



## Utah Symphony | Utah Opera 2019-2020 Season Summary

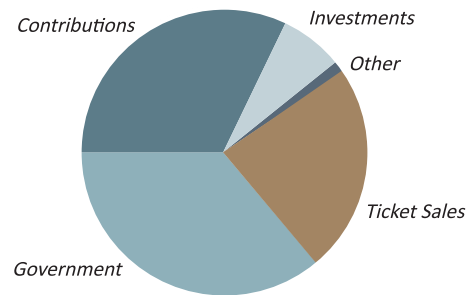
Utah Symphony | Utah Opera (USUO) re-imagined its art-forms and audiences, and upheld a reputation for thrilling interpretations of the timeless classics during the 2019-20 season. This has been a season notable for successful new initiatives, followed by major adjustments to sustain USUO through six months when live performances were impossible.

Prior to the local outbreak of the pandemic, USUO had presented from September through mid-March 46 symphony concerts at Maurice Abravanel Hall and ten opera performances at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre, as well as concerts in Ogden, Orem, Provo, St. George, and Cedar City. Education programs had already reached 98,879 students and 4,305 teachers in every Wasatch Front school district and eight other school districts outside of the northern Utah metro area.

In spite of the cancelled performances and loss of ticket revenue, USUO ended the 2019-20 season with a total earned income of \$21.4 million. Due to the incredible generosity of all of our dedicated patrons, local government entities, the SBA Loan, and more, USUO successfully navigated months without performances.

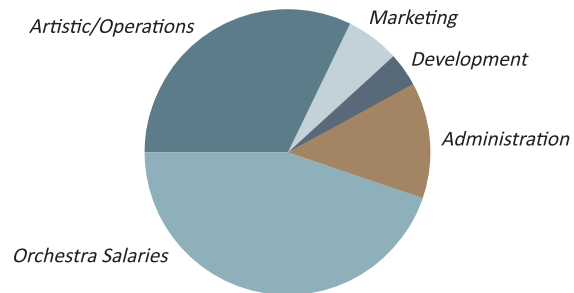
### 2019-2020 Revenues\*

Contributions	\$5,998,112	32%
Ticket Sales	\$4,120,436	22%
Government	\$6,378,186	35%
Investments	\$1,663,060	9%
Other	\$305,308	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,465,101</b>	<b>100%</b>

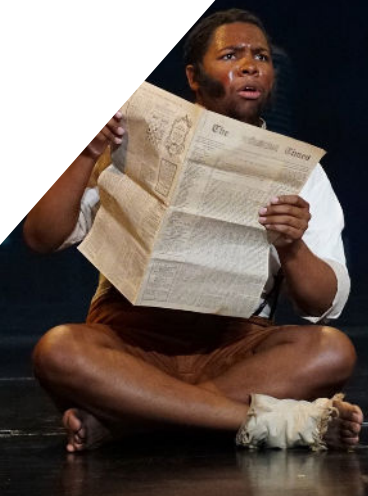


### 2019-2020 Expenses

Orchestra Salaries	\$7,963,002	44%
Artistic/Operations	\$5,554,701	31%
Administration	\$2,511,802	14%
Marketing	\$1,354,045	7%
Development	\$670,557	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,054,107</b>	<b>100%</b>



*\*Thanks to the PPP loan, other sources of funding and expense saving due to furloughs, USUO was able to complete the fiscal year with a surplus. Absent these funding sources and cost-cutting measures, USUO would have seen a substantial deficit in 2019-20 due to COVID-19. The 2019-20 surplus has enabled USUO to open its 2020-21 season with a revised performance schedule with a head start toward achieving stability in the current season – one full of uncertainty.\**



## Notable events of the 2019-20 season included:

Launch of USUO's Hispanic-Latino initiative. Events included ¡Celebración Sinfónica! at Abravanel Hall in September 2019, an evening of Latin American music presented by Utah Symphony under the direction of Mexican conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto. There were performances by local Latino groups in the lobby and on the plaza generated a festive mood that resonated all night. The symphony presented the Day of the Dead-themed film *Coco* in November, and Maestro Prieto also returned that month to conduct two Masterworks concerts which included Spanish and Mexican works.

Inception of a new ongoing USUO series at Utah Valley University (UVU) in Orem. Of the six symphony concerts scheduled for the 2019-20 season at UVU's new Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, five had taken place before the pandemic. Located in the youngest and fastest-growing county in Utah and amid "Silicon Slopes" high-tech businesses, this series promises to reach new and non-traditional audiences. We look forward to growing our connection in Utah County when we're able to return to performances at the Noorda.

Utah Symphony's 2019-20 Composer-in-Association, Andrew Norman, one of the nation's foremost composers, spent two weeks in Salt Lake City. In addition to participating in Utah Symphony rehearsals for performances of his works, Mr. Norman met with high school and university composition students to provide feedback on their scores and share his career experiences. He worked with three youth orchestras to coach instrumental techniques and rehearse an orchestral piece he had composed for young musicians, *Music in Circles*.

Utah Opera's production of *Silent Night*, through five performances in January, enjoyed an audience of nearly 5,000. A group of 438 high school students and teachers attended the final dress rehearsal. Every performance included a pre-performance lecture and post-performance question-and-answer session with cast members. On opening night, audiences heard directly from the opera's composer and librettist team of Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell, who also spent time in local schools with music students and teachers while they were in Utah. Utah Opera partnered with Vet Tix to provide tickets at no charge to veterans, and before each performance we recognized the veterans present in our audience. One especially poignant feature of the production, commented on by many patrons, was the wall of remembrance that listed all of the Utah citizens who died during their service in WWI.

The commissioning from a Utah composer, Margot Murdoch, and playwright, Kathleen Cahill, of a one-act opera, *The Better Man*, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and 150th anniversary of Utah women casting their first vote. The opera was performed by Utah Opera Resident Artists at six venues statewide, and was based on the story of Martha Hughes Cannon, who ran against her husband for a seat in the Utah State Senate in 1896 and won, becoming the first female state senator in the nation. Utah Opera Resident Artists performed "The Better Man" within a program of other works by female composers in Gunnison, St. George, Ogden Union Station, Burch Creek Elementary (Weber School District), and in Salt Lake City at the former Ladies' Literary Club and a Utah Cultural Alliance event. Utah Opera plans to continue performances of *The Better Man* in schools and community settings when it is feasible.

Adoption by Utah Opera of the theatre and choral music programs at Salt Lake City's West High School. Starting in September, members of Utah Opera's artistic staff coached and advised student performers and set and costume crews for the school's annual musical theatre production. Students also "shadowed" stage management and crew for Utah Opera's mainstage productions of *La traviata* and *Silent Night* and attended presentations by the guest artists. Cancelled by the pandemic were a joint choral concert to be presented by the high school choir and Utah Opera Chorus, and the appearance of students in non-singing roles for the Opera's mainstage production of *The Barber of Seville*. USUO plans to resume its "Adopt-A-School" project with West High when it is safe to do so.

