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Dear Arts Education Supporter,

We are able to celebrate our great success this year thanks to the support of our many donors, partners, and sponsors. Through the tireless dedication of the Guild’s staff and volunteers, and the leadership of our wonderful Board, we have overcome obstacles and achieved new milestones. Together, we continue to foster a community of opera-lovers, bringing the art form to both first-time viewers and avid listeners around the globe. I am thrilled to once again share our Annual Report with you, and to shine a spotlight on some of our great work.

During our 2018–19 season, our education programs reached over 15,760 students and 1,624 teachers at 213 schools. Our community engagement programs presented 212 lectures, master classes, artist interviews, and backstage tours to over 8,500 people of all ages. More than 800 guests attended our special events celebrating opera. Our websites for the Guild and OPERA NEWS attracted 672,576 unique web visitors, and our social media pages have close to 147,000 followers. Our monthly publication, OPERA NEWS magazine, reached 54,000 subscribers worldwide.

But it is not just the numbers that excite us—the Guild has had a tremendous year filled with some truly impressive achievements. Every department saw remarkable transformations and accomplishments that I am delighted to share with you in the following pages. Thank you for the unending and hard work of our staff, Board, and our invaluable supporters who continue to believe in our mission, year after year. Because of you, we are able to continue to enrich lives through the magic and artistry of opera.

I could not be more proud of our team and of your support for making these and all our other accomplishments this past year possible. All of us at the Guild thank you for investing in our work, and the students, teachers, and community members we serve.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Miller, Jr.
President
School Programs

**Access Opera**

Served 12,912 students and 1,457 teachers in 193 schools

The Guild’s longest-running school program, Access Opera engages students with the unforgettable (and for many, first-time) experience of watching a performance at the Met. Prior to each production, teachers receive an educational study guide that corresponds with the opera in order to help teachers facilitate students’ exploration of the production. The materials include access to musical and historical highlights of the opera. Teachers also participate in professional development sessions that offer strategies for connecting elements of opera with other subject matters, helping to further link the performance to their classroom studies.

**Urban Voices**

Served 1,342 students and 71 teachers at eight schools

Urban Voices: A Choral Music Initiative is a 20–30 week choral music residency program that provides instruction by a Guild Teaching Artist and engages students in literature, history, and foreign languages through the music of different cultures and time periods. Repertoire for the program is intended to be linked to topics that students are studying in their school curriculum, so as they learn vocal technique and music notation, they connect the music to their classroom studies. Instruction culminates in a large-group choral sharing event with live instrumental accompaniment. This program allows for the development of music literacy and performance skills, as well as self-confidence, collaboration, and focus.

**Students Compose Opera**

Served 981 students and 73 teachers at eight schools

In this 18-week program, facilitated by a Guild Teaching Artist in partnership with the students’ classroom teacher(s), students write, compose, and present operas based on source material from their general classroom curriculum (stories, poems, or historical events). Through the process of creating their own operatic works, students develop writing and communication skills, engage in collaborative problem-solving, and deepen their understanding of how different art forms work together to powerfully express ideas. The processes of reflection and revision are applied throughout the creation process, and students learn to form and express constructive critiques of their work as a way to refine their compositions.

If you’re interested in adopting or supporting a school or classroom, please contact Amanda Lee, Development Manager, at 212.769.7014 or alee@metguild.org.
Teaching Through Opera

Served 97 students and five teachers at two schools

This year-long professional development program helps educators build the knowledge and skills to incorporate the elements of opera (text analysis, libretto writing, music composition, theatrical design, and staging) into ongoing instruction. Teachers learn to guide students in creating original operatic material based on stories, poems, or historical events from the classroom curriculum. Educators are able to attend a six-day Opera Learning Institute summer workshop, team-planning sessions with Guild artists, receive classroom support, and meet for quarterly workshops. In turn, students develop skills in the arts, while improving literacy, communication, problem-solving, and collaboration.

This year, for the first time, the Guild has been granted status as an Approved Sponsor of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE). This means that any New York state teacher can receive state credit for any of our professional development offerings.

TOP: A group of students from PS 10 shine at a sharing event for their fellow classmates, parents, and members of their community.

CENTER: Students at PS 208 perform the opera that they composed with the help of a Guild Teaching Artist.

BOTTOM: Teachers attend the Summer Institute, learning how to incorporate the elements of opera into their curriculum.
Community Engagement

Lectures and Courses of Study

Lectures, interviews, pre-performance talks, and panel discussions by Metropolitan Opera artists, Guild staff, and scholars offer audiences a deeper understanding of the opera world. Additionally, the Guild offers ongoing courses to those who wish to delve even further into opera. This past year, course offerings included a sold-out series of master classes and a vocal showcase with Jane Marsh, three different types of “Opera Boot Camps,” and a three-part lecture on Opera’s Villains and Victims by Ira Siff. In total, the Guild hosted 74 events, selling more than 4,200 tickets in 2018–19.

Score-Desk Tickets

Score-desk seats are located in the Family Circle Boxes of the Metropolitan Opera House, and offer no view of the stage, but are equipped with a desk and reading light, enabling study of an opera’s score during the performance. The excellent acoustics offer a great alternative experience to opera lovers interested in studying the music at a fundamental level. Many piano-vocal scores are available from our lending library. This experience can be further enhanced with one of the Guild’s score-reading workshops. This season, the Guild sold 2,012 score-desk tickets.

High School Opera Singers Intensive

This five-day intensive is designed to inform and inspire developing young singers as they explore options for college or conservatory study and beyond. The program offers 10 students the chance to participate in a variety of workshops and training sessions led by guest teachers and Guild staff, including daily master classes, song interpretation, audition tips and techniques, a backstage tour of the Metropolitan Opera House, and a chat with a Met artist. Participants also attend a Met performance.

Online Learning

NEW FOR THE 2018–19 SEASON

Online courses are designed to provide distance learning opportunities to those interested in delving deeper into operatic subject matters. All online learning courses are self-paced, allowing for a flexible learning schedule. Each course features video lectures, supplemental readings, and, when applicable, score excerpts for further study. You can access the courses at metguild.thinkific.com.

Podcasts

Designed around the Metropolitan Opera season, each Guild podcast presents opera lectures, artist interviews, and much more. Now with 130 episodes and counting, the series is available for access on platforms such as iTunes, Google Play Music, and on SoundCloud. It is currently enjoyed by more than 811,000 people all around the world and has been a welcome tool for reaching a broader audience.

Fellowships and Internships

In 2018, the Guild implemented an Arts Administration & Arts Fundraising Fellowship Program with support provided by the New York City Regional Development Council. Over the course of the calendar year, two fellows participated in a three-part rotation through the Guild’s Community Engagement, Development, and School Programs Departments. The Guild also provides internship opportunities for high school students throughout the year. During their time at the Guild, both fellows and interns have access to professional development sessions, free admission to Guild-sponsored programs, and can even attend performances at the Met.

This season, we surpassed our 100th episode!
Backstage Tours
The Guild works closely with the Metropolitan Opera to provide the public with a behind-the-scenes look at one of the world’s premier performing arts organizations. Tours offer a fascinating backstage look at the scenic and carpentry shops, rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms, and stage area. This past season, 3,893 backstage tour tickets were purchased.

Volunteering
Guild Volunteers are opera lovers who donate their time and passion to lead backstage tours, assist at final dress rehearsals, and involve themselves in other activities that support the Guild’s mission. This year, we had more than 90 volunteers who generously contributed to enriching thousands of lives through a mutual love of opera!

TOP: A student partakes in a master class as part of the High School Opera Singers Intensive.
CENTER: Met Opera Broadcast commentator, Ira Siff, hosts a lecture on opera’s villains and victims.
BOTTOM: Tour guide Kathy Beekman leads a curious group on a backstage tour.
Development and Special Events

During the 2018–19 season, more than 800 people attended our events, which helped raise more than $1 million in funds to support our education initiatives.

Guild Luncheon: Amazing Anna!
The Metropolitan Opera Guild celebrated soprano Anna Netrebko at the 84th annual Metropolitan Opera Guild Luncheon on October 26 at Cipriani 42nd Street. The event was filled with unforgettable moments, including tributes from mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves, tenor Joseph Calleja, and Met General Manager Peter Gelb. A special musical tribute was given by violinist Joshua Bell and soprano Larisa Martínez.

The OPERA NEWS Awards
The 14th Annual OPERA NEWS Awards were held on April 7 in the Grand Ballroom of The Plaza Hotel, and honored Rosalind Elias, Laurent Pelly, Ailyn Pérez, Luca Pisaroni, and Ramón Vargas. The award presenters included Joseph Volpe, Joyce DiDonato, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Thomas Hampson, and Susanna Phillips. An exciting and memorable musical tribute was given by soprano Betsy Wolfe.

The Guild Travel Program
Every year, the Guild offers opportunities to explore music, art, architecture, and cuisine in locations throughout the world. On Guild-sponsored trips, Members enjoy private performances, fine food and lodging, and special receptions, often in the company of great artists from the Metropolitan Opera. In 2018, we were joined by mezzo-soprano Susan Graham on an opera voyage from Venice to Rome.

TOP: Anna Netrebko accepts her award honoring her achievements at the Guild’s 84th Annual Luncheon.
CENTER: Joyce DiDonato and Plácido Domingo celebrate at the annual OPERA NEWS Awards.
BOTTOM: OPERA NEWS Awards Honorees SEATED: Rosalind Elias; Ailyn Pérez. STANDING: Ramón Vargas; Luca Pisaroni; Laurent Pelly
ALL PHOTOGRAPHY BY DARIO ACOSTA ©
OPERA NEWS, the Guild’s award-winning monthly publication, a six-time winner of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Publisher Award, continues to be the world’s leading opera magazine. It is currently the largest-circulation classical music magazine in North America and marked its 83rd season of publication in 2018–19.

Our summer issues—July 2018 and August 2018—were dedicated to a preview of the Munich Festival and to education, with interviews with Damian Woetzel, the incoming president of the Juilliard School, and Dawn Upshaw of Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Other notable stories this season included an essay on the phenomenal devotion of the fans of Wagner’s Ring cycle; a feature on the centennial of Met star Birgit Nilsson; and a photo essay on 18 rising young divas, as well as cover-story profiles of Roberto Alagna, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Piotr Beczała, Michael Volle, Pretty Yende, Luca Pisaroni, and Thomas Hampson. Our issue for May 2019 featured a cover-story interview with American tenor Russell Thomas, an alumnus of the Met’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

The magazine continues to develop and post exclusive online content, including audio and video features, on its website, operanews.com, while engaging its audience on social media through Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Don’t miss out on exclusive behind-the-scenes content on our social media accounts!

Join the record number of 147,000 worldwide followers today!
Thank you, Metropolitan Opera Guild!

Thanks to all of our generous supporters, we are able to bring students to attend final dress rehearsals at the Met, implement arts education programs at under-resourced schools, and provide teachers with professional development opportunities. Here are just some of the responses we’ve received from this past year in recognition of our great work across local communities:

“Thank you for inviting us to see La Traviata. I loved the intro with the rose and the way the opera concluded. The opera was extraordinary and hopefully some day, we will see it again. Thank you!” —MUHAMMAD M., STUDENT, FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

“Urban Voices provided a great opportunity to integrate the performing arts with our social studies curriculum. It provides different points of access and understanding for students of all abilities and strengths. The program of social-justice based music and lessons that integrated history and social studies was seamless. It was a wonderful and enriching experience for all.” —MEGAN H., TEACHER, PS 10

“Thank you for performing an amazing show. My favorite characters were Papageno and Papagena. It was really cool that your voices were so loud without microphones. I loved the whole show. Thank you!” —SOPHIA O., STUDENT, DAVIS ELEMENTARY

“My favorite part of the residency is seeing how the different members of the classroom communities come together to be part of a Students Compose Opera project. Students take pride in their ability to personally contribute, whether they are singing, acting, or helping to create or manage props and scenery.” —SHAWN F., GUILD TEACHING ARTIST

“I’ve always noticed the musical connection my class had to learning but Students Compose Opera just reinforced this theory. It allows students to feel successful and take risks in an environment they trust.” —MARNI L., TEACHER, PS 32K

“Thank you for giving LaGuardia students the opportunity to experience Rigoletto. I used to work in the area and constantly passed by, but never had the chance to attend the Opera as I couldn’t afford it. So, when this opportunity was offered I jumped at the chance. I had a blast and truly enjoyed experiencing an integral part of Italian culture. I hope you continue to offer similar opportunities to future LaGuardia students. Thank You.” —DANIELLE T., STUDENT, LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“Many students expressed to me afterwards that they felt a real sense of achievement and ownership of their performance: some in shock (“I can’t believe we did it!”), some in pride (“Did you see I got all the words right?”), and some in excitement (“That was so much fun, I want to do it again!”).” —HANNAH G., GUILD TEACHING ARTIST
We enrich lives through an awareness and deeper appreciation of opera while supporting the Metropolitan Opera by expanding its reach to diverse communities and wider audiences. Here’s what that looks like by the numbers:

**School Programs**
- 15,760 Students
- 1,624 Teachers
- 213 Schools
- 60% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch

**Student Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Community Engagement and Public Programs**
- 107 Adult Education Events: 4,646 Tickets Sold
- 105 Backstage Tours: 3,893 Tickets Sold
- 2 Public Program Events: 807 Tickets Sold
- 214 Total Events: 9,346 Tickets Sold

**OPERA NEWS**
- 54,000 Subscribers worldwide
- 20% Circulation in NY
- 80% Circulation outside NY
Guild programs are supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The Metropolitan Opera Guild is grateful to the supporters who helped make our programs possible in 2018–19.

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For more information about how you can support the Guild’s education programs, please contact Amanda Lee, Development Manager, at 212.769.7014 or alee@metguild.org.

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