

DONOR
IMPACT
REPORT



2020



**Queensland
Government**



Australian Government

**Australia
Council
for the Arts**



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Opera Queensland respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Lands across Queensland and pays respect to their ancestors who came before them and to Elders past, present and emerging.

WELCOME

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year rings true in so many ways. This year has challenged our perceptions of what traditional opera is, what it looks like and how it can be presented. We have remained committed to connecting with our communities and spreading the joy of opera far and wide. Through the virtual sphere this joy has been spread further than ever before.

We are extremely grateful to our loyal donors whose support enables us to realise our goals. When 2020 took an unexpected turn, we established two priorities — to continue to share the wonder of opera, and to support our artists. This year, your support and generosity has reinforced that opera is still a relevant and thriving art form.

Opera Queensland's five core values are creativity, respect, collaboration, virtuosity and joy. Throughout 2020, these values have been tried and tested, supporting the endurance of our organisation.

- Through creativity we embraced and adapted to the various demands as they arose.
- With respect for our artists and art form, we supported our community and continued to create.
- Through collaboration we discovered new ways to engage our audiences.
- Through the virtuosity of our artists and staff we maintained excellence in all our work and projects.
- It was with great joy that we continued to share our art, forging a path to present it when the world told us we could not.

Our 2020 philanthropic journey has shown that we are a community dedicated to:

- Protecting the art form in times of strife, as seen in your ticket donations
- Supporting emerging artists in our Young Artist Program, through our Annual Appeal
- Finding new ways to connect with our artists and audiences by supporting projects like An Aria A Day

While our plans for 2020 were thrown out of whack, 2021 is going to be a better year thanks to your continued dedication to our organisation.

On behalf of everyone at Opera Queensland, I sincerely thank you for your unwavering support. We look forward to growing our community, connected by the transformative power of opera as we bring the arts back to the stage in 2021.



Patrick Nolan
Artistic Director & CEO



ANNUAL APPEAL

In 2020, Opera Queensland was fortunate enough to have our Annual Appeal supported by The Mather Foundation who matched funding up to \$30,000. This appeal was one of our most successful to date, exceeding our target and raising an incredible \$130,000.

Thank you to The Mather Foundation for their generous support and matched funding. Thank you also to every donor who contributed. The funds raised enable Opera Queensland to train emerging artists and

kickstart their careers as professional opera singers. Without the generosity of our donor community, wonderful programs like these would not be possible.

We would also like to congratulate our 2020 Young Artist, Rebecca Cassidy, on what has been an incredible journey of growth and development, made only possible through the unwavering kindness of our donor community.

AN EXQUISITE NIGHT WITH OPERA QUEENSLAND

Our annual fundraising Gala is always a highlight. Covid disrupted our initial plans, but with the assistance of our wonderful Gala Committee, we created An Exquisite Night with Opera Queensland. This intimate event saw guests treated to exquisite food, fine wine and even more spectacular performances in the beautiful Frangipani Ballroom at Emporium Hotel South Bank.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who attended and to all the generous bidders on the night. Your commitment to Opera Queensland means we not only met our target but exceeded it. We were heartened that in the face of this pandemic our community stood behind us. We look forward to sharing our 40th Anniversary Gala in 2021, which will be bigger and better than ever before.





THE CHAIR'S CIRCLE

The Chair's Circle has continued to be a critical initiative for Opera Queensland in 2020. This year has reminded us why building our reserves is so important. This matched funding scheme from the Australia Council provides a timely opportunity to build our reserves by an additional \$500K. If we raise \$500K between 2019–2021, the Australia Council will match this funding, turning it into \$1M.

To our members of The Chair's Circle, we thank you for your significant generosity to this initiative and for securing Opera Queensland's financial future.

TICKET DONATIONS

While it was impossible for many of our performances to go ahead in 2020, our community of audiences and donors reinforced what we already knew; that we have a strong community of loyal audience members and donors who want to see the art form flourish.

When refunds were offered, many donors elected to donate the cost of their tickets.

It was the intention of Opera Queensland to ensure that all our artists were given work where possible to support them in a time where the arts and arts workers struggled.

These contributions enabled us to invest in alternate programs, keeping our artists employed during a difficult time.





AN ARIA A DAY

Rethinking how to engage with audiences in a virtual space, *An Aria A Day* daily video performances were presented by artists from all over the globe.

Each evening at 6pm our community gathered by their screens to be serenaded by a different artist, spreading the joy of opera far and wide to over 1.5 million people.

"Thank you for being present and not 'disappearing' during the pandemic. I see you as being very generous and that you have the community at large on your horizon"

Grace Chapman

VIRTUAL SING SING SING

With Covid-19, Opera Queensland has reimagined how we present our programs, including our much-loved Sing Sing Sing. Instead of meeting at the pub for an evening of song, we brought Jason Barry-Smith into peoples' homes.

These fun-filled Zoom sessions enabled us to engage with our audiences, meet friends old and new, and spread the joy of song even though we couldn't be together.

Thank you to everyone who joined us from far and wide, from Brisbane to Bundaberg, Longreach to London, and Dubbo to Dubai. Your generosity of spirit was a constant source of inspiration.



"This event had me singing with all my might. You are engaged from the minute it starts all the way to the end. I am eager to join all upcoming virtual events. Thank you Opera Queensland for bringing this wonderful company virtual while the world gradually but surely gets back to regularity"

Genevieve Beverley



TE DEUM REGIONAL CHORUS

Following the cancellation of our regional tour of *Tosca*, we connected with our regional communities in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. We invited our community choruses to film themselves singing the 'Te Deum'; the powerful closing piece of Act 1 *Tosca*. These recordings were edited with artists from Opera Queensland to create the Te Deum Regional Chorus video.

Projects like this are made possible through the generous support and contributions of our donor community

"Congratulations to everyone involved in this amazing initiative. The clip looks fabulous the way it has been edited. Thank you again to everyone for providing young people from Qld the opportunity to do something so creative...especially during the most trying times of 2020"

Naomi Michelle Barker

DONORS

LEGACY DONOR

The Estate of Lois Schultz & June Wheeler

THE CHAIR'S CIRCLE

Emeritus Professor David Siddle & Emeritus Professor Christa Critchley, Mr Philip Bacon AM, Emeritus Professor Catherin Bull AM & Emeritus Professor Dennis Gibson AO, Professor Ian Frazer AC[†] & Mrs Caroline Frazer, Dr Colin Furnival & Dr Isobel Furnival, Mrs Mary Gannon & Professor Frank Gannon, Ms Judith Mather, Emeritus Professor Andrew Lister & Ms Kate Lister, Mr Trevor St Baker AO & Mrs Judith St Baker, Dr Susan Urquhart & Dr Philip Aitken[†].

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Queensland Wagner Society, Dr Mark Walker

FOUNDATION DONORS

\$15,000 AND ABOVE

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PLATINUM DONORS

\$10,000-\$14,999

Mrs Beverley Smith.

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Anonymous 1.

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Anonymous 3.

† The Medical Chapter [§] The Legal Chapter

The information in this document is current as of
10/10/20



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Development Team at Opera Queensland, we'd like to thank each and every person who donated in 2020. We look forward to continuing our journey together in 2021 and beyond.

Megan Kair — Director of Development
(right)

Amy Griffin — Development Coordinator
(left)

Erin Robinson — Development Coordinator
(middle)

2020

A SNAPSHOT

An Aria a Day

167 performances from
222 artists in
16 countries performed in
12 languages featuring
8 original works reaching an
audience of **1,642,435**
with a total of **786,722**
video views to date

Te Deum Regional Chorus

Engaged more than
100 local singers in
7 Queensland communities

219 new donors



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