

manitoba

UNDERGROUND

opera



# 2020 Annual Report

A different kind of year

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## Staff

Brenna Corner  
*Artistic Director*

Brendan McKeen  
*General Manager*

Laura Gow  
*Director of Production (until August 2020)*

Janice Marple  
*Administrative Director*

## Board of Directors

*Chair*  
Andrea Bellhouse

*Vice-Chair*  
Craig Ross

*Treasurer*  
Nicki Kirton

*Members*  
Danielle Tétrault

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

I always start these reports with some sort of sentiment like "What a year!" and I never expected I would be describing the year that we have just had. So many of us have had our worlds turned upside down and our hearts go out to all who have experienced loss over the past year. After a period of daily changes in spring 2020, we have now settled (if you can call it that) into weekly and sometimes monthly change.

This year marked the first summer since our inception in which we have had to cancel our festival activities. Gathering all of our artists and audience was unsafe even though, in hindsight, Manitoba's pandemic risk was relatively contained at that point.

I am incredibly proud of our staff. Despite no public performances in August, we created our first film/miniseries. Green Envelopes was a massive achievement for our fledgling company and we are so grateful that people tuned in to watch our miniseries. When Brenna wrote the show over five years ago, we always wanted to produce it in some way. It turned out to be the perfect fit for our situation.

Although we are sad that our public performances were more infrequent this year, we were happy to share live opera at the Forks back in March and as part of the annual Doors Open event (put on by Heritage Winnipeg) at the Millennium Centre.

Things are uncertain all over the arts world, but we look forward to bluer skies in the future.



**BRENDAN MCKEEN**  
General Manager





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Written and Directed by Brenna Corner  
Producer Brendan McKeen  
Piano and Music Direction Kimberley-Ann Bartczak  
Anna Andrea Lett  
Danny Adam Sperry  
Production Direction Laura Gow  
Production Administration Janice Marple  
Head Camera Paul McKeen  
Adam Sperry

Filmed in part at the Dalnavert Museum, Winnipeg, MB

Costumes provided by Twisted Knickers and International Movie Services





# Opera Around Town



Our year started off with a pop-up opera performance at the Forks. It was to be the first in a string of six but was cut short after just one. We figured we would have time to take pictures at subsequent events, so we're not able to show you pictures of soprano Kinnon Weddall and pianist Lee Houghton Stewart performing the Queen of the Night's virtuosic vengeance aria above a crowd of chatting beer and coffee drinkers.

Heritage Winnipeg rescheduled their annual Doors Open event to mid-September and due to a fortuitous (and brief) relaxing of pandemic restrictions, we were able to present a day of opera singing.

Pictured on the left are sopranos Karen Santos and Sydney Clarke with pianist Lee Houghton Stewart.

Photos: *(starting from the top)*

1. Socially distanced singing separated from audience
2. Karen Santos
3. Sydney Clarke
4. Lee Houghton Stewart

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We are very fortunate that 2020 did not present the same challenges for our finances as it did for our artistic plans. Thanks to support from the Canada Council, through the Federal Government, and the Winnipeg Foundation, we were able to cover our ongoing expenses and produce *Green Envelopes*.

Looking forward, we are grateful that the Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Foundation, and Canada Council for the Arts have allowed us to differ our grants to the coming year. We are eager to produce content again and pass this money through to artists.

## BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON

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	DEC 31, 20	DEC 31, 19	DEC 31, 18
<b>Assets</b>			
Total Chequing / Savings	45,178.28	12,330.09	-1,145.18
Accounts Receivable			2,430.00
Other Current Assets	817.26	798.40	698.37
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>45,987.54</b>	<b>13,128.49</b>	<b>1,983.19</b>
<b>Liabilities / Equity</b>			
Current Liabilities	859.90	1,188.11	7868.69
Deferred Funding	30,000.00		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>30,859.90</b>	<b>1,188.11</b>	<b>7868.69</b>
Unrestricted Net Assets	11,940.38	-5,885.50	1,883.97
Net Income	3,187.26	17,825.88	-7,769.47
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>15,127.64</b>	<b>11,940.38</b>	<b>-5,885.50</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>45,987.54</b>	<b>13,128.49</b>	<b>1,983.19</b>

## PROFIT & LOSS

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	DEC 31, 20	DEC 31, 19	DEC 31, 18
<b>Income</b>			
Tickets Sales	-	10,033.00	19,866.95
Concession Sales	-	531.35	301.00
Other Revenue	-	5,525.00	150.00
Donations	4,418.92	3,102.00	6,845.77
Donations - Receipted	-	4,587.23	-
Donation - In-kind	-	250.00	-
Corporate Sponsors	550.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Foundations	5,000.00	18,500.00	-
Fundraising Events	-	3,381.24	2,000.00
Canada Council - Operating	5,000.00	-	-
Canada Council - Project	-	16,000.00	1,500.00
Manitoba Arts Council - Project	-	15,000.00	16,450.00
Winnipeg Arts Council - Project	-	8,000.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,698.92</b>	<b>86,009.82</b>	<b>48,213.72</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Artistic	2,477.04	42,842.46	24,245.79
Programming	2,031.44	14,291.34	18,095.19
Marketing	402.45	2,297.15	735.91
Fundraising	143.60	3,547.33	1,348.55
Administration	6,457.13	5,205.66	9,857.75
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,511.66</b>	<b>68,183.94</b>	<b>54,283.19</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>3,187.26</b>	<b>17,825.88</b>	<b>-6,069.47</b>
Other Expense -			
Donation to Other Charities	-	-	1,700.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,187.26</b>	<b>17,825.88</b>	<b>-7,769.47</b>

# THANK YOU

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We are very grateful for all of the people who helped us this year. Without you, none of this is possible!

Andrea Bellhouse

Don Budlong

Linda Feasby

Irene Gordon

Perry Grosshans

Marilyn Hendzel

Ron Kirby

Katarina Kupca

Grace Lintick

Murdo & Marie Marple

Paul & Linda McKeen

Dr. Bill Pope

Mary Ann Rosenblum

Helga Sickert

Kristina Stevens

Bill Strong

Danielle Tétrault

Robert Vineberg

Carolyn Weiss &

Meridian Chiropractic and Health Centre

Samuel Wai

Nancy Williamson

Tim Winkelmann

Audrey Young

## Public Funder



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

## Private Funder



## Corporate Funder



## Community Partner



