

UTAH SYMPHONY
THIERRY FISCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR



SUMMER HOME OF
UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA

2016-17 **ANNUAL REPORT**

*Connecting the Community
through Great Live Music*

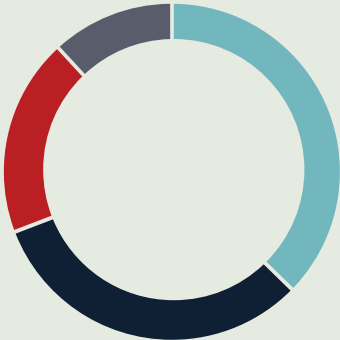


Financials as of October 9, 2017

Thanks to you, our patrons and donors, we closed our 2016–17 fiscal year with a balanced budget for the fifth consecutive year.

REVENUES

\$22,725,825

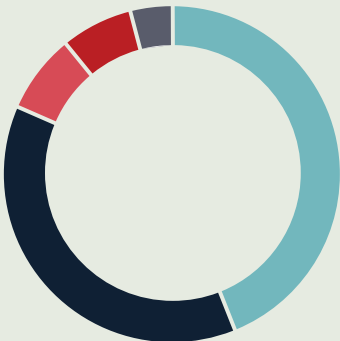


2016–17 REVENUES

| | | | |
|--|---|-----|-------------|
| Contributions from Individuals, Foundations & Corporations | ● | 37% | \$8,505,123 |
| Performance | ● | 32% | \$7,233,407 |
| Government Grants | ● | 19% | \$4,316,946 |
| Investment & Set/Costume Rental | ● | 12% | \$2,670,349 |

EXPENSES

\$22,699,149



2016–17 EXPENSES

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-------------|
| Orchestra Salaries & Benefits | ● | 44% | \$9,985,950 |
| Artistic & Operations | ● | 37% | \$8,496,781 |
| Administration | ● | 8% | \$1,704,926 |
| Marketing | ● | 7% | \$1,603,834 |
| Development & Gala | ● | 4% | \$ 907,661 |

GIVE NOW & SUPPORT the excellent live music performances you experience in our home venues, and the music performances in schools and communities across the state of Utah.

USUO.ORG/GIVE
801.869.9015

Dear friends,

While no two seasons are the same, we are happy to report that the 2016–17 year, like its predecessor the Utah Symphony’s 75th anniversary season, was both artistically and financially successful.



Under the direction of Maestro Thierry Fischer, the Utah Symphony has continued to perform at the highest levels to produce momentous, exhilarating performances, offering our audiences world-class soloists such as pianists Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman, and artistically rewarding cycles by Brahms, Beethoven, and Ives. On the road, the Symphony created new friends and impact, performing free concerts against Utah’s breathtaking landscapes on the *Great American Road Trip*, and strengthening a country through music with our musician-led Blume Haiti initiative. The year ended with record attendances at the Deer Valley® Music Festival.



Utah Opera, fostered by Christopher McBeth’s artistic direction, also saw increased attendance with such audience favorites as *Carmen* and *Man of La Mancha*, coupled with a venture into new territory with the deeply moving reflection on the traumas of war, *The Long Walk*. Another season highlight was Resident Artist Abigail Rethwisch’s thrilling and memorable last-minute stand-in performances of Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Thank you for creating memories, bringing together communities, and breaking boundaries with us. Please take a moment to enjoy our Annual Report.

Paul Meecham
PRESIDENT & CEO

Dave Petersen
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2014–17)

Classically Charged

Utah Symphony's reputation and artistic quality were preserved with the live recording of Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kijé Symphonic Suite and Alexander Nevsky Cantata, scheduled for release in spring 2018.

IN ADDITION to hearing familiar favorites, audiences experienced the U.S. premiere of composer Michael Jarrell's *Aquateinte*, breathtakingly performed by oboist François Leleux.

WE INTRODUCED a new performance format with three sold-out presentations of the film *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™*, screened in high definition to live orchestral accompaniment of the John Williams score.

Madeline Adkins joining
as Concertmaster

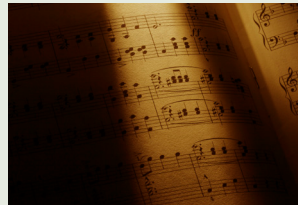


Music provides hope and through hope comes motivation."

—THIERRY FISCHER, *Utah Symphony Music Director*



Prokofiev recording project



Ives Symphony Cycle



Michael Jarrell Oboe Concerto commission

UTAH SYMPHONY BY THE NUMBERS:

85

Orchestra Musicians

50

Guest Artists

15

Guest Conductors

89

Symphony Chorus
Members

107,245

Tickets Sold

Escape Into The Music

As the summer home of the Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, the Deer Valley® Music Festival allows USUO artists to perform rock-and-roll, bluegrass, film scores, classical music, Broadway hits, and more.



This summer we were dancing, jiving, and experiencing beautiful, heartfelt vocal artistry. It was a true honor to be joined by **Lisa Vroman, Patti Austin, Leslie Odom, Jr., Diana Krall, and Ben Folds**. We also sang along with **The Beach Boys**, *Disney in Concert: A Dream is a Wish*, and *Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles*. And what an exciting spectacle it was to see the hill full during *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™*.

DEER VALLEY® MUSIC FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS:

12

Concerts at Deer Valley® Snow
Park Amphitheater

4

Chamber Concerts
at St. Mary's Church

9

Guest Conductors

40,700

Tickets Sold

12

Guest Artists

Every voice tells a story

A special highlight of our opera season and an anchor to the 2016–17 Cultural Festival: “Arts in Service to the Military,” The Long Walk inspired conversation between artists and the community. Free admission was offered to veterans and active service personnel. The Western USA premiere of this opera, based on Iraq veteran Brian Castner’s book by the same name, brought people together and shined a spotlight on the unseen battle a soldier fights when he comes home.



Producing *The Long Walk* was one of the most moving experiences of my career and that of many other Utah Opera staff. More importantly, it was one of the best examples of how the performing arts addressing current topics can be so incredibly powerful.”

—CHRISTOPHER MCBETH, *Utah Opera Artistic Director*



UTAH OPERA BY THE NUMBERS:

70

Costume Pieces Constructed
with 350 yards of fabric

81

Utah Opera Chorus
Members

70

Guest Artists

28,028

Tickets Sold

On the Path to Musical Discovery

Thanks to generous support from the Utah State Legislature's Professional Outreach Programs in the Schools and the Elizabeth Brown Dee Fund for Music in the Schools, education programs for both symphony and opera helped students explore musical elements, enhance their listening skills, build their music vocabulary, and make connections between cultural and historical contexts.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW SYMPHONY EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR:



Student Soloist at Maurice Abravanel Hall

FULL ORCHESTRA and chamber ensembles demonstrated musical concepts based on thematic material to classrooms throughout Utah in a variety of programs. Our musicians conducted school ensembles in rehearsals, led sectional rehearsals, and performed side-by-side with students during our rehearsal through our *Musicians in the Classroom* program.



Fifth-Grade Concerts

FIFTH-GRADE CONCERTS gave 25,000 students the opportunity to hear the symphony in acoustically-acclaimed Abravanel Hall in a performance entitled "All in the Family," an overview of the different families of instruments within the orchestra. The selections and classroom prep materials all tied to the 5th-grade curriculum and enhanced learning in other subjects.



Hillside Middle School

The kids were so amazed by the sound of the professional orchestra, and I believe it has helped some of them set loftier goals for themselves."

—MUSIC TEACHER, *Hurricane Intermediate School*

WE SHARED OPERATIC AND ORCHESTRAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCES WITH:

518

Schools

668

Home School Students

33

School Districts

917

Instructional Hours

6,157

Teachers

140,468

Students

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OPERA EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR:

PERFORMED BY OUR FIVE RESIDENT ARTISTS who are selected through national auditions, Utah Opera in-school programs are interactive assemblies designed for specific age groups that demonstrate performance skills, musicianship, and musical concepts and genres.



In my class we talked about how you can communicate with people in ways other than talking, and the opera was a great way to extend that thinking."



"It was a great introduction to using voice as an instrument, and it was helpful to get the students excited about singing."

Teacher, *Hawthorn Academy*



Early Light Academy



Highland Park "Tales of Courage"

MUSIC! WORDS! OPERA!

A teacher training workshop designed to encourage year-long cross-curricular learning, resulted in 17 student-created operas, with three of the original productions showcased at the sixteenth Annual Children's Opera Showcase.

Sharing the Power of Music

With a commitment to sharing the transformative power of music, our outreach programs fulfill community needs and change lives.



320

attendees at
*Making Sense of
Alzheimers Month
Activities*

« UTAH OPERA RESIDENT ARTISTS
AT HIGHLAND COVE



We brought my nephew, Gabriel, who is five years old. He's in a wheelchair and is almost completely blind, but he loves music. It's hard to find things that he can really enjoy, but my goodness, this was one of them!"

— BECCA MORALES

113

attendees at *Blind
and Visually-Impaired
Night at the Opera*



650

attendees at *Access to Music:
A Concert for Children
& Families with Special Needs*

« FAMILIES ENJOY
ACCESS TO MUSIC

Forging Connections with Communities

This exciting collaboration with the Utah Office of Tourism, the Natural History Museum of Utah, and the Consortium of Dark Skies took music outside of the four walls of the concert hall into the breathtaking landscapes of our state.



We focused not only on the natural beauty of Utah but also the cultural beauty, and the human beauty, we find around us."

—THIERRY FISCHER, *Utah Symphony Music Director*

The tour highlighted the natural elements through song, classical repertoire, storytelling, and exciting outreach opportunities in free concerts with the full orchestra conducted by Utah Symphony Music Director Thierry Fischer in the communities of Springdale, Bluff, and Vernal.



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARC ESTABROOK, SCOTT JARVIE, KENT MILES, AARON SAIN, & DANA SOHM

MISSION

Connect the Community through
Great Live Music.

PERFORM » ENGAGE » INSPIRE

VISION

USUO will be recognized nationally as a leader
in artistic excellence, community service,
innovative thinking, sound governance, and
financial stability.

We aspire to be known as a top orchestra and
opera company, a renowned summer music
festival, a destination for artists, an inspiration
for audiences, and the beloved cultural
treasure of our entire state and beyond.

UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA

Abrahamson Hall
123 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

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