

OPERA PACIFIC OPERA VICTORIA

2025|26 Season Report

Chateau Victoria HOTEL & SUITES

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

British Columbia Arts Council | British Columbia

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

CRD Making a difference...together



A Message from Pacific Opera Victoria

The 2025/26 season invited us to reflect on the theme of truth and perception: finding one's inner truth in a world where perceptions continually shift and evolve. Through opera, music, storytelling, and community engagement, we explored how our understanding of ourselves and one another is shaped by memory, experience, culture, and connection.

From the psychological mystery of *The Turn of the Screw*, to the struggle for truth and justice in *Tosca*, and the enduring power of love and hope in *Orpheus & Eurydice*, our productions challenged and inspired audiences while showcasing exceptional Canadian and international artists. The Luminary Series brought innovative contemporary works to Victoria, OPEN AIR welcomed thousands of audience members to music in parks, gardens, and community spaces, and Opera Etc. programming continued to create meaningful opportunities for engagement, learning, and dialogue in schools and across communities.

This season also saw important milestones in our commitment to reconciliation, community connection, and artistic development. Together with Indigenous artists, Elders, newcomers to Canada, educators, youth, seniors, and community partners, we created spaces where stories could be shared, voices amplified, and relationships strengthened. Through a variety of initiatives and programming including Opera Sprouts, Found in Translation, Living Opera youth workshops, and our new Youth Summer Performance Program we continued to explore how opera can serve as a catalyst for learning, understanding, and belonging.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity and dedication of our community. To our donors, funders, sponsors, subscribers, patrons, volunteers, community partners, artists, board members, and staff: thank you. Your support enables us to create distinctive and inclusive opera experiences, nurture the next generation of artists, and ensure that opera remains a vibrant and relevant part of life in our region.

We are deeply grateful to share this journey with you and look forward to continuing to create, connect, and inspire through the power of opera.



IAN RYE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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The Heart of Opera

SUPPORTING ARTISTS. INSPIRING AUDIENCES. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

At the heart of opera is connection: between artists and audiences, generations and communities, tradition and the possibilities of what comes next.

That spirit is at the core of the Heart of Opera Campaign. Together, donors are helping Pacific Opera Victoria create bold new artistic experiences, open doors for young people and artists, and build a more sustainable future for opera.

In 2025/26, that vision began taking shape. Thanks to the generosity of a group of dedicated individuals, we have already achieved 80% of our campaign goal, raising $1.6 million by June 30, 2026.

These gifts are already making a difference, funding initiatives such as:

- An expanded **Luminary Series**, where audiences encountered artists and stories that challenge traditional ideas about opera, from the genre-bending *Zombie Blizzard* to *The Queen in Me* and *Remembering Mary's Wedding.*
- The new **Youth Summer Performance Program**, where youth were offered the chance to step into a professional opera environment, work alongside experienced artists, and bring *Odyssey* to the stage.

"I really enjoyed being able to be like a leader as the God Athena and getting a bigger role was an amazing experience."

- Youth Participant, Odyssey

Campaign support also expanded opportunities for local artists through guest masterclasses, private coaching, and performance opportunities in productions including *Tosca* and *Orpheus & Eurydice*. For artists like Nadia Lurie, those opportunities connect professional experience with a future in opera here at home.

"Being a part of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus has given me first-hand experience of working in professional opera right here in my hometown."

- Nadia Lurie, Emerging Artist & Chorus Member

And the vision extends beyond the stage. Investments are being made backstage as well, to explore more flexible and sustainable ways to create opera, creating set materials and resources that can serve artists and audiences for years to come.

The next chapter of the Heart of the Opera campaign is already underway. Contact Chelsea Kutyn at

chelsea@pacificopera.ca / 250-382-1641 to explore how you can support this vision



Co-Production With

VICTORIA SYMPHONY

OPEN AIR: Opera in the Summer

Music filled parks, gardens, theatres, and public spaces across Greater Victoria as OPEN AIR: Opera in the Summer returned in July 2025. Through a combination of free and ticketed performances, the festival invited audiences of all ages and backgrounds to experience opera in welcoming and unexpected settings, reinforcing Pacific Opera's commitment to making opera accessible, inclusive, and community-centred.

OPEN AIR fostered cultural vibrancy, created opportunities for artistic discovery and connection, and welcomed both devoted opera lovers and first-time audience members to share in the joy of live performance. The festival programming included the Victoria Symphony and Pacific Opera Victoria concert; Pop Up Opera, which brought members of the Pacific Opera Chorus to iconic locations throughout Victoria, and *Odyssey*, a fully staged family opera featuring 24 young performers.

A highlight of the festival was the Butchart Gardens concert where the Victoria Symphony, Pacific Opera Chorus, and acclaimed Canadian soloists Adam Luther (tenor), Lauren Margison (soprano), and Patrick Cao (pianist) joined together for a memorable evening of operatic favourites. Set against the backdrop of one of Vancouver Island's most beloved destinations, the concert, curated by Pacific Opera's Principal Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia attracted an audience of approximately 2,000 people and celebrated the power of live music to bring communities together.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

Opera and Symphony in the Summer supporter

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CITY OF VICTORIA



Production Patron

Robert and Devi Jawl FOUNDATION

The Turn of the Screw

Pacific Opera's 2025/26 opera season opened with Benjamin Britten's haunting masterpiece *The Turn of the Screw*. Based on Henry James's celebrated gothic novella, the opera follows a young governess who arrives at a remote country estate to care for two children, only to become convinced that sinister forces are at work. As reality and imagination begin to blur, Britten's gripping score tightens the tension, drawing audiences into a world of mystery, ambiguity, and psychological suspense. Through its exploration of what is real, imagined, and perceived, the opera offered a compelling reflection on the season's theme of truth and perception.

Directed by Michael Shamata and conducted by Giuseppe Pietraroia, the production featured powerful performances from an outstanding all Canadian cast, including Kirsten MacKinnon as the Governess, Catherine Daniel as Mrs. Grose, Jonelle Sills as Miss Jessell: all making their Pacific Opera débuts, and Victoria's own Isaiah Bell as the enigmatic Peter Quint. Young performers Mars Young and Jake Apricity Hetherington delivered remarkable portrayals of Miles and Flora.

By presenting this rarely performed work, audiences were invited to engage with one of the twentieth century's most compelling operatic dramas. The production demonstrated opera's power to explore complex emotional and psychological themes while showcasing the extraordinary talent of Canadian artists, enriching the cultural life of our community and offering audiences an unforgettable theatrical experience.







“A musical triumph.“

– Robin J. Miller, Opera Canada.

“… That close but wrong tension is everywhere in this production. When children make shadows on the wall, it’s a cute kid’s game. When Quint’s shadow is on the wall, it’s increasingly twisted…”

– Keith Dorwick, British Theatre Guide

“I loved that this show wasn’t just pretty arias and a soprano dying… it’s a challenging opera.” - Patron

“I loved that most of the roles and arias were female!“ - Patron

“Saw this on the weekend and it was fantastic all around. Wonderful production.“ - Patron

“This was truly outstanding, so scary!“ - Patron







Production Sponsor

AMICA
SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Co-Production

vancouveropera

Tosca

Puccini's *Tosca* is one of opera's most beloved and enduring masterpieces. A thrilling story of love, political oppression, sacrifice, and courage, Tosca follows the celebrated singer Floria Tosca as she is forced into a devastating struggle against the ruthless Chief of Police, Baron Scarpia. Set against a backdrop of political unrest, the opera unfolds with breathtaking intensity, culminating in one of the most dramatic finales in the operatic repertoire.

Directed by Artistic Director Brenna Corner and conducted by Giuseppe Pietraroia, this new co-production with Vancouver Opera explored themes of truth, power, and the ways narratives are shaped by political and religious authority. As the characters grappled with deception, propaganda, and the abuse of power, *Tosca* offered a striking examination of how perceptions can be manipulated and how the search for truth often comes at great personal cost. Audiences were captivated by the soaring lyricism of Puccini's score and the compelling performances by Catherine Thornsley as Tosca and Yongzhao Yu as Cavaradossi, both making their Pacific Opera débuts, and Brett Polegato as Baron Scarpia.

As one of opera's most accessible and emotionally immediate works, *Tosca* attracted both returning patrons and first-time attendees. Its timeless themes and extraordinary music created a powerful shared experience, reinforcing opera's ability to illuminate the human condition and spark meaningful reflection on issues that continue to resonate today.







“This production celebrates all that is fabulous about Tosca.”
– Opera Canada

“OMG. Great job by everyone. But Yongzhao Yu was amazing… Today, Sunday that Aria in the third act was perfection! WOW. SO IMPRESSED! – Patron

“One of the best sets in a long time. Loved the creativity and at times visual irony between Mario’s painting and the shadow of his misery / torture. Chef’s kiss for visual storytelling!” – Patron

“My 17 yr old son and I enjoyed Tosca so much! He said he was so engrossed in the story he forgot to watch the orchestra in the pit as much as usual.” – Patron

“The set design was terrific. I kept looking to see what boxes were going to be used for Tosca’s final steps.” – Patron

“It was fabulous. I was on an emotional tightrope for the duration of the opera. As always, Pacific Opera Victoria knocked it out of the park. Bravi tutti.” – Patron







Production Sponsor

Butler

Orpheus & Eurydice

The opera season concluded with Gluck's *Orpheus & Eurydice*, a timeless retelling of one of mythology's greatest love stories. Inspired by the ancient Greek tale of the musician Orpheus, who journeys into the underworld to reclaim his beloved Eurydice, this production explored themes of love, grief, hope, and transformation through some of the most beautiful music ever written for the operatic stage. Through Orpheus's journey, the opera asks profound questions about memory, faith, and the truths we hold onto when confronted with loss.

Directed by Amanda Testini and conducted by internationally acclaimed conductor Nicole Paiement, the production reimagined the classic myth through a contemporary lens while remaining rooted in the elegance of Gluck's score. Featuring Christian Sanders as Orpheus, Andriana Chuchman making her Pacific Opera début as Eurydice, and Suzanne Rigden as Amore, the production also welcomed dancers from Ballet Victoria, creating a rich fusion of music, movement, and storytelling.

This ambitious collaboration introduced audiences to the beauty of French baroque opera and dance while offering a deeply human exploration of love and loss. In a season shaped by questions of truth and perception, *Orpheus & Eurydice* invited audiences to reflect on the ways love, memory, and hope influence how we understand ourselves and the world around us. The production demonstrated the transformative power of artistic collaboration and concluded the season with a moving celebration of resilience and the enduring power of art.







"A perfect opera in a perfect production."
– Keith Dorwick, British Theatre Guide

"This latest production had myself and my mother-in-law enraptured… I can't remember the last time I was that transported by live theatre or opera. The set design was SO POWERFUL - what could have been just another mythological, removed-from-reality story was emotionally anchored in this brilliant and heartbreaking concept of the hospital room, and this notion of descending into the unconscious/ superconscious place where these archetypes and myths play out. The costumes subtly mirroring each other, but different, like through a glass darkly… the nod to Grecian theatre tropes and timeless techniques like shadow, all executed so perfectly. It was all so brilliantly cast and conceived of, and I just can't thank you enough for doing the work you do, when you clearly take such care to make it beautiful and meaningful. As someone who comes in from Metchosin to get their cultural batteries charged a few times a year, I could not be more grateful." – Patron





Andriana Chuchman appears courtesy a gift from
Drs. William Pope & **Elizabeth Tippett Pope**



Luminary Series

The Luminary Series returned for its second season, building on the success of its inaugural year and bringing extraordinary artists and distinctive performance experiences to Victoria audiences.

Presented in the intimate setting of the McPherson Playhouse, the series offered opportunities to encounter bold, innovative works that challenged expectations and explored contemporary stories through music, theatre, and personal narrative. While in Victoria, the artists also shared their expertise with the next generation of performers through masterclasses with students from the University of Victoria's School of Music, providing invaluable opportunities for learning, mentorship, and artistic exchange.



The Queen in Me, the acclaimed autobiographical work by celebrated Canadian soprano Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 blended opera, cabaret, comedy, and storytelling. Teiya shared their personal journey through the classical music world while exploring themes of identity, belonging, and self-discovery. Honest, courageous, and often deeply funny, the performance invited audiences into a conversation about representation, authenticity, and what it means to find one's voice.

Zombie Blizzard, a new theatrical and musical work, was inspired by Margaret Atwood's 2020 poetry collection Dearly. Created by internationally renowned soprano Measha Brueggergosman-Lee, and composer Aaron Davis, and weaving together jazz and classical music genres, the recital combined music, poetry and storytelling in a powerful exploration of humanity's relationship with the natural world. By intertwining Atwood's words with contemporary performance, the work offered audiences a thought-provoking reflection on resilience, connection, and our shared future.

Opera Etc.

Our Opera Etc. community programming continued to create meaningful opportunities for fostering community connection, learning, reconciliation, and accessibility through a wide range of free and low-cost programs.



A major highlight of the season was the unveiling of **k'amtila** (to write a new song together), a remarkable 22-foot cedar artwork donated by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Carey Newman – Nulis. More than 250 opera supporters, community partners, artists, and neighbours gathered at the Baumann Centre to celebrate this significant milestone in Pacific Opera's reconciliation journey. The evening featured an artist talk by Carey Newman and performances by Indigenous artists Marion Newman Nege'ga and Melody Courage. Gracing the entrance to the Baumann Centre, the artwork serves as a lasting symbol of welcome, relationship, and respect for the lands on which we live and work.

Ghosts of the Royal, hosted by Artistic Director Brenna Corner, invited families to discover the fascinating folklore and backstage history of Victoria's historic theatres through storytelling and local ghost tales. ***Remembering Mary's Wedding*** honoured the sacrifices of Canadians during the First World War through music and storytelling inspired by Stephen Massicotte's acclaimed play. Developed with arts and community partners, the performance encouraged reflection on the enduring legacy of service and Pacific Opera's contribution to community remembrance activities.

Music continued to reach audiences wherever they are. **Coloratura** delivered 18 performances to more than 500 seniors in care facilities and residential homes, bringing opera and musical theatre directly to those unable to attend traditional performances. **Opera Postcards** shared festive holiday concerts with seniors throughout the community, while **Pop Up Opera** surprised audiences in parks and public spaces across Greater Victoria, surpassing 620 performances since the program began.



Our public engagement programs enriched audiences' understanding of opera throughout the season. **Inside Opera** with host Robert Holliston featured lively conversations with artists and special guests exploring *The Turn of the Screw, Tosca,* and the relationship between ballet and opera in *Orpheus & Eurydice*. Lobby Lectures, also presented by Robert Holliston before each Royal Theatre performance and recorded for online audiences and Opera Bus patrons, provided engaging introductions to each production's music, history, and themes.



Robert Holliston appearances are made possible by a gift from **Barbara Hubbard**

Building on last year's Indigenous Language Translation pilot, **Found in Translation: Bridging Cultures and Community Through Song** expanded through partnerships with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, and the Royal BC Museum. Indigenous Elders and newcomers worked alongside local artists to translate classical Western art songs into Anishinaabe, Dakota, Cree, Nuu-chah-nulth, Hindi, Japanese, and Toisan, demonstrating how opera can foster cultural exchange, language revitalization, and belonging.

Accessibility remained central to Pacific Opera's mission. Through the Ticket Access Program, 53 community organizations and 27 educational partners distributed more than 940 complimentary tickets to individuals facing financial and social barriers, ensuring that more people could experience the transformative power of live opera for the first time.



We want to acknowledge the fluent speakers of diverse Indigenous languages for their commitment to language presentation through their support of this program.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

Found in Translation: Bridging cultures and community through song received funding from a Civic Practice Grant from OPERA America's Opera Fund.

OPERA AMERICA

Remembering Mary's Wedding is made possible by an extraordinary gift from Robert G. Milne, in honour of Larry Ryan. The event was also made with support from Veterans Affairs Canada

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Funded by Veterans Affairs Canada | Canada

Youth and Education

COMMUNITY PREVIEWS

School groups, families, community partners, young artists, and underserved community members attended the final dress rehearsal of the season's productions. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to attend with children and introduce opera and the arts to the young people in their lives, sparking a lifelong appreciation for music and cultural experiences and nurturing future opera enthusiasts.

LIVING OPERA

Delivered by Pacific Opera teaching artist Geoff Malcolm and Pacific Opera Chorus soprano Nadia Lurie to elementary schools in Greater Victoria, these hands-on workshops for students in grades 3 to 8 are designed to empower students to explore opera storytelling. The children actively participated in creating their own opera plot and an aria for a pivotal scene during the workshops. The aria was performed back to them, providing them with a firsthand insight into the opera creation process. These workshops aim to entertain and enrich children, while cultivating a new generation of opera enthusiasts and future audience members by igniting a passion for opera at a young age.

YOUTH SUMMER PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

New this season, Pacific Opera's Youth Summer Performance Program, a summer camp for young singers, was launched in June 2025. This two week day camp, featuring coaching by Pacific Opera's artistic staff was a high level opportunity for young singers aged 8 – 18 to gain hands-on experience in a professional opera environment and work alongside seasoned artists and stage professionals on *Odyssey* by Ben Moore and Kelley Rourke. Twenty-four young singers participated in the program of whom 13 auditioned for the coveted solo roles. The camp culminated in four sold out performances of the opera at the Baumann Centre's Wingate Studio.



"Our young learners loved it. The creativity in those young minds is so inspiring.... This class made an opera about a wolf who lost his invite to a pizza party. Oh and this wolf had a private jet!"

- Geoff, Living Opera Teaching Artist

Youth and Education Programming is supported by The Quail Rock Foundation and an anonymous Foundation

Education & Youth Programs Sponsor

Acera INSURANCE

Online Impact

2025|26 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

42
Countries reached by broadcast events

130,925
75% growth from 2024/25

8
Online videos, podcasts, broadcasts

3 Podcast episodes

3 Pre-concert talks

2 Inside Opera

4,992
Views and listens of digital programming

3,293
eNews subscribers

5,518
Facebook followers
4% growth from 2024/25

2,698
X Followers

3,782
Instagram followers
4% growth from 2024|25

Regional Impact

2025|26 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

215
Artists performing, creating, & teaching, onstage, behind the scenes, and online

12
Staged Opera Performances

6
Luminary Series Performances

1,607
Youth participating in opera

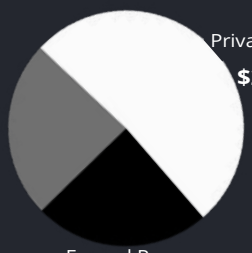
25,725
Adults at LIVE Opera, Opera Etc. community and education events

86
Community Partnerships

239
Opera Etc. community and education events

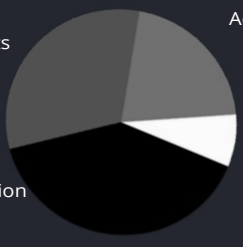
- 1 Summer Festival
- 42 Artist development and coaching sessions
- 1 Youth Opera Camp
- 47 Living Opera Youth Workshops
- 83 Pop Up Opera performances
- 14 Opera Postcard performances
- 18 Coloratura concerts
- 12 Community recitals
- 21 Public lectures and dialogues

YEARLY REVENUE
In thousands of dollars



- Private Sector **$2,989**
- Government Grants **$1,406**
- Earned Revenues **$1,393**

YEARLY EXPENSES
In thousands of dollars



- Salaries & Benefits **$1,838**
- Administration & Facilities **$1,220**
- Marketing & Fundraising **$434**
- Artistic & Production **$2,305**

chek CFAX 1070

Artist Development

CHORUS DEVELOPMENT

This program offered training and mentorship to Victoria-based singers and students of voice. Participants engaged in masterclasses with Pacific Opera Artistic Director Brenna Corner, Principal Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia, Principal Coach Kimberley-Ann Bartczak and guest artists including tenor Isaiah Bell who performed in the role of Peter Quint in *The Turn of the Screw,* and Paul Destrooper, Ballet Victoria's Artistic Director. The program sessions included private coaching, mock auditions, movement workshops, vocal masterclasses to work on technique and performance practice, and workshops focused on stagecraft and character work in opera performance.

OPERA SPROUTS INITIATIVE

In this exciting new initiative, which was launched in the reporting season, three composer and librettist teams wishing to develop their careers and write operas for school aged children were selected to participate in a new work development mentorship program. This pilot project, created in partnership with Vancouver Opera saw industry professionals mentor these creative teams as they developed new works for educational institutions. In specially created online workshops, SD61 students from Happy Valley Elementary, Quadra Elementary and Central Middle School also contributed to the developmental stages of what it is to create an opera and shared their ideas for the works in development including what they loved and which characters resonated with them. Mentoring and workshop sessions took place throughout 2025 and culminated in a public competition in May 2026 to select the winning work that will be developed into a 40-minute long opera and will tour to BC schools in Spring 2027 as part of Pacific Opera's and Vancouver Opera's Opera in Schools program. In this ongoing initiative created to increase the number of contemporary operatic works suitable for young audiences, new creative teams will be selected and mentored.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Mus 580H Ensemble Performance course, accredited by the University of Victoria, offered voice students hands-on experience by performing in the Pacific Opera Chorus. Pacific Opera again partnered with UVic on their graduate music program, M.Mus Performance – Staged Voice in which students trained, participated in mentorships and masterclasses and delivered performances as members of the Pacific Opera chorus.

In the reporting season, five UVic students participated in both of these programs. Performance opportunities included appearances in Pacific Opera's Royal Theatres productions of *Tosca* and *Orpheus & Eurydice* as well as Coloratura performances in community. Over time, the unique opportunities afforded to emerging artists will see an influx of promising singers in our city and working with our company.

The Opera Sprouts Initiative received funding from OPERA America's Opera Fund

OPERA AMERICA

Artist Underwriter

The NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation

University of Victoria
School of Music

Funds for Opera Sprouts were received from the Gail O'Riordan Climate and The Arts Legacy fund through the Victoria Foundation

THE GAIL O'RIORDAN Climate & the Arts LEGACY SERIES
VICTORIA FOUNDATION





Thank you!

Thank you so much to you, our Opera Family. It takes a huge community to support opera creation and performance. You help us through your ticket purchases, your donations, and your time and talents and we truly couldn't create without you. We are able to thank a portion of our supporters here, but please know that all contributions, financial and otherwise are valued.

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

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BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OPERA

Opera has a way of staying with us long after the curtain falls, connecting us through stories, artists, and experiences that become part of our lives.

A gift to the Foundation strengthens Pacific Opera Victoria today while building lasting financial support for tomorrow. Our endowment is professionally invested and held in perpetuity, with a portion of their earnings providing ongoing support for Pacific Opera's artistic, educational, and community work. Endowed gifts may also qualify for matching support through the Canada Cultural Investment Fund Endowment Incentives component, helping donors extend their impact.

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OPERA

This year, Lydia Wingate established a new family fund that was matched by the Canadian Cultural Investment Fund with a vision for the future that reflects her belief in the power of opera.

The Lydia and Martin Wingate Family Fund will support Indigenous opera artists and help Pacific Opera embrace new technologies that advance its mission. It is one example of how a donor can turn deeply held values into a lasting legacy.

> *"Opera is a wonderful, inspiring and extremely enjoyable art form. It is my hope that donations of this kind will help to ensure that Pacific Opera will grace Victoria audiences with its outstanding productions in perpetuity."* - Lydia Wingate

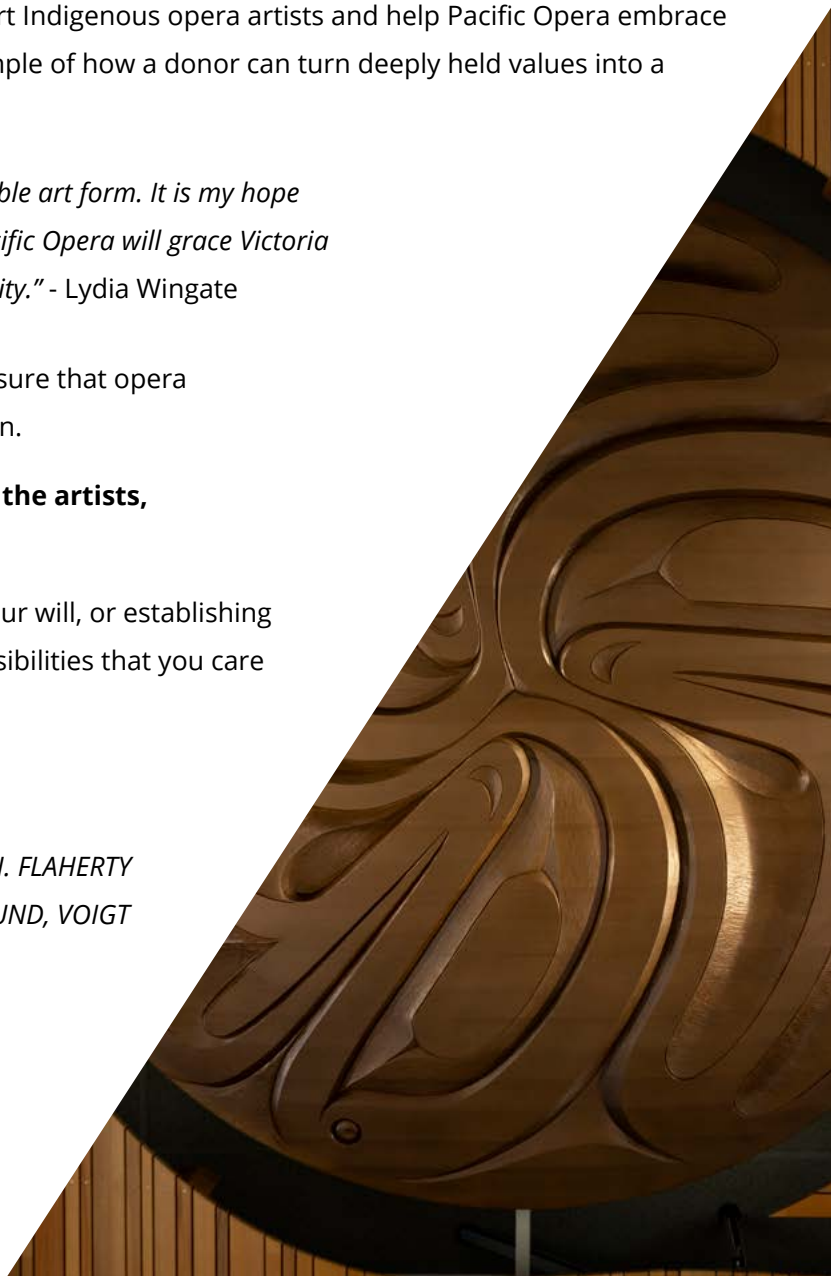
Lydia's hope is at the heart of the Foundation: to help ensure that opera continues to thrive in Victoria, generation after generation.

Every gift helps connect the generosity of today with the artists, audiences, and stories of tomorrow.

For more information about including Pacific Opera in your will, or establishing an endowed fund that reflects the people, values, or possibilities that you care most about, contact Ian Rye **ian@pacificopera.ca.**

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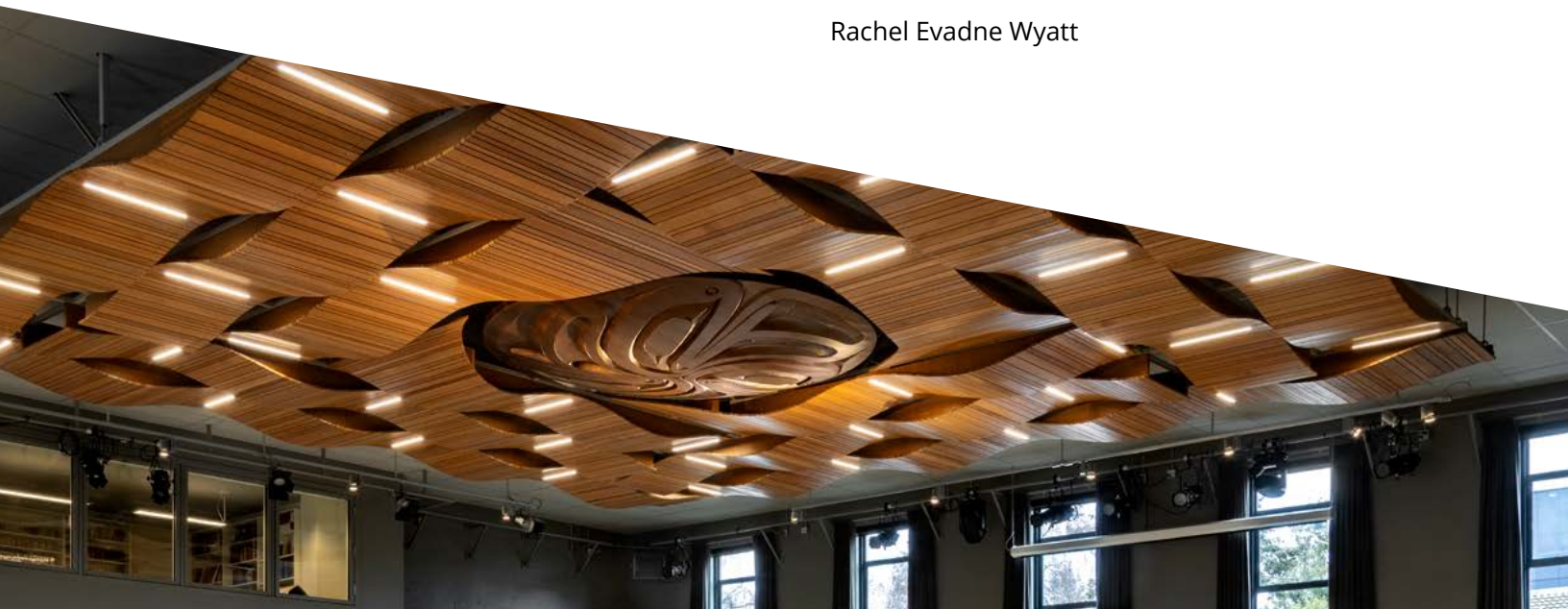
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BRITTEN'S *THE TURN OF THE SCREW*

Cast

Governess | Kirsten MacKinnon
Peter Quint | Isaiah Bell
Miles | Mars Young
Flora | Jake Apricity Hetherington
Mrs. Grose | Catherine Daniel
Miss Jessel | Jonelle Sills
Miles Understudy | Scarlett Nicholson-Selly
Flora Understudy | Maya Badel

With the Victoria Symphony

Creative Team

Conductor | Giuseppe Pietraroia
Stage Director | Michael Shamata
Set & Costume Designer | Shawn Kerwin
Lighting Designer | Leigh Ann Vardy
Principal Coach | Kimberley-Ann Bartczak
Stage Manager | Marijka Asbeek Brusse
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PUCCINI'S *TOSCA*

Cast

Tosca | Catherine Thornsley
Cavaradossi | Yongzhao Yu
Scarpia | Brett Polegato
Angelotti | Alex Halliday
Sacristan | Peter Monaghan
Spoletta | Asitha Tennekoon
Sciarrone | Matthew Li
Shepherd Boy | Findlay Green
Shepherd Boy | Andriya Yaremyn
Jailer | Louis Dillon

With the Victoria Symphony, the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus & Supernumeraries, and The Victoria Children's Choir

Creative Team

Conductor | Giuseppe Pietraroia
Stage Director | Brenna Corner
Set & Video Designer | Scott Reid
Lighting Designer | Michael Walton
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Chorus Director & Principal Coach| Kimberley-Ann Bartczak
Fight & Intimacy Director | Geoff Malcom
Stage Manager | Collette Berg
Assistant Stage Manager | Kelsey Cain
Assistant Stage Manager | Katerina Sokyrko
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Costumes supplied by the Canadian Opera Company (Kevin Knight, Designer)

GLUCK'S *ORPHEUS & EURYDICE*

Cast

Orpheus | Christian Sanders
Eurydice | Andriana Chuchman
Amore | Suzanne Rigden

With Dancers from Ballet Victoria, Pacific Opera Chorus & Supernumeraries and the Victoria Symphony

Creative Team

Conductor | Nicole Paiment
Stage Director | Amanda Testini
Set Designer | James Rotondo
Costume Designer | Sylvain Genois
Lighting Designer | Chris Malkowski
Chorus Director | Giuseppe Pietraroia
Principal Coach | Kimberley-Ann Bartczak
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PACIFIC OPERA VICTORIA

IMAGES

Cover | Yongzhao Yu as Cavaradossi and Catherine Thornsley as Tosca in *Tosca*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photo by David Cooper Photography.
Opposite Cover Page | Christian Sanders as Orpheus and Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice with members of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus in *Orpheus & Eurydice*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photos by Emily Cooper Photography.
Open Air | Top: The Victoria Symphony performing with Principal Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia and Adam Luther at The Butchart Gardens, 2025. Bottom: Principal Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia with the Victoria Symphony performing at The Butchart Gardens, 2025. Photos by Arcade Pallot.
The Turn of the Screw **|** Top left: Mars Young as Miles and Jake Apricity Hetherington as Flora. Lower from left: Isaiah Bell as Peter Quint. Jonelle Sills as Miss Jessel and Kirsten MacKinnon as the Governess. Top right: Kirsten MacKinnon as the Governess, Mars Young as Miles, and Isaiah Bell as Peter Quint. Lower from left: Mars Young as Miles. Mars Young as Miles, Catherine Daniel as Mrs. Grose, Kirsten MacKinnon as the Governess, and Jake Apricity Hetherington as Flora. All photos from *The Turn of the Screw,* Pacific Opera Victoria, 2025. Photos by David Cooper Photography.
Tosca | Top left: Catherine Thornsley as Tosca. Lower from left: Members of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus and the Victoria Children's Choir. Asitha Tennekoon as Spoletta and Peter Monaghan as the Sacristan. Top right: Yongzhao Yu as Cavaradossi and Catherine Thornsley as Tosca with a member of the Pacific Opera Chorus. Lower from left: Yongzhao Yu as Cavaradossi and Catherine Thornsley as Tosca. Catherine Thornsley as Tosca and Asitha Tennekoon as Spoletta with members of the Pacific Opera Chorus. All photos from *Tosca*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photos by David Cooper Photography.
Orpheus & Eurydice | Top left: Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice and a supernumary with dancers from Ballet Victoria. Lower left: Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice, Suzanne Rigden as Amore, and Christian Sanders as Orpheus with supernumeraries. Top right: Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice, Suzanne Rigden as Amore, and Christian Sanders as Orpheus with members of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus. Lower from left: Christian Sanders as Orpheus and Suzanne Rigden as Amore with a supernumerary. Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice with a dancer of Ballet Victoria. All photos from *Orpheus & Eurydice*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photos by Emily Cooper Photography.
Luminary Series | Top: Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 in *The Queen in Me*, 2022. Photo by Dahlia Katz. Right: Measha Brueggergosman-Lee. Photo courtesy of The Feldman Agency.
Opera Etc. | Top: k̲amtila. Photo courtesy of Carey Newman – (Nulis). Bottom left: Christopher Mackie as the Narrator, Chelsea Kutyn as Mary, and Tim Carter as Charlie in *Remembering Mary's Wedding*, 2025. Photo by Arcade Pallot. Page 2, upper right: Robert Holliston and Paul Destrooper during *Inside Opera: Orpheus & Eurydice*. Bottom: Elders participating in Found in Translation: Bridging Cultures and Community Through Song. Photos by Arcade Pallot.
Youth and Education | The cast of *Odyssey* by Ben Moore and Kelley Rourke, Pacific Opera Victoria 2025. Photo by Arcade Pallot.
Artist Development | Christian Sanders with the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus during rehersals of *Orpheus & Eurydice*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photo by Arcade Pallot.
Thank You | Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice with members of Ballet Victoria in *Orpheus & Eurydice*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photo by Emily Cooper Photography.
Festa a Roma Auction Donors | Catherine Thornsley as Tosca in *Tosca,* Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photo by David Cooper Photography.
Pacific Opera Foundation| *Mind, Body and Spirit* by Carey Newman - (Nulis) Photo by Tony Conangelo. Page 2, *Mind, Body and Spirit* by Carey Newman - (Nulis) Photo by Tony Conangelo **Our People** | Andriana Chuchman as Eurydice and Christian Sanders as Orpheus with members of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus in *Orpheus & Eurydice*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2026. Photo by Emily Cooper Photography. **Artists & Creative Teams |** The cast of *The Odyssey* by Ben Moore and Kelley Rourke, Pacific Opera Victoria 2025. Photo by Arcade Pallot. **Photo Credits Page** | Kirsten MacKinnon as the Governess, Jake Apricity Hetherington as Flora, and Mars Young as Miles in *The Turn of the Screw*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2025. Photo by David Cooper Photography.

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Pacific Opera Victoria works and creates on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen speaking people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.