

THE
SANTA FE
OPERA



SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMMING, TICKET SALES & FUNDRAISING GOALS ACHIEVED FOR THE SANTA FE OPERA'S 2022 SEASON

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Santa Fe, NM — The Santa Fe Opera is pleased to report on its 65th Festival Season which closed on August 27 and the 2022 fiscal year which ended on September 30. Returning to a full, five-production season for the first time since 2019, the company presented 38 mainstage performances and two special evenings of **Apprentice Scenes** featuring the talented singing and technical apprentices. Beloved visitor activities not enjoyed since 2019 were also offered, including **Prelude Talks, Preview Dinners, Tailgate Picnics, Tours** and a **Santa Fe Shuttle**.

Programming, Ticket Sales and Fundraising

General Director **Robert K. Meya** reflects, “The 2022 Season goes down in history for many reasons. The challenges we faced this year were unprecedented – beginning with the early threat of wildfire smoke, the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the lift failure affecting the July 6 and 8 performances of *The Barber of Seville* and *Carmen*, and the challenging repertory. Yet, the artistic quality has never been higher – and the critical response to all five shows has been overwhelmingly positive. Many patrons have commented to me that this is the best season they have ever experienced at the Santa Fe Opera.” The 2022 Season was also distinctive for its sheer output. **The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra** topped previous records with its number of musicians and hours played in rising to the challenges of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*. Twenty-seven artists made their Santa Fe Opera debuts while an additional 29 artists returned to the Santa Fe Opera stage in a showcase of opera’s most exciting talent. Also in full force were the **Apprentice Programs** — the company welcomed 78 Technicians and a record 48 Apprentice Singers from around the country and world. Costume Director **Blair Gullede** and her team presented the highest number of costumes ever seen on the SFO stage: 517.

Immensity and challenges aside, the company confirms its **second-best year of ticket sales in history**, closing the season at \$9.5 million and **fundraising** of \$9.7 million. Adds Meya, “In spite of the challenges of the pandemic and geopolitical turmoil, the Santa Fe Opera has bounced back! And we could not have done it without you.” The season’s bold programming included the company’s 18th world premiere ***M. Butterfly*** 蝴蝶君 by composer **Huang Ruo**, librettist **David Henry Hwang** and directed by **James Robinson**; the company premiere of Wagner’s masterpiece *Tristan und Isolde* co-directed by **Zack Winokur** and **Lisenka Heijboer Castañón**; a poignant retelling of Bizet’s *Carmen* by **Mariame Clément**; Verdi’s comic final opera ***Falstaff*** in a co-production with **Scottish Opera** by **Sir David McVicar**; and **Stephen Barlow’s** beguiling new take on Rossini’s most popular opera, ***The Barber of Seville***.

Community Engagement

Building on the success of its **Opera for All Voices** (OFAV) initiative, the company recently announced upcoming world premiere performances of its third commission, ***This Little Light of Mine***. The one-act opera about voting rights activist **Fannie Lou Hamer** will be presented on October 28 and 29 at 7 pm and October 30 at 2 pm at **The Lensic Performing Arts Center** in downtown Santa Fe. In December 2021, the company presented world premiere performances of its second OFAV commission, **Laura Kaminsky** and **Kimberly Reed**'s immigration-centered opera ***Hometown to the World***. Throughout the 2022 fiscal year, the opera's Community Engagement department along with its collaborative partners created opportunities for individuals ranging in ages from 3 to 103 that included **Family Nights**, **Youth Nights**, **Opera Makes Sense** with the **Santa Fe Public Library**, **Opera Storytellers Summer Camp** with **UNM Prep Music School**, a series of conversations and performances with **Chatter** and **SITE Santa Fe**, and free **Opera in the Park** screenings on Santa Fe's Southside and Albuquerque's Civic Plaza. All of these activities were presented as part of the opera's ongoing commitment to bringing the joy of opera to all New Mexicans.

Press and Media

The 2022 Season was critically reviewed by over 25 publications and garnered local, regional, national and international coverage in ***The New York Times***, ***The Wall Street Journal***, ***Opera News***, ***Nikkei Asia***, **OPERA 歌剧 China**, the UK's ***Opera Magazine***, ***Opera Canada*** magazine and on **National Public Radio** (NPR). Last season's new production of ***The Marriage of Figaro*** also received critical acclaim during August 2022 performances at Japan's **Saito Kinen Festival Matsumoto**. Continuing its commitment to reaching new audiences through digital and social media, the company produced offerings for radio, television and the web. Of note was SFO's **first-ever national radio broadcast** as part of **WFMT** Chicago's **Opera Series 2022**; the Grammy-winning recording of ***The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*** was heard in over 330 US markets. For the second year in a row, **95.5 KHFM Classical Public Radio** broadcast the season's productions, reaching listeners across the state of New Mexico and in over 50 countries via online streaming. Television production included a special feature about the making of ***M. Butterfly*** 蝴蝶君 which aired in August on **New Mexico PBS** and remains available online for on-demand viewing. Additionally produced were its two podcasts, ***Key Change*** and ***Destination Santa Fe Opera*** which reached listeners on six continents.

The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra

Joining the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra in the 2023 Season will be two new players in the positions of Principal Trumpet and Principal Bass. The appointments are the result of highly competitive national auditions which occurred in August. The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra is recognized internationally for the quality of its playing in a wide-ranging and demanding repertoire. Its members come from leading orchestras around the country. Many are active recitalists, chamber musicians and recording artists. Santa Fe Opera Music Director **Harry Bicket** writes, "I am thrilled that Ian and William are joining this wonderful orchestra; they are both phenomenal players and musicians and will be huge assets to us as we continue to strive for the excellence for which the Santa Fe Opera is celebrated."

Principal Trumpet **William Leathers** is a recent graduate of the **Juilliard School** and serves as Principal Trumpet Designate with the **Nashville Symphony Orchestra**. He has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York City Ballet, the Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, and the American Brass Quintet at the Aspen Music Festival, among others.

Principal Bass **Ian Hallas** also holds the Principal Double Bass position with the **Lyric Opera of Chicago**. He's a graduate of Rice University and USC's Thornton School of Music and has played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and numerous notable summer festivals including the Santa Fe Opera, Tanglewood, Aspen, Spoleto and the Music Academy of the West.

Outstanding Apprentice Awards

Each season, talented young singers and technicians take part in the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Programs, where they receive intensive training and play critical roles in the creation, both on stage and off, of the season's five mainstage productions. Their work culminates in two nights of staged and costumed Apprentice Scenes, created and performed solely by the apprentices. Of this season's 78 Apprentice Technicians and 48 Apprentice Singers, 26 won cash awards, honoring their exceptional talent and hard work.

TECHNICIANS

Gustave and Jane Baumann Memorial Award

Genesis Tanner, Stage Crew
Lauren Eckard, Paints

Greg Teakle Memorial Award

Miles Miranda, Production/Music Services
Yamilex Holguín Pérez, Costumes

Katharine M. Mayer Memorial Award

Devon Patch, Props Run Crew

Lawrence Reehling Memorial Award

Valeria Texeira, Audio/Video
Jessica Baker, Electrics

Albuquerque Guild Award in memory of Emmah Ellis

Kaelie Chavez, Wigs and Makeup
Pearl Modine, Costumes
Alia Belinte, Props Run Crew

Craig J. Miller Technical Apprentice Award

Martin Benesh, Electrics

Caroline Chao Memorial Award

Alex Pio, Properties Crafts

Randall R. Lutz Technical Apprentice Award

Leah Anderson, Props Run Crew

SINGERS

Donald Gramm Memorial Award

Thomas Cilluffo, tenor

The Campbell/Wachter Apprentice Award for Singers

Darren LeKeith Drone, bass

The Katharine Mayer Award

Erik Grendahl, baritone

Richard Tucker Award

Anthony León, tenor

The National Federation of Music Clubs Award

Daniel O'Hearn, tenor

Anna Case MacKay Memorial Award

Murrella Parton, soprano

Lillian Caroff Mayer Award

Teresa Perrotta, soprano

Donald & Luke Graham Memorial Award

Sarah Saturnino, mezzo-soprano

Agnes M. Canning Memorial Award

Luke Sutliff, baritone

Outstanding First Year Apprentices

Amber Norelai, soprano

Sejin Park, baritone

Griffen Tracy, bass

Andrew Turner, tenor

About The Santa Fe Opera

The Santa Fe Opera annually draws 85,000 people from New Mexico and around the globe. Nestled atop a mountain vista in northern New Mexico, the company's iconic Crosby Theatre is open on three sides, allowing visitors to enjoy performances complemented by the elements. Since 1957, the company has presented over 2,000 performances of 179 operas by 91 composers spanning five centuries of opera, creating a legacy of 45 American premieres and 18 world premieres.

The mission of the Santa Fe Opera is to advance the operatic art form by presenting ensemble performances of the highest quality in a unique setting with a varied repertory of new, rarely performed, and standard works; to ensure the excellence of opera's future through apprentice programs for singers, technicians and arts administrators; and to foster an understanding and appreciation of opera among a diverse public.

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