



Childrens' thank-you cards from Living Opera, 2024, photo by Arcade Pallot

Pacific Opera Victoria: Bringing Opera to Life in Our Community

Pacific Opera Victoria continues to shape the future of opera through innovative programs that **inspire, educate, and connect**. Here's a look at a few high-impact initiatives that are connecting our community with the power of opera.

LIVING OPERA: BRINGING MUSIC AND STORYTELLING INTO CLASSROOMS

Living Opera is a free in-class workshop bringing 40 minutes of music and storytelling to K-7 students connecting opera to Arts Education and Language Arts curricula. Thanks to donor support, we delivered four weeks of programming—but demand far exceeded our capacity. The overwhelming interest highlights the growing appetite for arts-based learning in schools, reinforcing our commitment to **expanding access to opera for young learners**.



Geoff Malcom and Clayton Butler in Living Opera, 2024

24|25 Season Impact Snapshot

46
Workshops

1,150
Students

COLORATURA: ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC

Coloratura is Pacific Opera's signature 45-minute program for seniors, designed to bring the beauty of opera into care homes, seniors' residences, and community centers. Each performance includes a sing-along element led by our emerging artists, inviting residents to participate and engage with the music in a meaningful and personal way **fostering emotional well-being and connection**. After the concert, artists also visit with residents, creating opportunities for heartfelt conversation and connection beyond the music.

"You brought so much life to this place" – Coloratura Participant

24|25 Season Impact Snapshot

21
Performances

1
Collaborative
Pianist

5
Emerging Local Artists



Tim Carter performing at Fringe Festival, photo by Mackenzie Lawrence

The Coloratura program has been the most perspective-shifting and powerful thing I have done as a singer. The connection you feel to people through Coloratura is so visceral and so strong that sometimes you need to stop yourself from crying while you're singing because the emotion you're receiving from the people in the room is incredible.

Tim Carter, Coloratura Program Singer

POP-UP OPERA: SURPRISE AND DELIGHT ACROSS THE CITY

Pop-Up Opera continues to surprise audiences in parks, libraries, markets, and public spaces—breaking down traditional barriers and introducing new audiences to the art form. This initiative aligns with our goal of **making opera accessible to all**, demonstrating that music can enrich everyday life in spontaneous and joyful ways.

24|25 Season Impact Snapshot

5

Emerging
Local Artists

80

Free
Performances

9

Neighbourhoods including: Oak Bay, Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, Rockland, James Bay, Fernwood, Fairfield & Westshore



Michaela Dickey and Abby Corpus performing in Pop-Up Opera, summer 2024, photo by Arcade Pallot

OPERA SHOP: A HUB OF INNOVATION, CREATIVITY, AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Pacific Opera Victoria's **Opera Shop** is a rare and remarkable in-house workshop where our original sets, props, and costumes are designed and built. **Our Opera Shop strives to be a leader in sustainability**, reusing materials, designing compact sets, and implementing eco-friendly practices to reduce our environmental footprint while maintaining the highest standards of theatrical production.

- **Original Productions**

Since 2007 we've created **more than 50 new productions**, six of which are currently available for rent by other companies seeking exceptional design and craftsmanship. Our acclaimed *Barber of Seville* has already been rented 11 times in over nine cities across North America! We've recently added *The Little Prince* to our rental stock, ensuring this high-quality, family-friendly production can continue to inspire and delight new audiences for years to come.

- **Empowered Leadership Behind the Curtain**

We are proud to share that every department head at the Opera Shop—Wardrobe, Props, Paint, and Set—is a woman. **This all-female leadership team** is not only a testament to their exceptional talent and expertise but also a reflection of our ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion in the arts.



L-R: The set of *The Little Prince* in progress. Head Carpenter, Monica Arthurs working on the set of *Rigoletto*, 2025, photos by Arcade Pallot. Alice Hawes, Lead Wardrobe working on the King's costume in *The Little Prince*, 2025, photo by JoAnn Richards.

I don't think there's another production shop like ours anywhere in North America. Our team members are all highly skilled specialists with unique skills, from scenic painting and sets to props and wardrobe...We have a tradition of passing down skills and knowledge in the production department, and that's something we're really hoping to continue and support the next wave of craftspeople in this industry.

Monica Arthurs, Head Carpenter

LOOKING AHEAD

Every note sung, every set built, and every student reached is made possible through the generosity of our donors and the support of our incredible community. Thank you for being part of this journey! Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we bring opera to life in new and inspiring ways including **Opera Sprouts** and the **Summer Youth Performance Program!**