



manitoba
UNDERGROUND
opera

Annual Report 2024

Rewriting the story

About us

Opera is an artform that resonates with people from all walks of life, and our goal is to continue that tradition by reinventing classical works to make them relevant to the modern world. Manitoba Underground Opera presents a season of three mainstage operas between May and September each year. Outside of our season, our newly remanded Neighbourhood Opera Tour brings live opera to thousands of children and parents across Manitoba and Ontario. This fully staged production is presented for free to libraries, community centres, daycares, and other charities. Our Opera Around Town initiative (OAT) brings pop-up opera to Winnipeg year-round with intimate or outrageous concerts presented in museums and gay bars. We passionately believe that everyone deserves access to high quality art and are committed to ensuring that opera remains accessible and attainable for all.

Staff

Brendan McKeen

Executive Director

Carolyn Schroeder

Director of Production

Carmen Harris

Social Media Manager

Mélanie Dupuis

Tour Coordinator

Chloé Thiessen

Accessibility & Community Coordinator

Board of Directors

Dr. Carolyn Weiss, *Chair*

Jackie Kreitz, *Treasurer*

Peter Steur, *Secretary*

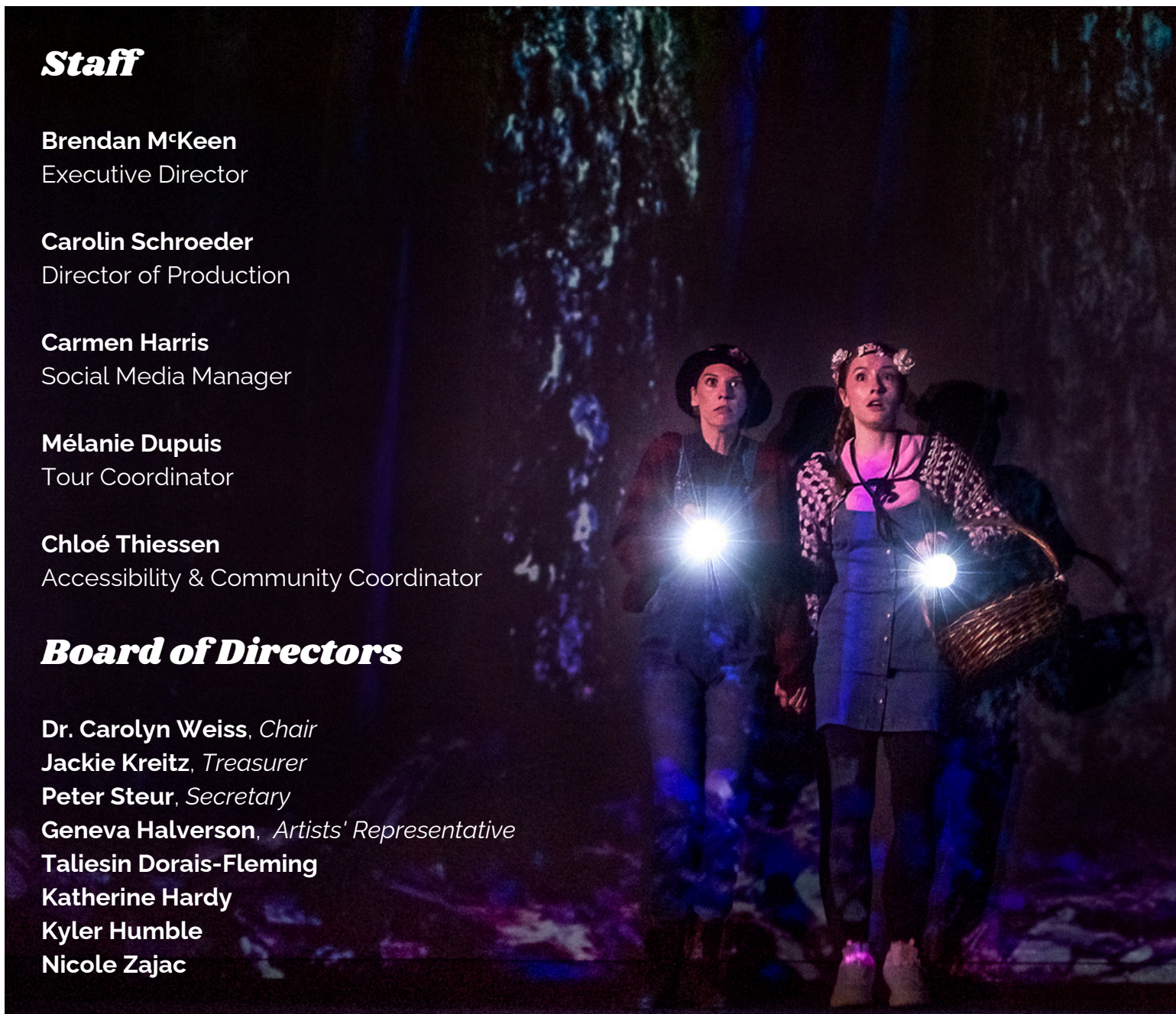
Geneva Halverson, *Artists' Representative*

Taliesin Dorais-Fleming

Katherine Hardy

Kyler Humble

Nicole Zajac



WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 started off with a bang as we were in the midst of our Divas & Dragoons concert series. In the depth of our Winnipeg winter, MUO brought ostentatious joy mixing live opera singing with our incredible local drag community.

We continued our expanded season format, established in 2023, with *Unwritten*. This carefully curated balance of reinvention and reverence featured written works that were transformed into opera. Our tour show was MUO's first original show, *Playtime*, with a new libretto penned by Max Fingerote.

Our success can be seen in a 30% increase in patrons and very favorable reviews. There is an appetite for our work and we can't wait to keep pushing boundaries.

Our Neighbourhood Opera Tour spent a record seven weeks on tour and traveled outside Manitoba for the first time. Notable new locations included reserves above the 53rd parallel and partnerships with charities including BGC, Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, and Art City.

Financially, we received more than \$200,000 once again with a healthy surplus to replenish our reserves and plan for the future. Our public grants, box office, and donations all saw record increases.

None of this would be possible without our beloved supporters. Thank you to our donors, sponsors, government agencies, and patrons. You believed in us, championed us, and celebrated what opera can be. Beyond that, you have demonstrated unwavering trust in our artistic vision. We can't wait to show you more.

Brendan M^cKeen
Executive Director

***Over
2,000km
traveled***

***3,185
audience
members***

***18
Performances
outside
Winnipeg***

***100 Season
Pass Holders***

***64 total
performances***

MAINSTAGE SEASON

ROCKING HORSE WINNER

Brady Barrientos House
Kyle Briscoe Oscar
Andrew Derynck* Paul
Sofia Escamilla House
Max Fingerote House & Apprentice Director
Paul Forget** Basset
Shannon Hiebert Music Director
Janice Marple Ava
Tia Morann Stage Manager
Julie Savard Violin
Ashley Schneberger House
John Sellick Viola
Darryl Strain Violin
Alyssa Ramsay Cello
Alissa Watson* Stage Director

HANSEL & GRETEL

Ashley Boychuk Dew Fairy & Sandman
Grace Budoloski** Gretel
Monica Chen*** Conductor
Samantha Desiree* Stage Manager
Geneva Halverson Witch
Carmen Harris Hansel
jaymez Projections Designer and Lighting
Mihnea Nitu Father
Kelly Robinson Mother
Taras Pivniak Bass
Julie Savard Violin
John Sellick Viola
Darryl Strain Violin
Patricia Vanuci Cello
Anica Warkentine Répétiteur
Lovissa Wiens Assistant Designer
Jillian Willems* Stage Director



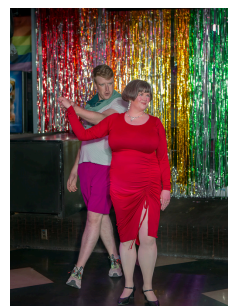
THE TALES OF HOFFMANN

Andrea Bellhouse Chorus
Ashley Boychuk Antonia
Grace Budoloski** The Four Servants
Kris Cahatol Nicklausse / The Muse
Beverley Covert Chorus
Moxie Cotton Drag Consultant
Megan Dufrat Music Director
Christopher Dunn Hermann & Schlémil
Linda Feasby Chorus
Max Fingerote Assistant Director
Paul Forget** The Three Fathers
Stephen Haiko-Pena The Four Villains
Devon Helm Associate Stage Manager
Shannon Hiebert Chorus Master & Coach
Kyler Humble Chorus
Airyn Lancaster Stage Manager
Alice Macgregor Olympia
Janice Marple Giulietta
Avery Mittermayr Chorus
Matthew Paris-Irvine Stage Director
Stephanie Schmid Nathaniel
Carrie Schulz Chorus
Adam Sperry Hoffmann
Peter Steur Chorus
Cathy Wach-Dueck Chorus
Jasmine Wallace Chorus

*The participation of this Artist (these Artists) was arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).

**The participation of Paul Forget and Grace Budoloski was arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

*** Appeared courtesy of Tapestry Opera's Women in Musical Leadership Program.



NEIGHBOURHOOD OPERA TOUR

PLAYTIME

Cary Denby **Pianist / Music Director**

Sonia Campbell **Anna**

Mélanie Dupuis **Joan**

Willow Harvey **Stage Manager**

Melissa Langdon* **Stage Director**

Chloé Thiessen **Karen**

Locations Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, Swan River, The Pas, Opaskwayak, Flin Flon, Thompson, Eriksdale, Gimli, Ashern, Kenora, Winkler, Altona, Morden, Killarney, Brandon, Selkirk, Steinbach, Bethania Personal Care Home, Cornish Library, St. Vital Library, St. James-Assiniboia Library, Harvey Smith Library, Henderson Library, Pembina Personal Care Home, BGC Gilbert Park, Carpathia Children's Centre, St. Boniface Library, Art City, West Kildonan Library, Charleswood Library, Windsor Park Library, Transcona Library, Sir William Stephenson Library, Millennium Library, Louis Riel Library, Pembina Trails Library, Bill and Helen Norrie Library, Fort Garry Library, Stanley Knowles Children's Centre, Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba

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OPERA AROUND TOWN

Doors Open

May 26

Philips Square

Divas & Dragons

January 30

February 23

June 20

July 25

October 29

Club 200

Under the Dome

November 8

Millennium Centre

Christmas Caroling

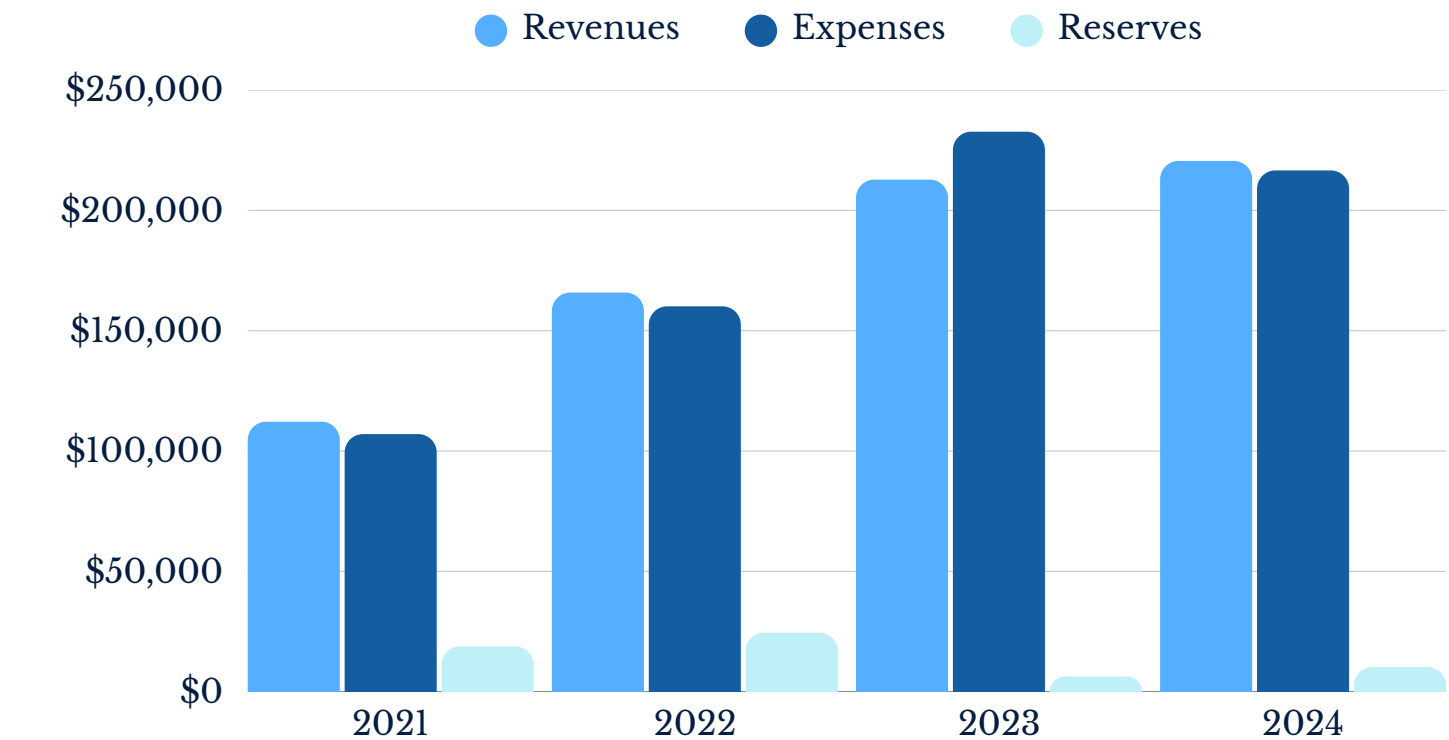
December 8

Winnipeg Art Gallery



Balance Sheet Comparison

	DEC 31, 24	DEC 31, 23	DEC 31, 22	DEC 31, 21
Assets				
Total Chequing / Savings	33,877.13	17,743.98	56,529.82	54,919.63
Accounts Receivable	35,605.00	47,842.00	4,135.30	
Other Current Assets	971.39	971.39	2,497.49	1,012.19
Total Assets	70,453.52	66,557.37	63,162.61	55,931.82
Liabilities / Equity				
Current Liabilities	5,201.87	3,795.16	8,120.79	13,755.49
Deferred Funding	55,000.00	56,450.00	30,550.00	23,354.00
Total Liabilities	60,201.87	60,245.16	38,620.79	37,109.49
Unrestricted Net Assets	6,312.21	26,214.19	18,822.33	15,127.64
Net Income	3,939.44	-19,901.98	5,719.49	3,694.69
Total Equity	10,251.65	6,312.21	24,541.82	18,822.33
Total Liabilities & Equity	70,453.52	66,557.37	63,162.61	55,931.82



Profit & Loss

Income	DEC 31, 24	DEC 31, 23	DEC 31, 22	DEC 31, 21
Tickets Sales	33,467.65	28,899.95	18,168.38	5,775.09
Concession Sales	-	-	375.50	-
Other Revenue	1,300.00	1,200.00	8,650.00	700.00
Bank Interest	59.41	76.58	13.50	-
Donations	20,374.04	21,292.63	16,328.00	12,056.79
Corporate Sponsors	2,000.00	3,500.00	3,000.00	1,200.00
Foundations	31,900.00	57,790.00	30,747.00	27,813.00
Fundraising Events	1,272.27	1,272.27	3,053.60	-
Canada Council - Project	90,200.00	75,300.00	46,000.00	31,500.00
Manitoba Arts Council -				
Operating	-	-	3,000.00	3,150.00
Project	36,250.00	11,250.00	28,020.00	30,000.00
Winnipeg Arts Council -				
Project	5,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	-
Total Income	220,551.10	212,800.30	165,855.98	112,194.88
Expense				
Artistic	141,906.36	147,209.67	103,878.10	77,587.55
Programming	49,971.05	54,101.52	33,240.62	8,237.36
Marketing	11,331.51	6,786.39	4,421.14	6,130.27
Fundraising	-	4,218.87	1,576.67	246.37
Administration	13,402.74	20,121.66	15,919.96	14,833.64
Total Expense	\$216,611.66	\$232,701.09	159,036.49	107,035.19
Net Ordinary Income	\$3,939.44	\$-19,901.98	6,819.49	5,159.69
Other Expense -				
Donation to Other Charities	-	-	1,100.00	1,465.00
Net Income	\$3,939.44	\$-19,901.98	5,719.49	3,694.69

Supporters

Public Funders



Conseil des arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts



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CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Opera Tour Partner

Winnipeg Public
LIBRARY

Foundation Support



Production Supporters



Wine Sponsor



Corporate Support



Extra Support



Venue Sponsors



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