



Utah Opera: Fact Sheet

Utah Opera was established by Glade Peterson in 1978 and has been part of our community for nearly 40 years, engaging Utah residents through inspiring operatic performances. In the 1960s and 70s, Peterson established a career as a tenor in opera companies in the U.S. and Europe. His first major operatic role was Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* in 1958. He finally returned to Utah and officially established the Utah Opera Company, serving as General Director until 1990. At Peterson's death that year, Maurice Abravanel said, "Glade Peterson did an incredibly successful job of running the Utah Opera Company with the greatest of artistic and financial success. He deserves our gratitude and will be remembered with a place in Utah's history of the arts."

- Utah Opera's first performance was Puccini's *La bohème* in 1978.
- Utah Opera merged administrations with the Utah Symphony in 2002.
- Utah Opera presents four productions each year. Most regional companies present one to three productions.
- In 1985, Utah Opera was the youngest regional company to run supertitles at every performance.
- Utah Opera is housed in Production Studios where costumes, props and set pieces are made, rented to other companies, and stored.
- Utah Opera's education department brings performances to approximately 70,000 students each year free of charge, which accounts for approximately 10 percent of school opera audiences nationwide.
- Utah Opera has costumes for 45 full productions in its inventory, all available for rental to other opera companies. The most popular are *La bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *The Barber of Seville*.
- Utah Opera has 21 full production sets in its inventory, including four used for the Deer Valley Music Festival. The most frequently rented sets are *The Barber of Seville* and *The Merry Widow*.
- Utah Opera averages \$260,000 in rental revenues each year.
- Utah Opera's current artistic director is Christopher McBeth.



About Utah Opera

Established by Glade Peterson in 1978, Utah Opera has been part of the community for nearly 40 years and engages Utah residents through inspiring opera performances. The opera company presents four annual productions at the historic Capitol Theatre and participates each summer in the Deer Valley® Music Festival in Park City. Utah Opera operates a full production studio where productions are rehearsed and costumes, props and sets are designed, made, rented out and stored. The opera currently has 17 full sets and costumes for 45 full productions in its inventory. Utah Opera also offers a Resident Artist Program, a nationally recognized young artist training program for professional singers and pianists who perform for more than 70,000 students each year through the organization's education department. For more information, visit www.utahopera.org.

The Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre: Fact Sheet

The Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre has been a prominent landmark in Salt Lake City since its opening as a theatre in 1913. Costing \$250,000, it opened under the name of Orpheum and showed vaudevillians (singers, dancers, comedians, and magicians). Movies and the first talking pictures became the main attractions until 1975, when it was renovated. Reopened in 1978 as part of the Salt Lake County Center for the Arts, the Capitol Theatre is now home of Utah Opera, Ballet West, and Broadway Across America. The Capitol Theatre was renovated again in 2013 with donations from the Janet Quinney Lawson Foundation.

- Capitol Theatre was designed by G. Albert Lansburgh, an architect from San Francisco.
- Capitol Theatre can seat up to 1,876 concert-goers.
- Capitol Theatre has a proscenium stage, meaning it has a section of stage in front of the curtain and a large arch over the stage.
- Capitol Theatre's sunburst decoration on the ceiling was added in 1928 and fashioned after the carpet in the Lyon Cathedral in southern France.
- Capitol Theatre has 12 dressing rooms, an original Wurlitzer Organ, and a Founders Room Hospitality Suite
- Capitol Theatre hosts more than 215,000 patrons and 180 cultural events each year including concerts, dance, plays, lectures, and film.
- Auditions for the Fox TV show "So You Think You Can Dance" are held at Capitol Theatre.

