

2021 DONOR IMPACT REPORT



WELCOME

We stepped into 2021 with a sense of optimism and, like many around the world, hopeful the worst of 2020 was behind us. Of course, the virus had other plans and while we have been relatively lucky compared to many of our colleagues in Australia and abroad, the impact of the pandemic continued to disrupt, challenging us to explore new ways to bring the power of opera to Queensland communities far and wide.

The year 2021 marked our 40th anniversary and to celebrate we created as many opportunities as possible to extend our reach and connect with our audiences. In Brisbane this led to a series of bespoke events, where our patrons encountered the wonder of song in wide variety of locations from the factory floor of Urban Art Projects to intimate concerts in peoples' backyards. Beyond Brisbane we embarked upon our most extensive program in the history of the company.

None of this would have been possible without the contribution of our loyal and ever growing community of donors, whose generosity enables so much of what we do. Your support has allowed us to expand our Young Artist Program from one talented singer in 2020 to four in 2021. These young artists are vital ambassadors for Opera Queensland, making an important contribution to Brisbane's cultural life. The generosity of our patrons through the Annual Appeal saw us investing in their professional development for them to build their craft and prepare for the successful careers they are embarking upon.

Regionally we launched the extraordinarily successful Festival of Outback Opera and set out on a tour that visited 30 different centres, travelling over 8,000km and playing to over 11,000 people. With *Are You Lonesome Tonight* we combined the wonder of Opera with the twang of Country delivering this phenomenal art form to new remote and rural audiences that often miss out.

Our schools and community programs also grew in scale, with the creation of a new work for secondary schools and the expansion of our popular Sing, Sing, Sing program taking up residence at the Emporium Hotel.

We were fortunate to host all our Studio Series performances with live audiences, showcasing the exceptional talent at our doorstep in the intimate setting of our Studio. We have been thrilled by audience's enthusiastic response to this series, keen to deepen their understanding of the art form and their relationship with the performers.

The Opera Queensland Gala is fast becoming the "must do" event of our busy social calendars, an opportunity to gather as a community of donors and celebrate all the good born of your generosity. We were humbled by the support received this year, with the results well exceeding our expectations.

The great success of this event would not be possible without the hard work of our Gala Committee. I dare anyone to assemble a group as passionate and stylish as they are. Their willingness to go above and beyond sets a great example for us all. Wait till you see what they have in store for 2022!

The border closures and restrictions meant postponing our performance of *Aida*. With the lessons of the past couple of years well learned, we responded quickly to deliver VERDI, which was a sell-out success. It is thrilling to report that all our main stage performances this year exceeded our targets, a sign that we are on the right track, bringing the joy and wonder of opera to many, including those who are new to opera.

On behalf of everyone at Opera Queensland, a heartfelt thank you for all the support you give to the company. Building a strong culture takes more than passion and good ideas, something our community of donors clearly understands. We are committed to continuing to build Opera Queensland as one of the most dynamic and relevant arts organisations in Queensland and beyond. We look forward to doing this with you over the coming years.

Warm regards



Patrick Nolan
CEO & Artistic Director



Opera Queensland acknowledges the First Peoples of the Lands across Queensland upon which we perform. We pay our respects to all of Queensland's First Peoples, their ancestors and Elders and to our shared future.

ANNUAL APPEAL

We would like to extend a warm thank you to both the Mather Foundation and The Frazer Family Foundation for their critical support, as well as each donor who contributed to this year's annual appeal. It is because of our loyal donors that we are able to bring the transformative power of opera to Queensland communities and continue to provide emerging artists with training to help elevate their careers.

We would like to celebrate our 2021 Young Artists, Rebecca Cassidy, Xenia Puskarz-Thomas, Timothy Newton and Sofia Troncoso, for their commitment to professional growth, which has been made possible by the incredible kindness of our donor community.

With the generous support of the Mather Foundation who matched funding by \$30,000 and The Frazer Family Foundation who matched funding by \$10,000, this year's annual appeal was Opera Queensland's most successful yet, raising over \$149,000.

The Young Artist Program at Opera Queensland has meant a great deal, particularly given the circumstances of the last eighteen months with theatre closures and lockdowns. In such trying circumstances, I have progressed in my career development, found stage experience and also coaching and language tuition, all of which will no doubt prove to be invaluable.

Similarly the YAP has further bridged the gap between the developmental phase of one's career and full scale professionalism, a transition that is very often difficult to make.

The company's attentiveness to the young artists and their developmental needs makes for an enjoyable and productive work environment. The highlights of the YAP journey are perhaps too many to list, but to debut the significant role of Figaro was certainly a watershed moment.

Timothy Newton

The Opera Queensland Young Artist Program has been a great experience. My coaching with Narelle French has been vocally and musically transformative. My absolute highlights were performing in two main stage concerts with Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Encore and VERDI. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity.

Rebecca Cassidy



From left to right: Rebecca Cassidy, Xenia Puskarz-Thomas, Timothy Newton and Sofia Troncoso.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



TOTAL DONATIONS (Including Matched Funding)

2019	\$76,468
2020	\$129,829
2021	\$149,529



REGIONAL REACH

11,537 Regional and rural audiences reached in 2021.




EMPLOYMENT

206 Artists and arts workers employed in 2021.



AVERAGE DONATION (Annual Appeal)

\$849 in 2021

\$485 in 2020



NEW DONORS

201 new donors to the Annual Appeal since 2019.



SCHOOL SHOWS

11,716 Students reached in 2021.

40 AND FABULOUS

As the social event of the year for our generous donors and artists, our annual Gala brings together our community to celebrate the power of giving. This year, we delivered on the promise to go bigger and better than ever before, in celebration of Opera Queensland's 40th anniversary. On the night, guests were wined and dined under the stars at the Brisbane Racing Club, with a menu curated especially for Opera Queensland by Brisbane Racing Club Executive Chef John Felesina.

Along with a fabulous night of food, our hosts Naomi Price and Dane Lam introduced an incredible array of performances from twelve artists and auctioned a suite of prizes. Thank you to all who donated prizes and to all the bidders on the night. Your generosity meant that we exceeded our target with flying colours raising over \$120,000.

We are incredibly humbled by the generosity of our donor community and look forward to seeing you at our Gala in August 2022.

The members of the Gala Committee share a belief in the importance of the arts and the power of storytelling through song.

Our annual fundraising Gala brings together opera lovers and industry leaders whose generous participation in auctions and raffles help OQ support artists and provide school programs from the city to the outback. And, of course, bring the world's most beloved operas to the people of Queensland.

2021 Gala Committee

I was invited to be on the Gala fundraising committee four years ago and it has been a privilege to support the important work OQ does across Queensland. The Gala is a special night that brings together leaders of industry and passionate opera lovers to raise funds through their generosity and donations.

We have a wonderful committee with each member incredibly generous with their time, creativity, enthusiasm and support.

Judy Mather

THE CHAIR'S CIRCLE

Opera Queensland established The Chair's Circle in 2019 to provide the organisation an opportunity to build its reserves, ensuring a strong foundation for the future of opera in Queensland. This initiative has proven to be visionary in light of the uncertain times we have experienced recently.

Over the period of 2019-2021 The Chair's Circle has raised over \$215,000 which will be matched by the Australia Council for the Arts, turning this amount to \$430,000. To reach this target, the Chair's Circle members made an additional contribution on top of their annual donation to secure these reserves. This year, we welcomed two new members to The Chair's Circle, Dr Damien Foong and Ms Judy Mather, bringing the total to 18 members by the end of 2021. We would like to thank each and every member of The Chair's Circle for your contributions and your help securing the financial future of this company.

A Message From The Chair:

I am most grateful to my friends in the Chair's Circle. They joined that initiative because of their love of the art form and a desire to see their local opera company succeed. They pledged financial contributions over three years that were additional to their existing support for the company.

As a result, we were able to take advantage of an offer from the Australia Council for the Arts to match contributions once we had reached a threshold of philanthropic support. This has allowed the company to rebuild its reserves to more than 20% of expenditure. Members of the Chair's Circle can be very proud of their contributions to Opera Queensland and to the art form.



Emeritus Professor
David Siddle
Chair & The Chair's Circle Founder



Save the date for 2022
Saturday 27 August

The Chair's Circle

Emeritus Professor David Siddle &
Emeritus Professor Christa Critchley,
Mr Philip Bacon AO,
Emeritus Professor Catherin Bull AM &
Emeritus Professor Dennis Gibson AO,
Dr Damien Foong & Mrs Xiaohong Foong,
Professor Ian Frazer AC & Mrs Caroline Frazer,
Dr Colin Furnival & Dr Isobel Furnival,
Mrs Mary Gannon & Professor Frank Gannon,
Emeritus Professor Andrew Lister & Ms Kate Lister,
Ms Judy Mather,
Dr Susan Urquhart & Dr Philip Aitken

To join The Chair's Circle visit
oq.com.au/the-chairs-circle

Get in touch:
Email: development@oq.com.au
Phone: (07) 3735 3030

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

We deliver an extensive suite of events throughout the year that not only engage our long-standing, new and prospective donors but also provide the opportunity for Opera Queensland to have meaningful and memorable experiences with our wonderful donor community. These engagement events are made possible through our valued partnerships that play an essential role in giving us the opportunity to understand what our donor community value as audience members and as advocates for Opera Queensland in the community, to make their legacy meaningful.

STRADDIE LONG LUNCH

At the beginning of the year, we hosted our Straddie Long Lunch which was generously donated to us by Opera Queensland's Resident Conductor & Associate Music Director, Dane Lam and his wife, soprano and 2021 Young Artist, Sofia Troncoso.

This event allowed us to spend quality time with our wonderful donors and supporters and gave us the opportunity to discuss the exciting endeavours planned for the year ahead.



SONGS AT TWILIGHT NORTH HARBOUR

Songs at Twilight lit up the evening at North Harbour's picturesque Heritage Park in August. Guests were serenaded by Opera Queensland artist Clarissa Foulcher and 2021 Young Artists, Sofia Troncoso and Timothy Newton.

The North Harbour community were treated to a spectacular bon fire, local delicacies and the transformative power of opera that left every guest moved and wanting more.

SONGS AT SUNSET WEST VILLAGE

Opera Queensland presented Songs at Sunset this October in partnership with West Village. Guests were treated to a delightful pre-performance tasting of all that West Village has to offer, before being seated for an unforgettable performance.

Tenor Rosario La Spina and Young Artist and soprano Rebecca Cassidy blew audiences away with their powerful voices and sensational chemistry whilst Opera Queensland's Head of Music and renowned pianist, Narelle French enchanted the audience with her exquisite talent.



North Harbour's partnership with OQ provides pathways for our residents to engage in community building through shared experiences, whilst also exposing residents to opportunities to engage with aspects of arts and culture that our demographic is not typically familiar with.

Bryan Finney
Project Director **North Harbour**

A FESTIVE SEASON WITH OPERA QUEENSLAND

The end of year is the most wonderful time for our donors and partners to celebrate the Festive Season with Opera Queensland. We are committed to delivering performances that celebrate the year that was all around Brisbane, to delight and excite the community through the season of giving.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS NORTH HARBOUR

Opera Queensland will bring Christmas to Bite Markets and the community this year in partnership with North Harbour.

This free event will allow everyone to come along and join in with some of Opera Queensland's talented artists to celebrate and spread the spirit of Christmas through song.

CAROLS IN THE COMMON WEST VILLAGE

We are delighted to once again hold Carols in the Common this year in partnership with West Village, this intimate concert pairs the wonderful outdoor setting of The Common with Opera Queensland's brilliant artists for a delightful program of festivities and iconic Christmas tunes for a stellar night of celebration under the night sky.

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TOUR

Are You Lonesome Tonight

In 2021 Opera Queensland embarked on the most extensive regional tour to date; *Are You Lonesome Tonight* performed at close to 30 locations across our vast state with the mission to make opera accessible to all Queenslanders, rural and remote. This tour would not have been possible without the generous support of our philanthropy partners the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation whose ongoing support of our Learning, Regional and Community programs enable us to go where we've never been before and create amazing experiences for our audiences.

We would also like to extend a thank you to Arts Queensland and the Playing Queensland Fund whose investment into our regional programs allow us to bring the transformative power of opera to all Queenslanders around the state. Throughout this journey, we were able to forge new and exciting partnerships with Beef Australia, The Southport School, Brisbane Racing Club, Toyota, and Northern Australia Primary Health all of which share our passion for all things community.



There are no words to express the joy this event has brought to our community. I, along with everyone in the Paroo Shire are forever grateful to all the people that made this possible.

Cunnamulla Audience Member



The experience was amazing. So wonderful that Opera Queensland is travelling out to the rural areas to share the experience of opera for those that wouldn't normally make the trip to the bigger regional areas. Thank you for bringing it to Gundy!

Goondiwindi Audience Member

Wow, an amazing blend of two great genres. Very talented and artistic performers. Such a boost for Western Queensland.

Charleville Audience Member



SING SING SING

I really enjoy attending Sing, Sing, Sing with Opera Queensland because it fills me with joy. We learn new songs in a fun, energetic way and meet new friends with similar interests. Some of the nicest people go to Sing, Sing, Sing. It engages my mind and my soul, and I love it!!!!

Janice Stenton
Brisbane Participant



In 2021 we formalised the Emporium Hotel South Bank’s Piano Bar as the home of Sing Sing Sing. These inclusive nights are led by audience favourites Jason Barry Smith and Susan Ellis, accompanied by Opera Queensland artists who work together to connect and engage our community in a mid-week sing along of opera classics.

Although lockdowns due to COVID-19 at times disrupted our planned in-person experience, we were able to successfully adapt to the ever-changing environment. As in 2020, we were quick to host our Sing Sing Sing workshops online giving us the unique opportunity to connect with people from countries including Cambodia, New Zealand, and France, bringing the love of singing to all corners of the globe.



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Emeritus Prof David Siddle &
Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley,
Mr Philip Bacon AO,
Emeritus Prof Catherin Bull AM &
Emeritus Prof Dennis Gibson AO,
Dr Damien Foong & Mrs Xiaohong Foong,
Prof Ian Frazer AC & Mrs Caroline Frazer,
Dr Colin Furnival & Dr Isobel Furnival,
Mrs Mary Gannon & Prof Frank Gannon,
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Ms Judy Mather,
Dr Susan Urquhart† & Dr Philip Aitken†

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Ms Lysette Van-Dooren,
Mr Robert Wilson & Mrs Patricia Wilson,
Anonymous 4

The information in this document is current as of 20/09/21.

† The Medical Chapter

§ The Legal Chapter



Megan Kair – Director of Development (centre)
Simone Vidler – Events and Administration Officer (left)
Alice Marian – Development Assistant (right)

On behalf of the Development Team at
Opera Queensland, we would like to thank each and every donor for their generous
contributions made in 2021.

Your donations are vital for spreading the joy of opera to the Queensland community. We
look forward to continuing our journey together in 2022
and beyond.

PARTNERING TO INSPIRE

Opera Queensland is proud to partner with leading organisations who are committed to enriching lives through this wonderful art form. Each of our partnerships are unique and meaningful. We deliver a tailored suite of exclusive benefits with the intention to exceed expectations. To our Corporate Partners, we thank you for your continued support. If you would like to join us, please phone 07 3735 3030 or email development@oq.com.au

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FUTURE OF OPERA IN QUEENSLAND**

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