



UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA

2018–2019 Annual Report

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on our 2018–2019 season, we must first acknowledge your generosity and the impact your contributions have made in our community. We are so eager to share the accomplishments that you have helped make possible.

Utah Symphony | Utah Opera is a proud flagship arts organization in the Intermountain West, leading the way in featuring some of the musical world's foremost talent, from 86 full-time musicians and resident opera singers, to internationally renowned guest artists in the symphonic and operatic arenas. Your support enables all of us to enjoy the highest quality of music at Abravanel Hall, the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre, and the Deer Valley® Music Festival.

In addition to the great live music events in our home venues, USUO presents over 200 performances all over the state in schools, community centers and other venues. It is because of you that over 140,000 students all over Utah had access to live music. Thanks to your funding, we can bring the entire Utah Symphony and our Utah Opera Resident Artists to a school in the furthest reaches of southern Utah without a single cost to the school and students. Thirty-six school districts, including 613 schools, all received this gift of live music because of you.

*All of these experiences,
and many more, were
funded by you!*

In the following pages, you will see an incredible year in review. But as we reflect, let us also look to the future. We find ourselves at an important crossroads as we seek the next leadership of Utah Symphony | Utah Opera. As Interim President & CEO and newly-elected USUO Board Chair, we are dedicated to building on USUO's secure foundation, established through artistic excellence and a suite of nationally-recognized community programs.

Thank you for your dedication to connecting our community through great live music. We exist because of you and for you!



Patricia A. Richards
Interim President & CEO



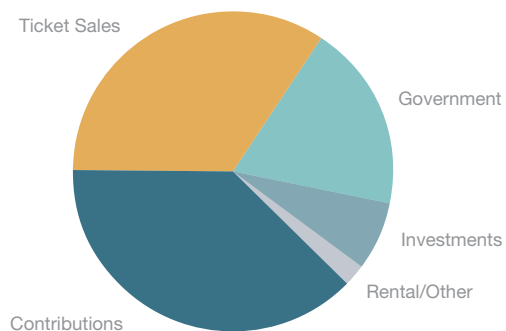
Thomas M. Love
Chair, USUO Board of Trustees

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the seventh year in a row, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera ended the season with a balanced budget. As you can see on the graph below, only 31% of USUO’s revenue came from ticket sales. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, including several cherished bequests, we ended “**in the black.**”

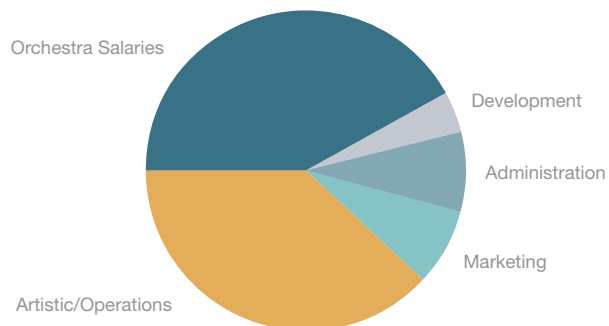
2018–19 Revenues

Contributions	\$8,821,257	38%
Ticket Sales	\$7,862,754	34%
Government	\$4,340,377	19%
Investments	\$1,637,313	7%
Rental/Other	\$372,536	2%
Total	\$23,034,237	100%



2018–19 Expenses

Orchestra Salaries	\$9,752,207	42%
Artistic/Operations	\$8,755,736	38%
Administration	\$1,872,958	8%
Marketing	\$1,726,120	8%
Development	\$919,112	4%
Total	\$23,026,133	100%



OUR 2018-19 AUDIENCE



3,361

Subscribers



+1.4%

Increase in ticket sales
from 2017-18 season



78%

Average renewal rate
for 2018-19 season

Total Concerts In Each Series

18

Masterworks

4

Finishing
Touches

4

Entertainment

3

Family

5

Films in
Concert

7

Specials

4

Operas



27,802

Student Tickets Sold



17,346

Patrons attending
for the first time



67K+

Combined followers for Utah
Symphony and Utah Opera
on social media



620

First-time donors

2018–19 UTAH SYMPHONY HIGHLIGHTS

Utah Symphony premiered a new casual concert-going experience: UNWOUND. Patrons enjoyed lobby activities and grabbed a bite from the food trucks parked outside of Abravanel Hall, before reveling in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and a selection from Andrew Norman's *Play*.

The Films in Concert and Entertainment series continue to delight audiences of all ages. From the otherworldly magic of Harry Potter™ and Star Wars to the sparkle of Pink Martini, tickets to these series increased by 22% for the 2018–19 season.

As a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad, Utah Symphony performed the world premiere of a commissioned work written by Chinese-born American composer Zhou Tian. A few months before the piece was performed, Zhou made a stop at Highland Park Elementary to chat with some fourth graders who had ideas about his piece. To their surprise, some of their suggestions were heard in the premiere!

Utah Symphony was proud to host Philippe Quint as our Artist-in-Association for 2018–19, as well as our Composer-in-Association, Andrew Norman, who returned for the 2019–20 season in that role.



Selected images from an UNWOUND event.



Films in Concert Harry Potter event



Zhou Tian with students at Highland Park Elementary School



Andrew Norman



Philippe Quint

2018–19 UTAH OPERA HIGHLIGHTS



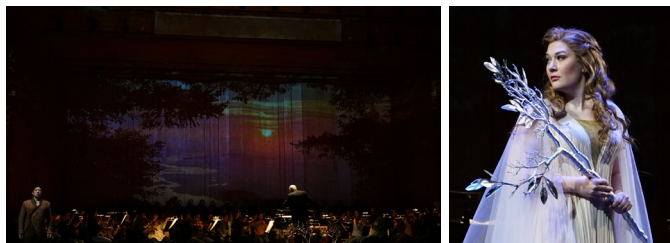
The Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre came alive with the beloved story of *The Little Prince*. Academy Award-winning composer Rachel Portman and librettist Nicholas Wright took audiences on an adventure through Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s cherished tale, with colorful set and costumes designed by Jacob A. Climer and constructed by the artisans at Utah Opera’s scenic and costume studios.



Selected images from Utah Opera production of *The Little Prince*.



10-minute opera with Utah Opera resident artists.



Utah Opera production of Bellini’s *Norma*

Utah Opera also joined in the festivities for the 150th celebration of the Golden Spike with the commission of four 10-minute operas. World Premiere performances took place on May 20–22, 2019 in Brigham City, Ogden, and Salt Lake City featuring the five Utah Opera Resident Artists.

While the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre underwent renovations, Utah Opera premiered a dazzling production of Bellini’s *Norma* at Abravanel Hall. The pinnacle of the Italian *bel canto* repertoire, this new production featured projections from filmmaker Greg Emetaz and costumes by Project Runway Season 12 finalist Bradon McDonald to enhance the stunning vocals of guest artists Marjorie Owens, Annie Rosen, Jonathan Burton, and the Utah Opera Chorus.

2018-19 UTAH SYMPHONY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

One of our most inspiring educational opportunities during the 2018-19 season was the creation of the “Adopt-a-School” program. Thierry Fischer worked with 90 Cottonwood High School musicians as they rehearsed towards a selection from Stravinsky’s *Firebird*. Their hard work culminated on May 20, 2019 with a performance streamed over Facebook Live. 160 additional students followed the Maestro’s baton in real time from their own schools, creating one “Super Orchestra” performance.



Thierry Fischer at Cottonwood High School

“I’ve been going to the symphony longer than I’ve been playing the viola. So, to see the Maestro at Abravanel Hall and now conducting me has been a fantastic experience. I have loved every second of it!”

– Aubrey Henrie, Cottonwood High School

UTAH SYMPHONY SCHOOL CONCERTS

Musicians took their music on the road.



58,650

Students



142

Schools



23

Districts

UTAH SYMPHONY FIFTH GRADE CONCERTS

Fifth graders get to opportunity to experience a concert at Abravanel Hall.



17,400

Students



181

Schools



10

Districts

OPEN REHEARSALS AND TOURS

Students get a first-hand view of concert preparation.



705

Students



8

Schools



8

Districts

SALUTE TO YOUTH

Features students who each perform a movement of a concerto with the Utah Symphony.



7

Students



7

Schools



6

Districts

ALL-STAR EVENING CONCERT

Students chosen to perform side-by-side with the Utah Symphony.



51

Students



30

Schools



14

Districts

MUSICIANS IN THE CLASSROOM

Utah Symphony members conduct rehearsals and masterclasses, and participate in Q&A sessions.



404

Students



8

Schools



5

Districts

2018–19 UTAH OPERA OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Left to right: Jesus Murillo, Grace Kahl, and Christopher Oglesby



Back, left to right: Robert Bosworth, Addison Marlor, and Christopher Oglesby.
Front, left to right: Melanie Ashkar, Grace Kahl, and Jesus Murillo

Although Utah Opera has many ways of bringing opera across the state, one that really hits the high notes with students is *Who Wants to be an Opera Star?* This introduction to opera is designed for elementary school audiences using the format of a TV game show!

Meet our 2018–19 Utah Opera Resident Artists!

Grace Kahl, *Soprano*

Melanie Ashkar, *Mezzo-soprano*

Chris Oglesby, *Tenor*

The Michael & Vickie Callen Resident Tenor

Jesús Murillo, *Baritone*

Robert Bosworth, *Pianist*

Addison Marlor, *Tenor*

(Addison began in January 2019 after Chris joined the esteemed Adler Fellows program at San Francisco Opera!)

UTAH OPERA IN THE SCHOOLS

Opera 101, Freeze Frame: The Elixir of Love, and Opera Up Close.



58,650

Students



142

Schools



23

Districts

OPERA-TUNITIES NIGHTS

Secondary school students were invited to attend final dress rehearsals of Utah Opera's mainstage operas.



2,499

Students



70

Schools



17

Districts

ACCESS TO MUSIC

Utah Opera and Utah Symphony combine to present a concert for children with special needs and their families.



358

Students



125

Schools



15

Districts

ORIGINAL CLASSROOM OPERA PROJECTS

Students create their own operas with guidance from Utah Opera professionals.



728

Students



12

Schools



5

Districts

2018–19 DEER VALLEY® MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Deer Valley® Music Festival continues to delight patrons, providing world-class music in unparalleled natural beauty.

44,261 people attended the festival during the 2019 summer season, enjoying 14 performances on the mainstage at Deer Valley's Snow Park Outdoor Amphitheatre and five chamber concerts at St. Mary's church. Additionally, USUO brought music to Summit County with community pop-up performances. These 11 concerts featured smaller ensembles from the Utah Symphony and Utah Opera in venues such as Park Silly Sunday Market, Miners Park, and galleries along Main Street.

Some summer highlights include the highly anticipated return of Emmy and Tony Award-winning Kristin Chenoweth, the talented Jazz trumpeter Chris Botti, Utah-native Marie Osmond, and *Hamilton* original cast member Renée Elise Goldsberry.

Utah Symphony Associate Conductor Conner Gray Covington was appointed as the Principal Conductor for the Deer Valley® Music Festival's 2019 and 2020 seasons. He conducted nine concerts as a part of the 2019 summer festival on top of his responsibilities as year-round Associate Conductor of the orchestra.



Kristin Chenoweth performing at Deer Valley's Snow Park Outdoor Amphitheatre.



Renée Elise Goldsberry performing at Deer Valley's Snow Park Outdoor Amphitheatre.



DVMF Principal Conductor Conner Gray Covington leads the Utah Symphony in performance at St. Mary's Church.

IN OTHER NEWS...

The 2018-19 season saw the creation of Utah Symphony | Utah Opera's new young professionals group, the Upbeat Society of Emerging Leaders. The Upbeat mission is to foster a sustainable community of young USUO patrons, create a pipeline for future donors, and connect up-and-coming professionals in the vital work of community leadership. Members get exclusive access to social events, behind-the-scenes experiences, education opportunities, and more!



Utah Symphony's recording of Saint Saëns' Symphony No. 2, 'Urbs Roma' Symphony, and *Danse Macabre* was released in May 2019 to critical acclaim. This is the second recording of a three-volume cycle and is part of a project which marks the first recording of all five Saint-Saëns symphonies by an American orchestra.

"Thierry Fischer and the Utah Symphony's performances here are polished and graciously articulate...Madeline Adkins plays the solo violin part alluringly yet with a slightly devilish edge in her tone. The entire programme is recorded with crystalline clarity...I'm already craving the next installment."

-Gramophone

"...it's altogether possible that it's the performance [of the Symphony No. 2 in A minor] that makes the piece sound so convincing, as it's easily the finest the work has yet received on disc...there's also a sparkle and subtlety in its playing that will inspire slack-jawed admiration."

-Fanfare

Connect the Community through Great Live Music. **Perform. Engage. Inspire.**

Patricia A. Richards

Interim President & CEO

Thierry Fischer

Symphony Music Director

Christopher McBeth

Opera Artistic Director

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Doyle Clayburn

Utah Symphony Guild

Mark Stratford

Onstage Ogden

UTAH SYMPHONY
THIERRY FISCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Our mission is to...

Connect the Community through Great Live Music.

Perform. Engage. Inspire.

Ticket Office

PH (801) 533-6683

FAX (801) 869-9048

usuo.org

Abravanel Hall

123 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

PH (801) 533-5626

FAX (801) 896-9026

Production Studios

336 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

PH (801) 736-4605

FAX (801) 869-9051