2015

The COC's first world premiere in the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Canadian composer Monk Feldman's *Pyramus and Thisbe* is a meditation on the ancient myth and its many literary and artistic resonances throughout history. Conductor Johannes Debus and director Christopher Alden plunged into the depths of the contemplative score and spare libretto to offer a distinctly 21st-century opera. Paired with two Baroque pieces by Monteverdi, the performance was presented as an 80-minute exploration of the ambivalent relationships between the sexes and the many roadblocks in the way of spiritual and physical connection. Ensemble Studio graduate, mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabó sang the three female roles with ferocious grace, and Canadian baritone Phillip Addis was her vocal and physical match and thematic opponent, while Ensemble graduate tenor Owen McCausland impressed as the Narrator. The three, joined by the COC Chorus for *Pyramus and Thisbe*, performed on a Rothko-inspired, slow-moving set, which eventually left the protagonists in the metaphoric void of a dark, empty stage.



"When I give the first downbeat and we present it for the very first time to our public, it marks a very special moment." —Johannes Debus, COC Music Director GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY Mark and Gail Appel

THE DONOR EXPERIENCE

Our supporters make everything we do possible. We recognize their generosity with special privileges and meaningful access to the art form. This includes enlightening, art-centred experiences such as exclusive recitals, behind-thescenes opportunities, post-performance toasts, and access to company-only dress rehearsals. At right, *Pyramus and Thisbe* director Christopher Alden, composer Barbara Monk Feldman and conductor Johannes Debus share the creative process with donors at a member-exclusive event.





The @CanadianOpera Siegfried is truly astounding. Amazing work, @johannesdebus and @alexanderncoc and co. If you're in Toronto, go! —Jared Bland @jaredbland



2nd time @CanadianOpera #Siegfried. Best ever seen. Amazing last 40 minutes. –John Ralston Saul @JohnRalstonSaul Sublime Siegfried directed by Francois Girard at COC. Better than anything! Neef and Debus bringing us the best ever!" –Adrienne Clarkson @APClarkson

COC PRODUCTION

SIEGFRIED RICHARD WAGNER

January 23 - February 14, 2016

There was overwhelming acclaim and passionate response for the COC's revisit of *Siegfried*. An extraordinary cast and a nuanced, majestic reading of the score by the COC Orchestra under Johannes Debus in his *Siegfried* debut made this production soar. Stefan Vinke, opera's most sought-after Siegfried, delivered a finely wrought portrait of a young man's emerging consciousness. He was joined by one of the



"The best music we will ever hear is the human voice and the best set we will ever see is the human body."—François Girard, director world's leading Wagnerian sopranos, Christine Goerke, as his love Brünnhilde for the opera's spellbinding finale. Complemented by renowned artists Wolfgang Ablinger-Sperrhacke, Alan Held, Meredith Arwady, Christopher Purves, and Ensemble Studio graduate Jacqueline Woodley, this was a cast equal to the stunning demands of Wagner's music-drama.

PRODUCTION ORIGINALLY MADE POSSIBLE BY Kolter Communities





WORTH SUBSCRIBING FOR

The 2016/2017 Season Launch Celebration treated 1,100 subscribers to a musical preview of the upcoming season, featuring personal insight from Alexander Neef and Johannes Debus, as well as thrilling performances from some of opera's biggest stars.

SEASON LAUNCH CELEBRATION LEAD SPONSOR TD[®] Aeroplan[®] Visa Infinite Privilege* Card "A bracing reminder that Mozart's 1786 masterwork is more than a laced-fringed sex comedy of bad manners." —Toronto Star

NEW PRODUCTION THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

February 4 - 27, 2016

As part of the COC's mission to strengthen its production repertoire, the company acquired director Claus Guth's extremely popular *The Marriage of Figaro* after its creation for, and several revivals at, the Salzburg Festival. This *Figaro* was an intelligent and witty exploration of the dangerous emotional shoals swirling around human relationships, influenced by Scandinavian masters Ingmar Bergman, August Strindberg, and Henrik Ibsen. One of the world's finest Figaros, Josef Wagner made his company debut with COC favourite Jane Archibald as his intended, Susanna. Russell Braun and Erin Wall also returned to the COC, this time as the conflicted and fragile Count and Countess, and Emily Fons made her critically acclaimed COC debut as Cherubino. Johannes Debus continued his busy winter with another first, making his debut with this Mozart gem. Up-and-coming Canadian conductor Jordan de Souza helmed two performances.

GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY Sarah Billinghurst Solomon and Howard Solomon in memory of Gerard Mortier



HEAR THE STARS OF TOMORROW

The Ensemble Studio program continues to lead the field in preparing artists for all facets of a professional career in opera. For many, the highlight is the annual Ensemble Studio performance of a mainstage production, which synthesizes skills and offers the country's largest platform for emerging artists. This year's performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* (right) was no exception.

ENSEMBLE STUDIO PERFORMANCE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY Roy and Marjorie Linden





We loved it! Incredible performance today. The cast of #Carmen was unbelievable! -Marilyn Denis @MarilynDenisCTV

COC PRODUCTION CARMEN GEORGES BIZET

April 12 - May 15, 2016

Director Joel Ivany brought *Carmen*'s blood, sand, and music to the Four Seasons Centre with visceral immediacy in this revival of a beloved COC production. Double cast for the 13 performances, Carmens Anita Rachvelishvili and Clémentine Margaine—both renowned for this role—delivered performances of fire and passion. Russell Thomas and David Pomeroy played the lovelorn and despairing Don José to perfection, while Christian Van Horn and Zachary Nelson added zest as the toreador Escamillo. Current and former Ensemble members rounded out the cast, notably Simone Osborne and Karine Boucher as the innocent Micaëla. Paolo Carignani conducted "the COC Orchestra in an immensely exciting account of the score full of swirling colours and vibrant rhythms" (*Stage Door*).

"Th does -C

"There's not a singer in the world that doesn't want to sing at the COC." —Christian Van Horn, Escamillo PRODUCTION GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



"Thanks to the @CanadianOpera

presentation of #Carmen Sunday afternoon! Brilliant. Bravo!

–Ingrid Schumacher @IngridCHUMFM

Company for an amazing

25,580 CARMEN TICKETS SOLD

8,911 *CARMEN* TICKETS SOLD TO NEW PATRONS

3,271 CARMEN TICKETS SOLD TO YOUNG PATRONS (AGES 29 AND UNDER)

BLOCKBUSTER ATTENDANCE

I loved Carmen. Already

booking my next tickets!

@joelivany @CanadianOpera

—Elisabeth Lam @ElisabethLam9

The most popular operas in the repertoire provide an opportunity to introduce new generations and communities to the art form. We made good on that promise by attracting more first-time buyers and more young patrons to *Carmen* than to any other production in our season. "Maometto II may be the best-sung production of the season at the COC, and that's saying something at Alexander Neef's COC, where the quality of the singing is always extremely high."—Globe and Mail

NEW PRODUCTION MAOMETTO II GIOACHINO ROSSINI

April 29 - May 14, 2016

Rossini's little-known historical opera Maometto II made its Canadian debut in a production from director David Alden and his creative team. Written in 1820, Rossini's refreshingly nuanced opera about the 15thcentury takeover of Venice by the Turkish sultan Mehmed II offers a human drama that transcends time and resists cultural stereotypes. Maometto II featured perhaps the best possible cast for its vocally demanding, even treacherous, roles. Luca Pisaroni, one of opera's reigning bass-baritones and renowned for his interpretation of the title character, made his COC debut. Leah Crocetto as Maometto's beloved Anna and Bruce Sledge as her father also made their debuts with the company. Along with returning mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong as Venetian general Calbo, these four artists shone with special brilliance. COC favourite Harry Bicket conducted with "integrity and authority, [making] Rossini sometimes sound like Beethoven, sometimes like Mozart, and always like Rossini" (barczablog).

PRODUCTION GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY





"Great programming! Keep up the great work you are doing!" —Luca Pisaroni, Maometto II

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

World-class programming is defined by a deft balancing of the familiar and the unknown, by an ability to deliver not only those works that reconfirm the vitality of the popular canon, but also ones that expand our understanding of the art form. We can take these risks thanks to our generous donors and partners, our committed and engaged audience, and the exceptional artists who embrace a company that offers excellence in creativity and innovation.

FINANCIALS

Canadian Opera Company CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The consolidated financial statements of the Canadian Opera Company ("COC") include the results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 of both COC and Canadian Opera House Corporation ("COHC"). COHC is an affiliated charitable organization controlled by the COC. COHC owns and operates the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, the performance space for both the COC and The National Ballet of Canada. We believe that the presentation of consolidated financial information provides our stakeholders with the most meaningful and holistic view of the total operations and financial position.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED

BALANCE SHEET

As at June 30 (in thousands)

Assets		2016	2015
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	189	\$ 15
Accounts receivable		3,868	3,561
Due from Canadian Opera Foundation		206	98
Other		590	1,269
		4,853	4,943
Investments		4,345	4,279
Capital assets, net		135,966	139,078
Other		1,765	1,605
	\$ 1	46,929	\$ 149,905

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	\$ 1,544	\$ 971
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,411	1,707
Deferred revenue	 7,986	8,189
	10,941	10,867
Deferred capital contributions	107,277	110,359
Internally restricted net assets	283	329
Operating net assets	28,428	28,350
	\$ 146,929	\$ 149,905

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

For the years ended June 30 (in thousands)

Revenue	2016	2015
Box Office, tours and concerts	\$ 9,968	\$ 10,971
Fundraising	9,906	10,402
Bar, event, parking, and rental	7,990	7,770
Government grants	6,023	6,343
Contributions from Canadian Opera Foundation	1,365	1,850
Other	1,272	1,235
Amortization of deferred capital contributions		
Four Seasons Centre	3,401	3,401
Other capital assets	385	287
Total Revenue	\$ 40,310	\$ 42,259
Expenses		
Production	\$ 17,079	\$ 17,773
Bar, event and parking	4,964	5,249
General and administrative	4,399	4,703
Facilities	3,832	3,797
Communications	2,189	2,253
Development	2,038	2,117
Ensemble Studio Program	705	731
Education	429	410
Other	658	523
Depreciation of capital assets		
Four Seasons Centre	3,401	3,401
Other capital assets	497	423
Grants to Canadian Opera Foundation	 87	866
Total expenses	40,278	42,246
Operating surplus	32	13
Transfer from internally restricted net assets	46	115
Net change in operating net assets	 78	128
Operating net assets, beginning of year	28,350	28,222
Net assets, end of year	\$ 28,428	\$ 28,350

Canadian Opera Foundation FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Canadian Opera Foundation (the "Foundation") is a charitable organization that is independent of the Canadian Opera Company. The Foundation acquires, holds in trust and applies funds to assist in the development of opera for the benefit of the COC. Accordingly, these funds are not included in the accounts and financial statements of the COC. The audited market value of the net assets held by the Foundation as at December 31, 2015, totalled approximately \$35,842,000. In addition, at December 31, 2015, the Foundation administered funds totalling \$99,000 on behalf of the Company. This amount is not included in the statements of financial position or revenue, expenses, and fund balances of the Foundation. The following sets out the statements of financial position, as well as of revenue and expenses, for 2015 and 2014.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31 (in thousands)

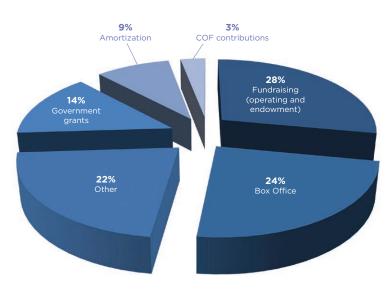
Assets	_	2015	2014
Miscellaneous receivables	\$	23	\$ 32
Due from Canadian Opera Company		45	180
Investments		35,786	33,996
	\$	35,854	\$ 34,208
Liabilities and Fund Balances			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	12	\$ 12
Fund balances		35,842	34,196
	\$	35,854	34,208

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE AND FUND BALANCES

As at December 31 (in thousands)

Revenue		2015	2014
Investment income	\$	1,980	\$ 2,380
Donations and bequests	_	1,820	3,163
	\$	3,800	\$ 5,543
Expenses			
Investment and counsel fees and services	\$	209	\$ 441
Administration		16	17
		225	458
Net revenue before grants		3,575	5,085
Grants to Canadian Opera			
Company and individuals		1,929	3,114
Net revenue		1,646	1,971
Fund balances beginning of year		34,196	32,225
Fund balances, end of year	\$	35,842	\$ 34,196

COC 2015/2016 REVENUES



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

FUNDRAISING REVENUES 2015/2016

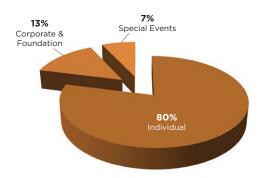
\$11.7 million

Total fundraising revenue (combined operating and endowment)

\$9.4 million

In individual commitments

SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTED REVENUE



SPECIAL EVENTS REVENUE

\$107,000

OPERANATION: QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Featured expanded slate of performers and collaborators

\$237,000

17TH ANNUAL FINE WINE AUCTION 37% increase in revenue over 2014/2015

\$467,000

CENTRE STAGE: ENSEMBLE STUDIO COMPETITION GALA Record-breaking revenue The COC's mainstage programming, young artist training, and educational initiatives are made possible by a generous community of stakeholders and partners. We thank them for their passionate commitment to the cultural vitality, artistic excellence, and positive impact delivered by our year-round programs.

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS





In 2015/2016, the **Opera Club**—our membership program for young professionals—marked its fifth anniversary. Designed to engage the next generation of arts supporters, the Opera Club offers a distinctive roster of events, allowing members to experience opera in a dynamic community, interact with our artists, and discover the city's larger wealth of arts practices, spaces, and venues.



Whoa...high notes! Awesome performance last night by Ambur Braid and Topher Mokrzewski —@kristjanhayden



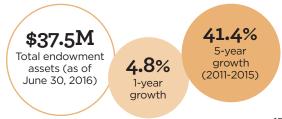
MATCHING CAMPAIGN DELIVERS

Anchored by our maestro Johannes Debus, the 2015/2016 Season-End Matching Campaign was our most successful in recent history,* raising \$316,000 from nearly 1,700 participants. Proceeds supported the excellence of the COC Orchestra and extended the training, mentorship, and performance opportunities of the COC Orchestra Academy program.

*While the 2014/2015 Season-End Campaign raised more total dollars, that sum was inflated due to an extraordinary, one-time gift. Adjusting for such outliers, 2015/2016 broke previous records by some \$25,000.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The Canadian Opera Foundation continues to grow its assets thanks to several generous gifts in 15/16, which were further bolstered by federal matching grants and consistently strong investment returns.



TRAINING ENGAGING · INSPIRING



The COC continues to expand its commitment to young artists by increasing training platforms and the spotlight on Canada's wealth of talent even more brightly, and growing the international stage.

ENSEMBLE STUDIO

Members pictured from left to right: Tenor Aaron Sheppard (St. John's, NL) Intern Coach Hyejin Kwon (Seoul, South Korea) Intern Coach Jennifer Szeto* (Calgary, AB) Tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure* (Kitchener, ON) Tenor Charles Sy (Toronto, ON) Baritone Iain MacNeil* (Brockville, ON) Soprano Aviva Fortunata* (Calgary, AB) Bass-baritone Gordon Bintner* (Regina, SK) Soprano Karine Boucher* (Quebec City, QC) Tenor Andrew Haji* (London, ON)

*Graduating member

The COC's acclaimed training program has educated, fostered, and promoted over 220 young Canadian opera professionals since its inception in 1980.



ORCHESTRA ACADEMY

Since 2013, the COC's intensive orchestra mentorship program has been connecting emerging instrumentalists with professionals in our orchestra, providing an opportunity for young musicians to participate in rehearsals, performances, and private sessions with leading artists and administrators. The five OA members played the opening night performance of Siegfried, the company's 2016/2017 Season Launch Celebration, and performed as part of the Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre (right).

Members pictured from left to right:

Doug Ohashi (bass), Hua-Chu Huang (violin), Yada Lee (violin), Drew Comstock (cello), Meagan Turner (viola), with Ensemble Studio graduates Anne Larlee at the piano, and tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure in the centre.





Ensemble Head Liz Upchurch (centre) leads a donorexclusive event, offering a glimpse of the coaching and training regimen of our young artists. Hyejin Kwon at piano, Aviva Fortunata, Karine Boucher, and Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure at music stands.



Bass-baritone Gordon Bintner steps in on short notice for ailing Russell Braun at dress rehearsal of *The Marriage of Figaro*, with Erin Wall (top) and Jane Archibald.



Left: Pianist Jennifer Szeto and soprano Karine Boucher perform in the Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre. Right: Tenor Aaron Sheppard displays his operatic superpowers for young opera-goers at a performance of the Glencore Ensemble Studio School Tour production of *Operation Superpower*.



Tenor Andrew Haji wows subscribers and supporters at the 2016/2017 Season Launch Celebration event.



Soprano Aviva Fortunata performs with members of the COC Orchestra as part of the Free Concert Series.



Tenor Charles Sy reunites with the choir of his alma mater, Cawthra Park Secondary School, for a special communityoriented recital in the Free Concert Series.



Ensemble members Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure (centre left) and Iain MacNeil (centre) join Ensemble grads Charlotte Burrage (left, green jacket), Sasha Djihanian (floral skirt), and Simone Osborne (right, with shawl) on the mainstage for *Carmen*, starring Anita Rachvelishvili and Russell Thomas.

TRAINING ENGAGING INSPIRING

The COC's multi-faceted approach to engaging with audiences and communities creates new points of entry and enhances accessibility, sparks conversation, and delivers learning opportunities that sustain and enhance our patrons' appreciation of the art form.

In partnership with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, the COC created the **Opera Access** for New Canadians program, which welcomes newcomers to Canada with free tickets to mainstage opera. This, along with future programs like it, will create more opportunities for people to access our core artistic programming.





from @CanadianOpera's #NightsOUT program. It's the epitome of champagne taste on a —Kate Bangay @katebangay

Bought tickets to see my first live opera in October at @CanadianOpera !!!!! Under 30 tickets are maybe the best thing

The COC pioneered the city's first discount program for young people back in 1995, and since then we have created more ways to share opera, such as Opera Under 30 presented by TD, which includes NightsOUT subscriptions packages, as well as value-priced subscriptions for all ages, and membership opportunities like Opera Club. Lowering the point of entry to the art form is a promising avenue for expanding opera's reach and continued relevance for diverse communities.



The honeybees that make their home on the Four Seasons Centre roof **contribute to the ecological sustainability of the planet** and, in the early summer of 2016, they also helped create *Untilled (Liegender-Frauenakt)*, a sculpture by Pierre Huyghe for the Luminato Festival.

More than 16,000 patrons each year participate in the **BMO Financial Group Pre-Performance Opera Chats**, which offer history and context, audio excerpts and analysis, as well as production-specific information to enhance the opera experience.



With an emphasis on accessibility—programming is priced at less than \$2 per week—the **After School Opera Program** brings the arts to underserved communities across the city, developing children's performance and music talent, while nurturing their self-confidence and communications skills.





From vocal workshops to wig-making, from costume design to choreography, **Youth Opera Lab** is a free program that offers teens and young adults an amazing opportunity to explore their artistic interests through sessions with highly regarded international and Canadian opera professionals, such as Ensemble Studio Head Vocal Consultant, Wendy Nielsen. Participants also receive tickets to a dress rehearsal of a production connected to their session's theme.



The **Summer Opera Camp** program welcomed almost 400 children, from Grades 1 to 12, who were thrilled to explore opera as both creators and performers. They sang, composed, acted, and designed their own operas based on stories *The Moon* by the Brothers Grimm, and *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry.

This spring, the **Opera Creation Program** allowed students at Toronto's Huron Street Junior Public School to collaborate with professional artists in exploring the vital intersection between art and social issues, and to delve into the curriculum through the inter-disciplinary nature of opera.







TRAINING · ENGAGING

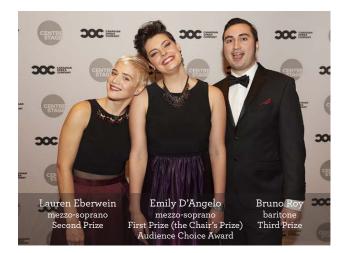
From delivering live opera in Toronto's public spaces, to our long-running Ensemble Studio School Tour taking opera on the road; from our highly popular Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre to one of our newest initiatives, Centre Stage—throughout the year, the COC is committed to bringing its vital work to a wide range of audiences to inspire the discovery and exploration of opera and its artists.

CENTRE STAGE

On November 3, 2015, Canada's premiere vocal competition, **Centre Stage** once again focused the spotlight on the country's best and brightest young stars. The public competition portion of the evening is a stage for big dreams and the first step in a thrilling artistic journey. Comprising fellow singers, supporters, and opera enthusiasts, the audience experiences the first-hand excitement of watching a star being born.



The evening features the formidable COC Orchestra led by Music Director Johannes Debus, seen here with General Director Alexander Neef. Hosting duties were entrusted to two previous competition winners, Ensemble members Karine Boucher and Charles Sy.



Oh yes, I've saved Nov 3 date for @CanadianOpera Ensemble Competition Gala #COC1516 Glam, touching & important CanCult! -@LQLauraQuinn

Thanks to a dedicated volunteer committee and generous donors, the gala celebration on the mainstage following the awards ceremony has become the COC's single largest fundraising event.



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"The COC's Free Concert Series offers everything that is good about living in a vibrant, artistic city. These concerts make me proud of Toronto." —Tom Allen, author, musician and host of CBC Radio 2's Shift







Opening our doors to the community is important. Tours of the Four Seasons Centre give our public backstage access at the opera house, while a companion program at our administrative headquarters at 227 Front St. E. introduces school groups to the inner workings of our 80,000-square-foot production and rehearsal facility.

In 2015/2016, the **Glencore Ensemble Studio School Tour** gave more than 10,000 school children across the province perhaps their first interaction with opera. *Operation Superpower*, a new opera conceived by four Juilliard School graduates, made its Canadian debut, while Dean Burry's popular *The Bremen Town Musicians* returned to the tour. Q&A sessions following performances extend the educational and personal dimension of the program.

"The opera engaged so many senses that they were instantly hooked." —Judy Muir, Agnes Hodge School



In a series of casual concerts surrounded by the lunchtime bustle of downtown Toronto, **Opera Connect** showcases the art form, and the people who make it happen, in alternative spaces and venues. Capturing the attention of passers-by, Opera Connect delivers the transformative beauty of the human voice in unexpected encounters.

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The E. Louise Morgan Society was created to reflect the vision and commitment of its founder and the members who have created a legacy of leadership, passion and philanthropy in support of the goals of the Canadian Opera Company.

Each of these donors has contributed a cumulative total of more than one million dollars over the past 15 years. Their support is critical to the company's success and we are forever indebted to their commitment and generosity.

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