

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2018



manitoba  
**UNDERGROUND**  
opera

summer  
opera  
festival

Opera pulls us forward



Opera takes us to another place



Opera brings us together



Opera is necessary

...a can-do company that never ceases to present adventurous productions, this year shining the light on opera heroines of the past, while hopefully inspiring a few real-life ones for the future. *Opera Canada, 2019*

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# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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Another big year for MUO is in the books. I am so proud of what this company has grown into over the past ten years. When we began in September of 2008, we had our first concert with 13 volunteers on campus at the University of Manitoba and this year, we had 73 artists, two larger-than-life heritage venues, a charity concert for an important institution in this city, and an opera for children that not only toured but was offered at no cost to any of the organizations or attendees.

Over 1,000 patrons enjoyed opera in whatever way suited them best; over lunch, with their families, watching the sunset, or with a glass of wine touring around the magnificent Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Aside from the wine, generously sponsored by Manitoba Liquor Marts, my highlight this year was our opera for children tour. We entered a pilot phase with the Winnipeg Public Libraries and reached 300 children and parents in different corners of the city. I'm thrilled to see what we can do in the second year of this partnership!

The biggest news of 2018 is that Manitoba Underground Opera is now a registered charity. Our work is now recognized by the Government of Canada as being important and worthy of the privileges that come with that label.

2019 will be filled with many new opportunities to bring opera to our province and create even more meaningful experiences.

**BRENDAN MCKEEN**

General Manager

## **Manitoba Underground Opera Staff**

Brendan McKeen  
*General Manager*

Brenna Corner  
*Artistic Director*

Laura Gow  
*Director of Production*

Janice Marple  
*Orchestra Manager/Librarian &  
Administrative Assistan*

## **Board of Directors**

Danielle Tétrault, *Chair*  
Andrea Bellhouse, *Treasurer*  
Sawyer Craig, *Artists'  
Representative*



# OBSESSION

AUGUST 2018

Motivated by current events, 2018 focused on powerful men and the victimization of the women they impact. All-female creative teams for our mainstage shows shed new light on these stories, wresting some of that power away from men and centering the perspective of women and other less-privileged groups.

# DON GIOVANNI

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*Cast (in order of  
vocal appearance)*

Leporello	PAUL WINKELMANS
Donna Anna	SYNDEY CLARKE
Don Giovanni	JASON KLIPPENSTEIN
Don Ottavio	ADAM SPERRY
Donna Elvira	DAWN BRUCH
Zerlina	AINSLEY WRAY
Massetto	SVEN BULLER
Il Commendatore	IAN FUNDYTUS
Chorus	PAULINA GONZALEZ, ROSE SANDERS, CHRISTINA THANISCH-SMITH, HAILEY WITT

Production Team

Director	JACQUELINE LOEWEN
Conductor	ALEXANDRA DEE
Stage Manager	SAWYER CRAIG
Répétiteur	CARY DENBY
Assistant Director	JONATHAN AYERS

Orchestra

Violin	CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN
Viola	TATIANA FRIESEN
Cello	NATALIE DAWE
Bass	DANIEL PERRY
Flute	EMMA RIDD
Oboe	ELIZABETH MILLER
Clarinet	ANNA DICKEY
Bassoon	SCOTT MILLER
French Horn	CAITLIN COPPELL

*Photo credits from top left  
clockwise*

Paul Winkelmans, Jason  
Klippenstein, Dawn Bruch

Ainsley Wray, Sven Buller

Jason Klippenstein, Ian Fundytus

Ainsley Wray, Dawn Bruch

Sydney Clarke, Ian Fundytus



# POPPEA

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## Cast (in order of vocal appearance)

Fortune	NIKITA SILAGY
Virtue	SAWYER CRAIG
Amor	KATHERINE MAYBA
Ottone	BRADLEY CHRISTENSEN
Poppea	JAYNE HAMMOND
Nerone	JAN VAN DER HOOFT
Ottavia	EMILY DIEHL-READER
Seneca	IAN FUNDYTUS
Drusilla	CARMeN HARRIS

## Production Team

Director	BRENNA CORNER
Music Director	DEENA GRIER
Stage Manager	LAURA GOW

## Instrumentalists

Violin	CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN
Viola	TATIANA FRIESEN
Cello	NATALIE DAWE
Oboe	ELIZABETH MILLER
Oboe	MEREDITH LIU
Bassoon	SCOTT MILLER
Horn	CAITLIN COPPELL

*Photo credits from top left  
clockwise*

Emily Diehl-Reader

Jan van der Hoof, Katherine  
Mayba, Jayne Hammond

Katherine Mayba, Elizabeth  
Miller, Nikita Silagy, Tatiana  
Friesen

Sawyer Craig, Carmen Harris,  
Caroline Rothstein, Bradley  
Christensen



# FEMALE FORTITUDE

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Concept & Master of Ceremonies  
BRENNA CORNER

Conductor  
BRENDAN MCKEEN

Soloists  
SARAH CORY, JESSICA KOS-WHICHER,  
JANICE MARPLE, JUDITH OATWAY,  
ASHLEY REES, KINNON WEDDALL, LYNLEE  
WOLSTENCROFT

## Orchestra

Violin One  
CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN  
ELYSE LOEWEN  
SARAH-LYNN BERGEN

Violin Two  
ALEXANDRA DEE  
GILLIAN CARRABRÉ

Viola  
TATIANA FRIESEN

Cello  
BERY FILSAIME  
NATALIE DAWE

Bass  
DANIEL PERRY

Flute  
MARTHA DURKIN  
EMMA RIDD

Oboe  
ELIZABETH MILLER  
MEREDITH LIU

Clarinet  
ELIZABETH LARUE  
MIKAELA OLDENKAMP

Bassoon  
SCOTT MILLER  
RHIANNON MADDEN

Horn  
CAITLIN COPPELL  
ANDREA DICKS  
ANNIE MCCRADY  
VALÉRIE TREMBLAY

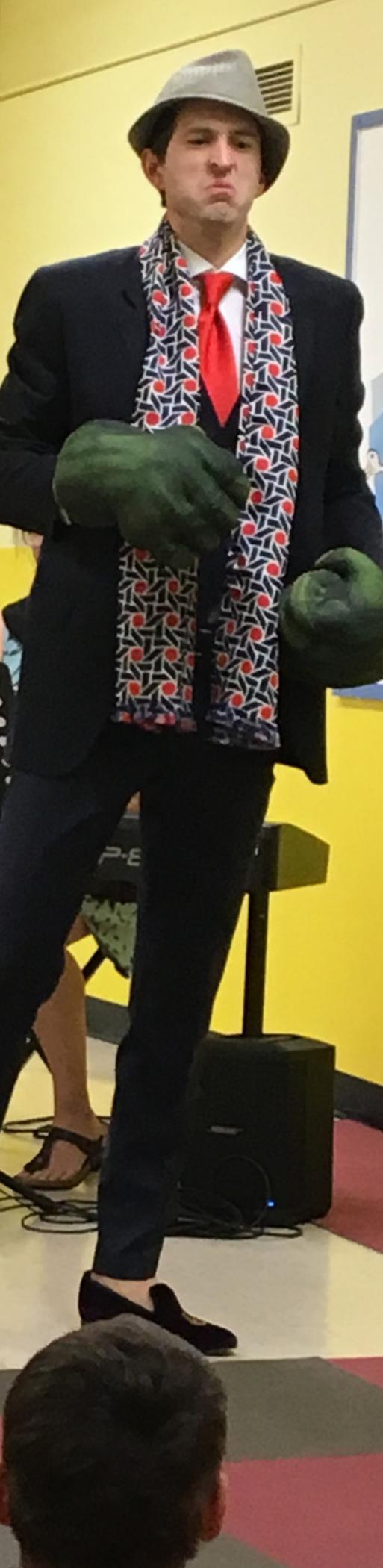
# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

*Cast (in order of  
vocal appearance)*

Jack NOLAN KEHLER  
Mrs. Nimble / Giant's Wife MARLISE RITCHIE  
Troubled Man/ Giant BRADLEY CHRISTENSEN

Production Team

Director JONATHAN AYERS  
Music Director/Pianist LISA RUMPEL  
Stage Managers LAURA GOW  
SAWYER CRAIG



# OUTREACH & IN THE COMMUNITY

Manitoba  
**UNDERGROUND**  
opera

**OBSESSION**  
AUGUST 16-24, 2018

With the generous support of

MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA

**LIQUOR  
MART**

**FEMALE  
FORTITUDE**

**JACK AND THE  
BEANSTALK**

**POPPEA**



EXHILARATING OPERAS IN  
EXTRAORDINARY LOCATIONS

manitoba  
**UNDERGROUND**  
opera

STAY UP TO DATE ON  
UPCOMING MUO SHOWS  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

*Photo credits*

Above -  
Sawyer Craig at Opera by the Pint

Working together to not only bring opera to all, but to make Winnipeg even better than it already is



MUO is about bringing opera to all for the betterment of all.

2018's free events included an Opera by the Pint, joint hosted with Flipside Opera and a lunch time concert at Amsterdam Tea Room, one of Winnipeg's hottest new restaurants.

Additionally, MUO was asked to participate in the legendary Winnipeg Art Gallery Ball. A pop-up opera performance kicked off the night ending with a champagne toast.



MUO held its first concert to support other charities this August. All performers, graciously donated their time to participate and together we raised \$1,700 for Ikwe-Widdjiitwin.

MUO visited four Winnipeg Public Library locations with its opera for children;

- Fort Garry Library
- Henderson Library
- Millennium Library
- River Heights Library



*Photo credits*

*Top to bottom -  
Nikita Silagy, Janice Marple, Sven Buller,  
Sawyer Craig, and Lisa Rumpel at the  
Amsterdam Tea Room*

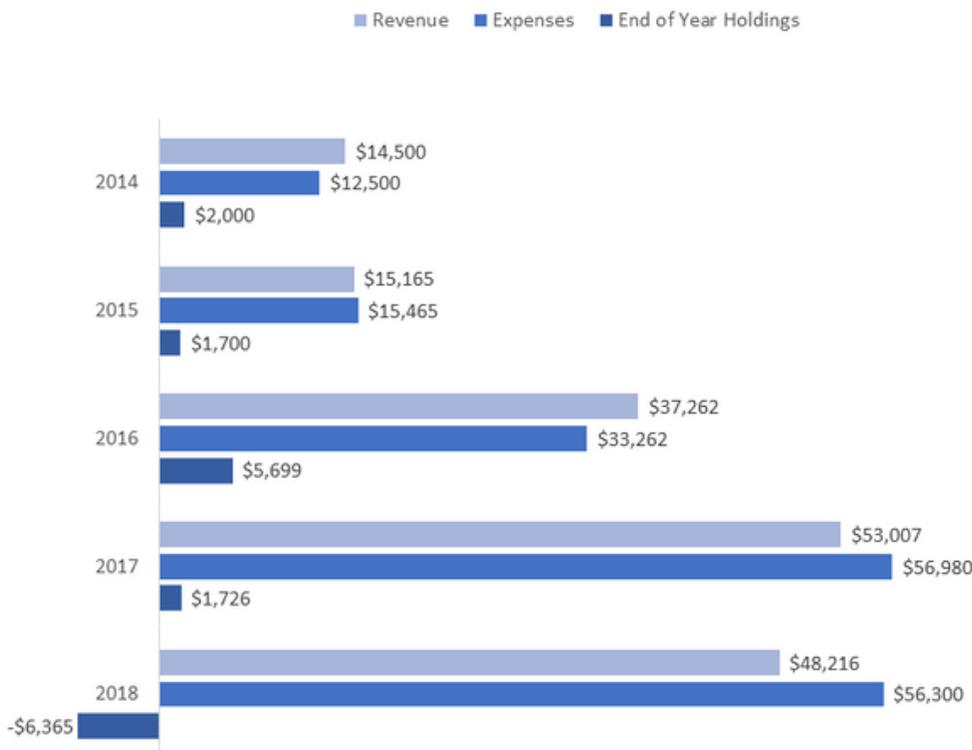
*Bradley Christensen at Opera by the Pint*

*Sydney Clarke, Ainsley Wray, Jayne Hammond,  
Ashley Rees, Sawyer Craig, and Sarah Cory  
at the Winnipeg Art Gallery Ball*

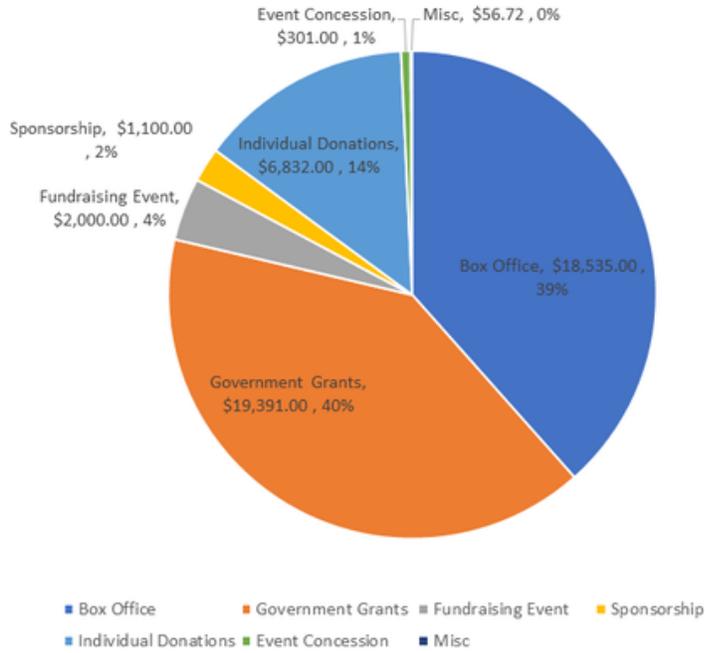
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Manitoba Underground has officially moved from an artist collective operating on a semi-regular basis to a permanent installation in the Winnipeg and Manitoban arts scenes. Administrative expenses were higher than normal this year as money was invested into securing charity status for the organization.

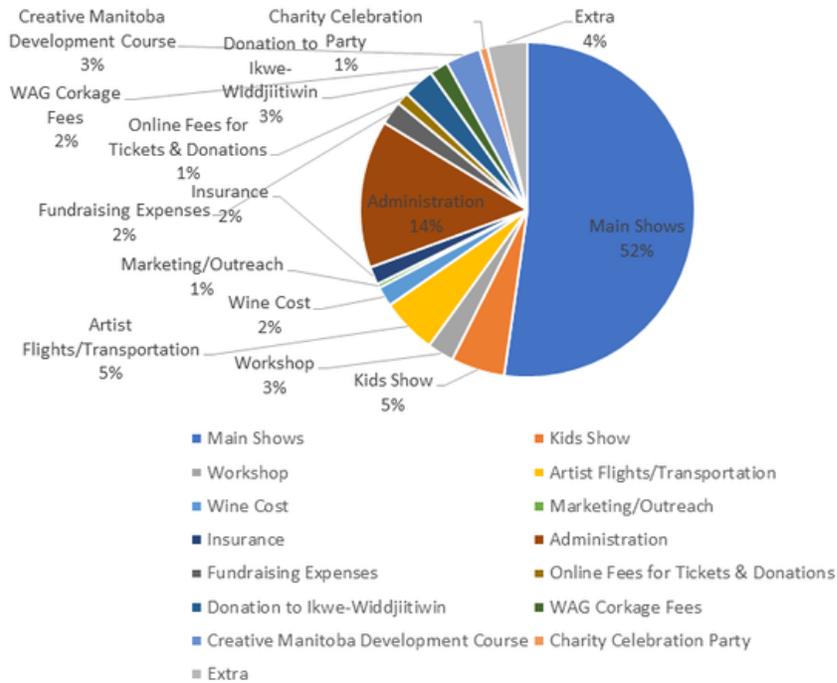
Looking forward to 2019 and the future, a five-year plan has been created to eliminate the deficit within a maximum of two years with the increases in fundraising, foundation support, and corporate sponsorships followed by a strong focus on increasing artist fees.



# REVENUES : \$48,215.72



# EXPENSES : \$56,299.55



# THANK YOU

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We are very grateful for all of our donors and sponsors.

Andrea Bellhosue

Florence Carey

Caitlin Coppell

Irene Gordon

Gayleen Hamilton

Leona Herzog

Ron Kirby

Katarina Kupca

Amanda Kuzbyt

Grace Litnick

John & Natalie Mayba

Paul & Linda McKeen

Dr. Bill Pope

Helga Sickert

Danielle Tétrault

Robert Vineberg

David & Wendy Whitmore

Audrey Workman



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



Top:  
Sydney Clarke



Thank you to all of the artists that make MUO possible. Because of you, opera will continue to be relevant for many generations.



