

Where Passion Meets Performance





“The inspired sets and principals’ costumes, rented from Seattle Opera, anoint Artistic Director Steffanie Pearce as a shopper par excellence. There were a few gasps at the golden depths of its Gothic church, layered cleverly via staggered backdrops.”

– *Naples Daily News*
review of *Tosca*

Overview and History

Nurturing the art and soul of our community

An integral part of the community, Opera Naples brings internationally renowned performers and directors to Southwest Florida, while also encouraging and supporting talented local and regional performers. The opera company produces several works per season in a variety of styles, including Classic Grand Opera, American Opera, contemporary or lesser-known works, and Operetta.

The word, “opera,” is derived from the Italian, “opus,” which means, “work of art.” This art form is a combination of every art form: singing, orchestral music, acting, dancing, mime, costumes and scenic design, as well as painting, lighting and makeup design. Nothing impacts your ears, eyes, mind and heart – all at once – like the opera!

Opera Naples was an idea whose time had come. The year was 2005. The vision: to establish a regional opera company in Southwest Florida. Among the visionaries were Steffanie Pearce-Vasquez, Sam Vasquez, Jr., Ronald Doiron, Jean Seidel and Livio Ferrari, who served as the original Board of Directors. Opera Naples’ debut event was a Viennese-style New Year’s Eve Ball hosted by the Community School of Naples.

Puccini’s powerful and dramatic *Tosca* was the first fully staged production presented by Opera Naples, followed by *Amahl and the Night Visitors/L’Enfant Prodigue*. These classic operas were presented in 2006. Just one year later, Opera Naples was named Best Performing Arts Group for 2007 by Naples’ prestigious *Gulfshore Life* magazine. During its modest, but stunningly successful lifespan, Opera Naples has produced numerous beloved operas and earned significant praise from both critics and patrons.

A milestone was reached in 2009, when Opera Naples purchased a building on Linwood Avenue, in the Bayshore-Gateway Triangle, a redevelopment area focusing on cultural arts. This renovated building now houses rehearsal space, educational activities, some technical crafts and administrative offices.

December 2012 marked another major step forward in the opera company’s evolution. After seven seasons of producing opera locally in a variety of venues, Opera Naples made its fully staged debut in a first-class facility with a production of *Tosca* at Artis-Naples (formerly known as The Philharmonic Center for the Arts). By selecting *Tosca*, Opera Naples reached back to its beginning to celebrate a new beginning – the next phase in its promising and exciting future.



Education

O.N.E. Community: Opera Naples Education Programs

Educational outreach is a priority at Opera Naples. Our goal is to enrich young lives by offering a positive and creative environment that nurtures talent through hands-on experiences and quality performances. Our programs provide young people from diverse backgrounds with access to this unique art form.

Our **Resident Young Artists' Program**, ONcore, is designed for young singers, ages 20–32, entering the opera field. Professional singers selected through a national search to participate in this 10 week residency program. ONcore Artists perform secondary roles and cover lead roles in main stage productions, perform In-School Programs and appear in community outreach functions. They have many opportunities for professional growth including private coaching, master classes and workshops with Opera Naples' staff and visiting artists.

The **Student Apprentice Program** is a year-round program that offers local students, ages 13–22, training and public performance opportunities including solo roles in Community Outreach concerts, singing in the Opera Naples Chorus, and performing in "Scenes for Teens," programs. The Junior Student Apprentice Program for ages 7–12, offers opportunities in training, singing in the Opera Naples' Children's Chorus and performing in public.

Thanks to our **In-School Program**, more than 60,000 area children have enjoyed their first opera! Each year, our ONcore artists take a one-act mini-opera on the road to Collier and Lee County schools. Previous In-School operas have included *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Sweet Betsy from Pike*. The "Miss Manatee Show" is an interactive program designed to personally engage students in musical activities and experiences in a classroom setting.

Our wildly successful **Summer Youth Program** accepts young people, ages 12–22. An audition is required and the popular two-week program culminates in two public performances. In addition to preparing the productions, students are engaged in workshops lead by local professionals on subjects pertaining to singing and acting. Opera Naples also offers a Summer Program for elementary school age children, ages 6–13. This week long program focuses on singing with proper vocal technique, singing in harmony, and building confidence in performing a solo. Scholarships may be available.

Youth Sponsorships

Part of the Opera Naples mission is to nurture the development of talented youth from our community. At any given time, we have 30 to 40 youths, ages 7–21, involved in various aspects of our Educational Outreach Programs. With the completion of the David and Cecile Wang Opera Center, this is an exciting and meaningful time to contribute to the Opera Naples Youth Division Initiative. Your dedicated donation will help cover the cost of education-related expenses including scholarships for talented children who need financial assistance, classroom furnishings, teaching tools and staff teachers.



“**Music** has to be recognized as an agent of social development in the highest sense, because it transmits the highest values: solidarity, **harmony**, mutual compassion. And it has the ability to **unite** an entire community and to express sublime feelings.”

- José Antonio Abreu, Founder of El Sistema

New Building & Community

The Wang Opera Center: building harmony in our community

Our new building is so much more than a building, because Opera Naples does so much more than produce and perform operas. We are also, fundamentally, a community-based, non-profit arts organization rooted in volunteerism, education and audience engagement.

Opera Naples has completed the renovation* of its site on Linwood Avenue in the heart of the Collier County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) “Arts and Cultural District,” thanks to a generous gift from David and Cecile Wang. The renovation includes a large community hall and several classrooms, making the property an asset to the community beyond the needs of the company.

With the opening of the Wang Opera Center, Opera Naples enters the next phase of expansion, not only broadening the scope of our existing programs, but introducing new after-school and weekend programs which will increase accessibility to youth of diverse and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as older adults, especially those with limited mobility and limited financial means. Our new Center also provides a secondary performance venue for Opera Naples Community Outreach Concert Series.

This is just the beginning! Our plans for the future are exciting and ambitious:

- ♫ Create a Linwood Neighborhood Choir with residents from the community redevelopment zone in which the Wang Opera Center is located
- ♪ Produce free “Concerts in the Park”
- ♫ Offer various Adult Lecture Series, such as Opera 101
- ♪ Stage “Random Acts of Culture” (Flash Mob type events), and participate in various street music evenings and parades
- ♪ Outreach to retirement communities as well as schools and museums
- ♫ Outreach to and engagement of donors through small cocktail or dinner parties with participation of the Youth Program beneficiaries
- ♫ Develop a series of public presentations at the Wang Opera Center which feature the Neighborhood Choir, Student Apprentices and Junior Apprentices
- ♪ Initiate a performance program for people with disabilities
- ♫ Initiate a program for seniors including a special program for Alzheimer’s patients
- ♪ Start a Classical Music Listening Library with audio and video equipment, and offer related adult classes and discussion groups
- ♪ Implement a Peer Mentoring Program for seasoned youth to assist youth new to classical music and opera
- ♫ Increase the number of in-school performances to racially and ethnically diverse schools and schools located within culturally and economically under served communities
- ♫ Create an “Opera Club” that provides teens with free access to dress rehearsals

*Scheduled for completion, Spring 2014



SUPPORT

Great access to the Arts is the sign of a great community

We aspire to greatness, and thanks to the support we have received, we've been able to offer more each year. Our productions, our education and outreach programs, our ability to innovate, and every other aspect of Opera Naples have flourished. Our donors have been exceedingly kind and generous - both financially and with their time.

By embracing Opera Naples, a not-for-profit organization, our sponsors and volunteers are helping to nurture the arts and hearts of Southwest Florida. Our donors receive many outstanding benefits, and all donations of \$100 or more receive recognition in our performance programs for the twelve months following the gift.

Impresario	\$25,000 and up
Grand Patron	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Benefactor	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Donor	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Friend	\$500 - \$999
Contributor	\$100 - 499
Helper	\$5 - \$99

We look forward to your participation and appreciate your enthusiastic support of Opera Naples!

PLEASE VOLUNTEER. NO AUDITIONS NECESSARY!

Opera Naples has been blessed with a core group of dedicated volunteers who assist us in many diverse ways. We are always looking for more help and talent. We invite you to join the fun!

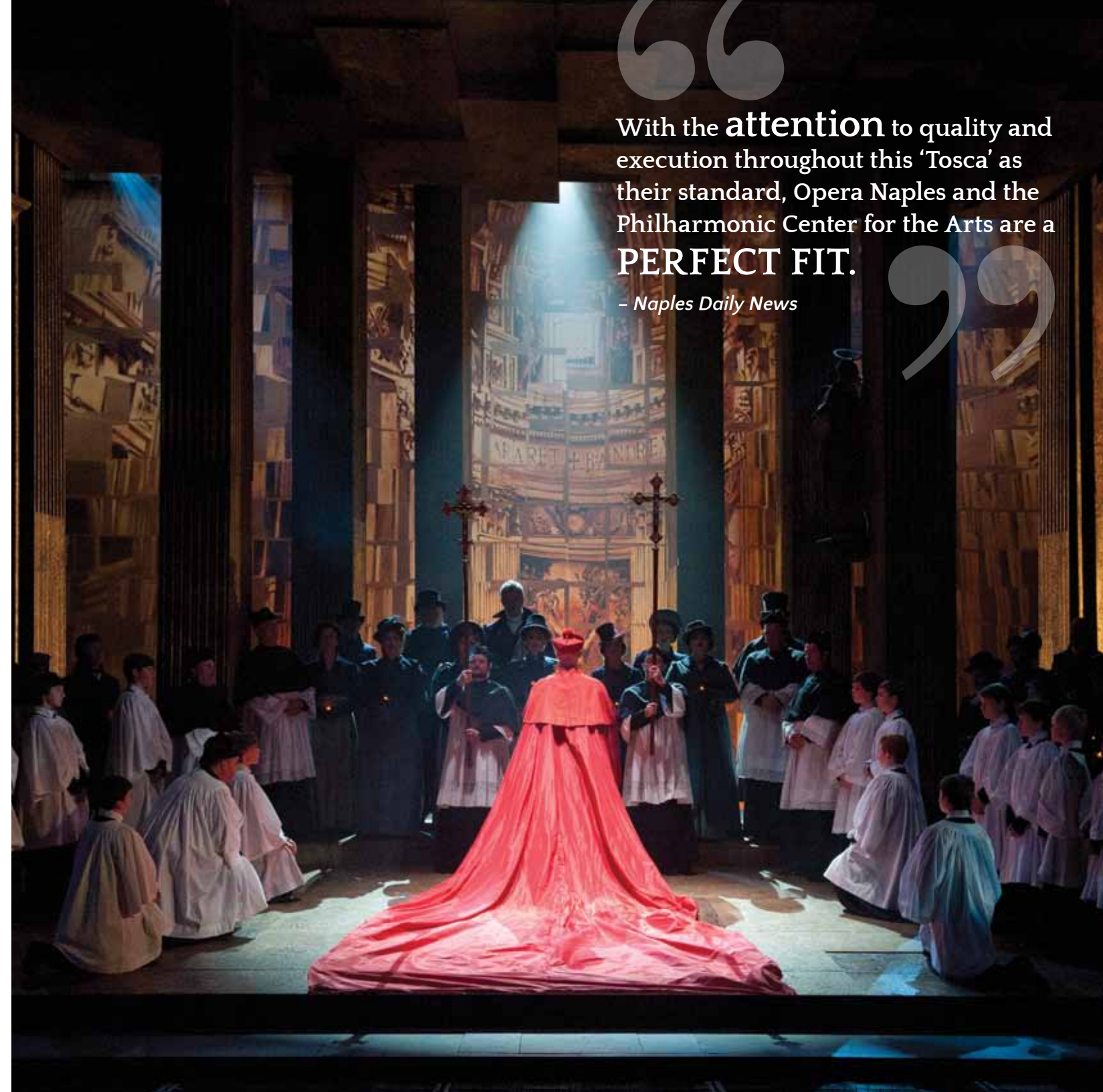
Our needs include:

- ☞ Assistance with housing and hospitality
- ♪ Periodic administrative office support
- 🎵 Ushers
- ♪ Box office staffers
- ♪ Refreshment area staff on performance day

THE OPERA NAPLES GUILD NEEDS YOU!

To expose more people to the world of opera through community outreach, and to foster cooperative interaction with arts organizations throughout Southwest Florida are the goals of this open, inclusive organization. Guild members have the opportunity to be involved during the performance season and throughout the year:

- ☞ Participating in opera study groups, lectures and demonstrations
- ♪ Assisting with fundraising events
- 🎵 Traveling to performances by other opera companies
- ♪ Interacting with other arts organizations in the area on a regular basis



With the **attention** to quality and execution throughout this 'Tosca' as their standard, Opera Naples and the Philharmonic Center for the Arts are a **PERFECT FIT.**

- *Naples Daily News*



FOUNDING PATRONS & LEGACY DONORS

To our Supporters: OPERA NAPLES HONORS AND THANKS YOU

FOUNDING PATRONS

Opera Naples is so very grateful to these individuals and corporations who believed in our mission and made the initial financial commitments to establish the region's first professional opera company.

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Mona & Michael Wilson

LEGACY DONORS

We especially thank these generous sponsors, whose donations cumulatively over the life of our organization have exceeded \$50,000 and \$100,000, and whose continued support is deeply appreciated.

\$100,000 & Up

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Bronwen Adams & Gerald Goldberg
Janice Burrus
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Sandi & Thomas Moran
Louise & Lawrence Ost
Cecile & David Wang

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Martha & Frank Ibarra
Moran Edwards Asset Management Group
of Wells Fargo Advisors
Selma Nettles
Cindy & Edward Stegemann

OUR MISSION

To enrich the Southwest Florida community by presenting opera performances and educational programs which engage internationally renowned performers and directors while nurturing regionally-based talent through the creation of a permanent local opera company.



Where Passion Meets Performance

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