

TULSA OPERA

2022 ANNUAL FUND APPEAL 2023





Dear Friend,

This season marks our 75th year in Oklahoma. We are proud to be the oldest arts organization in the state and changemakers who are enthusiastic about a centuries-old art form. Now more than ever, we are focused on understanding your artistic, educational and wellbeing needs. We've made our productions more accessible, evolved our educational programs to reach more students, and developed programs that address health concerns like managing stress, immobility, and memory loss. It's our priority to pursue collaborative partnerships so that we may deliver opera to you in innovative ways and build on our 75-year heritage.

We kicked off our season with changes in our leadership and our repertoire that support our strategy of truly becoming Tulsa's opera. In August of this year, Aaron Beck, a 12-year veteran with Tulsa Opera, who built many of our core outreach and educational initiatives, was promoted to Artistic Director and is updating our artistic vision to better reflect our community. You will notice new production venues and an expanded repertoire in this and future seasons that make the main stage experience more accessible, diverse, and desirable for all.

We strive to cultivate and expand the artistic curiosity of our community. It is our mission to produce professional opera of artistic integrity and enrich our community through innovative, collaborative programming. Last season, we connected with over 40,000 people. With your help, we can grow that number. Please join us this year as we continue to fight for our mission, our community and you, our audience.

Tulsa Opera is an integral part of the community, both in its history and its future; we are a part of Tulsa's DNA. Make your tax-deductible gift today. Invest in Tulsa Opera and ensure our city continues to be a vibrant place to live, work, and play. Together, we can create lasting impact on the lives of thousands in Oklahoma and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Steven Walton".

H. Steven Walton
Board President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ken McConnell".

Ken McConnell
General Director & CEO

**TULSA OPERA
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The Italian Girl



Tulsa Opera opened its 75th anniversary season last month with Rossini's *The Italian Girl*. The company premiere was staged at the TCC VanTrease PACE, a first for us, reflecting our commitment to better serve the Tulsa community. So much of our population lives in South Tulsa, and new venues are key to attracting new audiences.

The diverse cast and production team of *The Italian Girl* tackled the challenges of modernizing a show full of conflicting historical depictions and stereotypes. Collaborating with Artistic Director Aaron Beck and Stage Director Kimille Howard, the entire crew handled the show with great care, affirming our core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Final Dress rehearsal was well attended with 200+ students, teachers and chaperones experiencing a professional level fine arts event. Each season we distribute free tickets to over 500+ young operagoers, many of whom experience opera for the very first time. Members of Tulsa Remote, TYPROS, and Family & Children Services were also in attendance. These Tulsa Opera community partners enjoyed the show, a specially curated pre-show lecture, and a guided backstage tour.

On opening night, Tulsa Youth Opera (TYO) held their annual Pizza Party. TYO students took a break from rehearsals, enjoying fellowship, pizza, and fun before the show. Filstrup Resident Artist Abigail Raiford, a native to Tulsa and Bixby Schools alum, who sang the role of Elvira, talked with students about her career in the opera world and provided onstage tips and vocal coaching, making for an unforgettable night at the opera.

TULSA OPERA'S 75th SEASON CONTINUES!



ONE NIGHT ONLY!
Saturday, February 25 - 7:30pm
Tulsa Performing Arts Center



Friday, May 12 - 7:30pm
Sunday, May 14 - 2:30pm
Tulsa Performing Arts Center



Saturday, June 10, 2023 - 7:30pm
Sunday, June 11, 2023 - 2:30pm
TU's Lorton Performance Center



From memory care centers to parks, schools, parades, ballrooms and local hotspots, we deliver vibrant community programs and innovative, powerful works onstage and off.



Root Tulsa
photo by Destiny Green