

OPERA AMERICA YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

OPERA America serves artists, administrators, trustees, and audience members in supporting the creation, presentation, and enjoyment of opera.

OPERA America is an action-oriented think tank for the field, partnering with members to access the power of collective experience, gather insight, and share successful practices. This was on full display in 2024 — when special projects like the World Opera Forum, a national research study into first-time

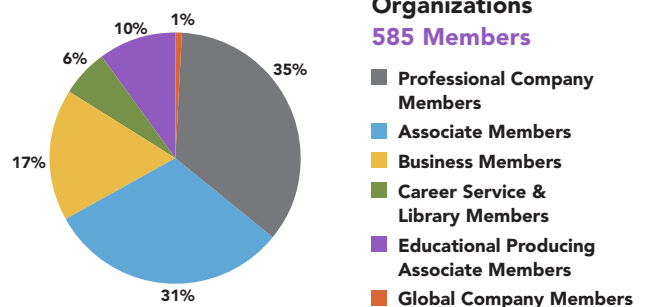
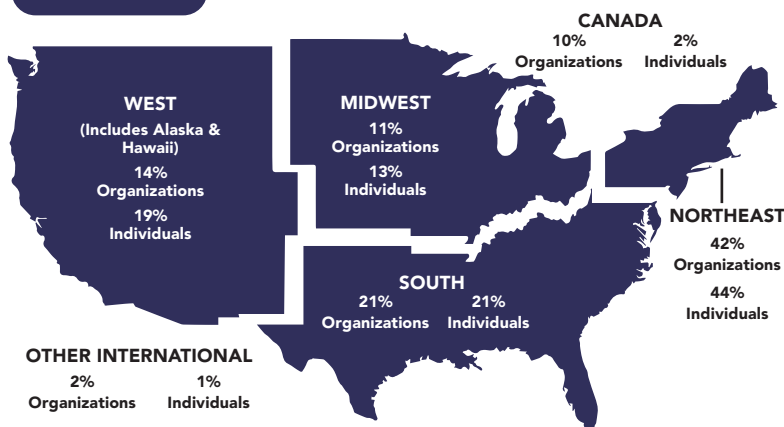
operagoers, and the launch of the Opera Passport program demonstrated the collaborative spirit of the industry. Alongside these highlights was a broad portfolio of services and programs to help members strengthen communities across the country, and around the world, through opera.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

The Community

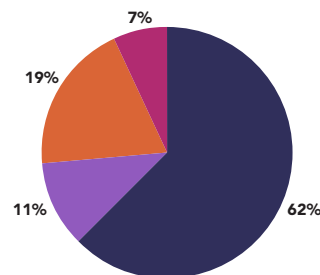
OPERA America has built an extensive membership base of nearly 600 professional opera companies, educational institutions, and opera-related businesses — representing more than 40,000 staff members, artists, and trustees — in addition to nearly 3,000 individuals invested in the vitality and growth of the art form.

MEMBERSHIP



Organizations 585 Members

- Professional Company Members
- Associate Members
- Business Members
- Career Service & Library Members
- Educational Producing Associate Members
- Global Company Members



Individuals 2,780 Members

- Artist
- Aficionado
- Trustee
- Administrator

The Convener

Collective learning is the heart of OPERA America's national conference, forums, and network convenings each year. The 2024 Opera Conference took on new proportions in conjunction with the second-ever World Opera Forum, hosted by LA Opera in partnership with Opera Europa, Ópera Latinoamérica, and the Association for Opera in Canada.

OPERA CONFERENCE 2024 & WORLD OPERA FORUM

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT FROM C. GRAHAM BERWIND, III

801 Total Attendees

221 Organizations in Attendance

181 Artists in Attendance

56 World Opera Forum Official Delegates

26 Countries Represented Across 6 Continents

"I had terrific conversations with my counterparts at companies around Oceania and Asia, including New Zealand Opera, Opera Australia, Seoul Arts Center, and the New National Theatre Tokyo — all potential partners with Hawai'i Opera Theatre in future years."

— ANDREW MORGAN, GENERAL DIRECTOR, HAWAI'I OPERA THEATRE (FORUM AND CONFERENCE ATTENDEE)

CONVENINGS

SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND OTHERS



365 Participants in Forums

1,082 Participants in Webinars

3,900 Participants in Network Zoom Meetings

184 Participants in Virtual Regional Meetings



The Counselor

Throughout the year, OPERA America provides career and professional development for administrators, artists, and trustees through webinars, seminars, and mentorship programs.

CAREER SERVICES

634 Artists in Career Advancement Programs

43 Administrators in Professional Development Programs

"I left the Leadership Intensive not only with a strengthened skillset but also with incredible connections and colleagues who have become lifelong friends. It has provided me with an international support network, brought me closer to OPERA America, and empowered me as an administrator in ways I couldn't have imagined."

— ALEXIS PERT, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, BETH MORRISON PROJECTS' PRODUCER ACADEMY (LEADERSHIP INTENSIVE 2023 PARTICIPANT)

Mentorship Program for Opera Leaders of Color

SUPPORTED BY BIPOC ARTS, ANNE-MARIE BLANCQUAERT AND WALTER BRUYNINCKX, COREY KINGER, AND AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Mentee: Jasmine Johnson, Portland Opera

Mentor: Dennis Robinson, Seattle Opera

Mentee: Dione Parker Bennett, Opera Columbus

Mentor: Jennifer Bowman, Houston Grand Opera

Mentee: Zuly Inirio, Afro-Latinx Song and Opera Project

Mentor: Alejandra Valarino Boyer, Ravinia Steans Music Institute

RESEARCH

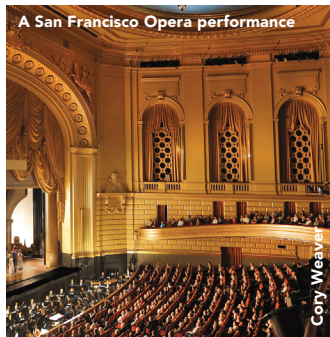
OPERA America continues to expand its research and databases as resources to provide informed consultations to members with custom benchmarking reports and to represent the field to funders, policymakers, and the media. 2024 research included:

Professional Opera Survey

Salary/HR Survey

Ticket Trends Survey

Understanding Opera's New Audiences



TRUSTEE SERVICES

OPERA America engages opera company trustees in a variety of programs to cultivate good governance, including webinars, forums, and customized on-site consultations.

625 Trustees in Governance Programs

National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards

SUPPORTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

Brian James Dawson, Tapestry Opera

Maria Lagios, Chicago Opera Theater

Claire Liu, Houston Grand Opera

William Miller, Opera Columbus

Leah Solat, Annapolis Opera

Jennifer Suh Whitfield, HERE Arts Center



Understanding Opera's New Audiences

SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, BOB ELLIS, JOHN NESHOLM, AND THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

OPERA America published a national research study with insights into the motivations, experiences, and barriers faced by new opera audiences in the years following the pandemic. Learn more on page 4 and at operaamerica.org/NewAudiences.

36 Participating Opera Companies

11K Survey Response

7 Key Findings

The Granter

OPERA America's strategic approach to grantmaking has catalyzed important change in the industry. A total of \$24 million awarded in the past four decades has supported the creation and production of new work, audience-building initiatives, innovative business practices, and the discovery of new creative voices. Sixty percent of OPERA America's annual grants support women and BIPOC composers and librettists.

\$622K Total Grants to Companies

248 Grant Applications from Companies

33 Companies Supported by Grants

\$160K Total Grants to Composers & Librettists

170 Grant Applications from Composers & Librettists

13 Composers & Librettists Supported by Grants

"The Discovery Grant has offered my work significant visibility and appreciation within the industry it previously did not enjoy. The continued interest in and development of the piece is truly a product of having received the grant."

— ANNIE GOSFIELD, COMPOSER (2023 DISCOVERY GRANT RECIPIENT)

GRANTS AWARDED



Awards for Digital Excellence in Opera

SUPPORTED BY THE JOSEPH AND ROBERT CORNELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Sweat – a film by The Bicycle Opera Project (Koniuk/Nichols)

A Pocket Magic Flute (Pocket Opera/Lorraine Hansberry Theatre)

Everest: An Immersive Experience (Staufenbiel/Paiement)

Threepenny Submarine Season 1 (Opera 5/Gazelle Automations)

Campbell Opera Librettist Prize

SUPPORTED BY MARK CAMPBELL, WILLIAM MURRAY, BETTE AND JOSEPH HIRSCH, AND AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Kelley Rourke

IDEA Opera Grants

SUPPORTED BY THE CHARLES AND CERISE JACOBS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Nathan Felix and Anita Gonzalez | *Faces in the Flames*

Danielle Olana Jagelski and Rhiana Yazzie | *Little Ones*

Jorge Sosa | *Generación Perdida*



Marineau Opera Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors

SUPPORTED BY THE MARINEAU FAMILY FOUNDATION

Beth Morrison Projects | Elizabeth Askren

Detroit Opera | Nataki Garrett
IN Series | Shanara Gabrielle

Kentucky Opera | Kimille Howard
LA Opera | Lina González-Granados

National Sawdust | Kaneza Schaal

Opera Colorado | Chía Patiño

Opera Orlando | Roberta Emerson

Opera Steamboat | Amanda Berg Wilson

Resonance Works | Keturah Stickann

NYC Opera Grants

SUPPORTED BY THE HOWARD GILMAN FOUNDATION

Amanda + James

Association for the Development of Vocal Artistry and Neighborhood Cultural Enrichment

Experiments in Opera
Harlem Opera Theater

International Brazilian Opera Company

The Lighthouse Opera Company

New Music Theatre Project

Opera Ebony

Opera Hispánica

Opera Praktikos

Opera Grants for Women Composers: Commissioning Grants

SUPPORTED BY THE VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN FOUNDATION

American Lyric Theater | *She Who Dared* (Barnes/Mouton)

On Site Opera | *Lucidity* (Kaminsky/Cote)

Opera on Tap | *The Singing Cabinets* (Sankaram/Dye)

Opera Saratoga | *DRIFT* (Weinberg/Barizo)

Spoletto Festival USA | *Not Yet Titled* (Prestini/Lewis)

Opera Grants for Women Composers: Discovery Grants

SUPPORTED BY THE VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN FOUNDATION

Jasmine Arielle Barnes | *She Who Dared*

Sivan Eldar | *Nine Jewelled Deer*

Whitney George | *NO MAN'S LAND*

Rebecca Gray | *BUS Opera*

Elizabeth Hoffman | *On Circe*
Sultana Isham | *Rogue Objects*

Dina Maccabee | *Roses Are Blue*

Repertoire Development Grants

SUPPORTED BY OPERA AMERICA'S FUND

American Lyric Theater | *She Who Dared* (Barnes/Mouton)

Calgary Opera | *Namwayut* (Cusson/Attariwala/Nolan)

Des Moines Metro Opera | *American Apollo* (Geter/Palmer)

Long Beach Opera | *Asunción* (Cha/Cadenas)

Opera Parallèle | *Hello, Star* (Lucero/Lee)

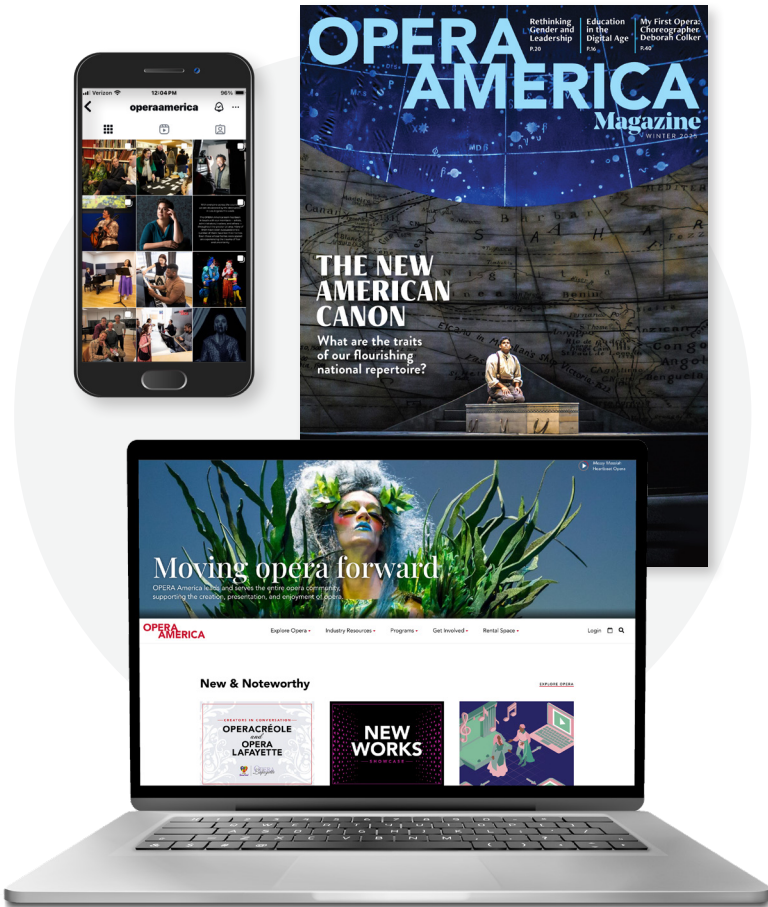
Pittsburgh Opera | *Time to Act* (Kaminsky/Manich)

The Santa Fe Opera | *Interplanetary Opera* (Nagle)

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

The Advocate

OPERA America believes that sharing knowledge at all levels of the opera ecosystem is crucial to supporting the industry. The quarterly *Opera America Magazine* and expansive library of video and text resources on the OPERA America website are go-to destinations for learning across the sector.



ADVOCACY

OPERA America leads the field in advocating for national, state, and local policies that strengthen the arts in American life. A new advocacy toolkit, published in 2024 at operaamerica.org/AdvocacyGuides, helps opera companies activate their constituencies.

700 Views of the Advocacy Toolkit

OPERA HALL OF FAME

OPERA America announced the 2024 inductees into the Opera Hall of Fame, elevating their achievements as models for others working in and supporting the art form.

Adele Addison, soprano and teacher

Justino Díaz, bass-baritone and teacher

Jake Heggie, composer and mentor

Carol F. Henry, founding trustee and philanthropist

Wayne Sanders, founder, Opera Ebony

Sarah Billingham Solomon, artistic administrator and philanthropist

Teresa Stratas, soprano and actress

OPERA PASSPORT BY OPERA AMERICA



Opera Passport launched in 2024 as a reciprocal ticket discount program that extends the benefits of a hometown opera subscription to companies across North America.

108 Participating Companies

100K Operagoers with Access to Discounts

REACH OF SERVICE

202K Visitors to operaamerica.org

2,527 Reads of *Opera America Magazine* online

12,500 Readership of *Opera America Magazine* in print

16,800 E-newsletter Subscribers

52K Followers across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn

The Home



OPERA America’s National Opera Center in midtown Manhattan has become the physical heart of a dispersed but inherently collaborative industry. Its custom-built facilities welcomed over 75,000 visitors in 2024 for auditions, rehearsals, recordings, and more. Earlier this year, the Opera Center’s lease was renewed favorably through 2042.

NATIONAL OPERA CENTER

75K Visitors

PROGRAMMING AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE.



STUDIO HAPPY HOURS

SUPPORTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND NATIONAL OPERA CENTER BOARD MEMBERS

To amplify its support of individual artists, OPERA America made the Opera Center more accessible than ever before with subsidized rehearsal rates starting at \$5 per hour.

3,647 Hours Used

609 Clients

“Having an affordable space that I could come to numerous times a week changed the game for me, and helped me secure work as a pianist and actor to such a point where I was able to quit my day job and pursue my dreams full-time.”

— STUDIO HAPPY HOURS RENTER

OPERA AMERICA ONSTAGE



SUPPORTED BY THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

OPERA America’s signature public programming — including interviews, recitals, and other events — featured mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey, librettists Deborah Brevoort and Stephanie Fleischmann, composer Jeanine Tesori, general director and countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, OPERA America’s IDEA Opera Resident Artists, and the winners of OPERA America’s Awards for Digital Excellence in Opera.

954 Attendees in Person and Online

2024 OPERA America
Year in Review is excerpted from
the *2024 Annual Field Report*, available
at operaamerica.org/AFR2024.

Access the *Annual Field Report* Online

Download this year's *Annual Field Report* —
plus spreadsheets of complete financial data
— at operaamerica.org/AFR.

All Annual Field Reports since 2006 available online.

