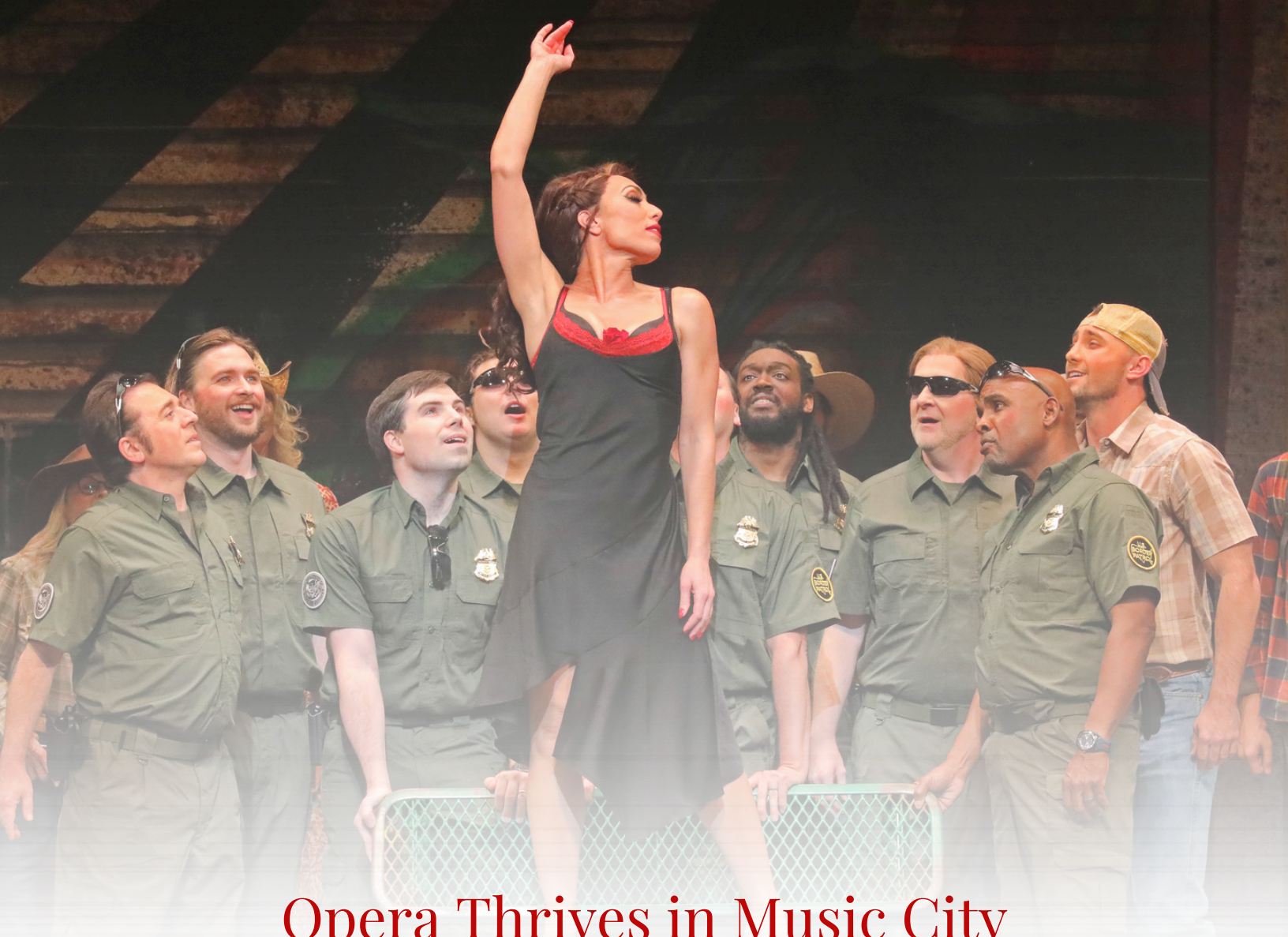


# NASHVILLE OPERA

## 2024-2025 Impact Report





## Opera Thrives in Music City

Nashville Opera's 2024-2025 season was a season to remember, bringing world-class talent to our stages and reminding Middle Tennesseans why opera continues to captivate and inspire.

The season sparkled with unforgettable performances from some of opera's most compelling contemporary voices. Soprano Kathryn Lewek captivated audiences as Micaëla in *Carmen*, while Rainelle Krause returned to Nashville for a second consecutive season, this time making a stunning debut in the title role of *Lucia: The Bride of Lammermoor*. Not even the threat of inclement weather could dampen the excitement or overshadow the brilliance of her performance.

Yet the season's impact reached far beyond individual performances, as innovation and imagination infused every production with fresh vitality.

**Nashville Opera continued to reimagine the classics while introducing bold new works to the stage.** A newly commissioned set for *Carmen* transported Bizet's timeless story to a West Texas border town, offering a striking new lens on love, power, and freedom. The world premiere of *The Cook-Off*, with music by Shawn Okpebholo and a libretto by Mark Campbell, showcased bold contemporary storytelling, while our Mary Ragland Emerging Artists brought wit and charm to Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Together, these productions created a season full of variety, excitement, and something for everyone to enjoy.

All of this was made possible because individuals, corporations, foundations, and public partners invested in the power of opera to enrich lives across the region.

Opera is grand, inviting, captivating and life-changing.



We work hard every season to evolve our art form and show audiences that opera is relevant, beautiful, and **reaches into the depths of their spirits.**

**Nashville Opera shines because of the strength of Nashville's own musicians.**

Our orchestra was comprised of the city's world-class studio players and symphony musicians, while our chorus showcased the brilliance of local vocalists who brought every production to life. Paired with acclaimed guest artists in principal roles, these homegrown talents created performances that could only happen in Music City.

The 2024–2025 season also continued Nashville Opera's trend of steady growth and record numbers of first-time attendees. **Nashville Opera stood out as a bright spot in the opera world, with 58% of ticket buyers new to the company.** This success led to our inclusion in a national study of new opera audiences conducted by Opera America. The opera world is taking note of Nashville Opera's success, and our growing reputation reflects not only bold artistic choices but also a commitment to making opera vital, relevant, and accessible to all.

Nashville Opera is unamplified and unforgettable.



## 2024-2025 Mainstage Season Productions

**Carmen**

**Bon Appetit**

**The Cook-Off**

**H.M.S. Pinafore**

**Lucia: The Bride of Lammermoor**

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 MAINSTAGE PATRONS

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## Nashville Opera on Tour: Inspiring a lifelong love of the arts, **thanks to generous support from sponsors.**

Nashville Opera is committed to ensuring that all students have access to transformative arts experiences. Through our in-school programs, we bring live opera directly to classrooms and communities across Middle Tennessee, sparking curiosity, creativity, and confidence in young people. These encounters open doors to imagination, helping students see themselves as part of the artistic story and ensuring that the power of music continues to inspire the next generation.

This program was again offered free of charge to schools across Middle Tennessee thanks to the generous support of our donors. We also provided teachers with study guides and accessibility toolkits to ensure every student could fully engage with the experience.

Elementary school students enjoyed the hilarious and lively “Goldie B. Locks and the Three Singing Bears.” While high school and college students were treated to “Opera Out Loud,” a program of well-known arias and opera duets. Both of these programs not only aligned with Tennessee education standards, but they also gave students the unforgettable opportunity to experience the power of the unamplified human voice up close.

1,200	CHILDREN REACHED
101	COVETED TOUR SPOTS WERE CLAIMED IN FOUR HOURS
54	SCHOOLS IN-PERSON
21	SCHOOLS WITH A STEAM EXPEDITION PERFORMANCE
14	COMMUNITY VENUES
12	SCHOOLS VIRTUAL

Since 1996, Nashville Opera on Tour has introduced 830,000 children to the power and storytelling of live opera.

**SIXTEEN COUNTIES SERVED  
BY NASHVILLE OPERA'S  
EDUCATION TOUR**

BEDFORD COUNTY.....	443
CHEATHAM COUNTY.....	200
COFFEE COUNTY.....	1,533
DAVIDSON COUNTY.....	10,085
DICKSON COUNTY.....	1,765
FRANKLIN COUNTY.....	350
HUMPHREYS COUNTY.....	392
JACKSON COUNTY.....	400
MAURY COUNTY.....	880
MONTGOMERY COUNTY.....	3,042
PUTNAM COUNTY.....	1,378
ROBERTSON COUNTY.....	444
RUTHERFORD COUNTY.....	2,677
STEWART COUNTY.....	450
SUMNER COUNTY.....	2,372
WILLIAMSON COUNTY.....	2,178

**SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS**

TITLE 1 SCHOOLS.....	75%
NON-WHITE STUDENTS.....	36%
ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED.....	24%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.....	15%
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.....	14%
UNHOUSED.....	3%
FOSTER CARE.....	2%
PARENTS IN ACTIVE DUTY.....	3%





# Nashville Opera On Wheels: Music City's Opera for everyone, everywhere.

Through Opera On Wheels, Nashville Opera is shifting expectations about what opera can be: not something reserved for a single stage, but a living art that shows up in schools, parks, community centers, and neighborhood events across Music City.

Since 2020, Opera On Wheels has rolled into communities with performances that break down barriers of cost and transportation, bringing exceptional local singers and beloved repertoire directly into people's lives.

In 2024-2025, over 27,000 people experienced an Opera On Wheels concert at no cost thanks to the generosity of Amazon, The Tennessee Arts Commission, and other dedicated donors.

Great music speaks to every generation, and these concerts delighted audiences of all ages.

Because of supporters like you, Nashville Opera is more than a company that stages productions. We're a partner in the community, present where people gather and eager to share the power and pleasure of music in every corner of the region.

**Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Marian Anderson**  
In celebration of Black History Month, Nashville Opera presented *When Marian Sang*, a compelling program that toured to 17 partner venues across Middle Tennessee. Combining narration from Pam Muñoz Ryan's acclaimed book with musical selections, the piece honored Marian Anderson's legacy while affirming the importance of access and opportunity for all people. Nashville Opera gratefully acknowledges the Tennessee Arts Commission for fully funding this tour.

POWERED BY  
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## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Mother's Day at Nashville Zoo • Girl Scout Camp • Plaza Mariachi  
7 Retirement Communities • Clarksville Farmer's Market



**NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED  
BY NASHVILLE OPERA ON WHEELS  
DURING THE 2024-2025 TOURS**

DAVIDSON COUNTY.....	10,300
DICKSON COUNTY.....	600
MAURY COUNTY.....	4,115
MONTGOMERY COUNTY.....	4,000
RUTHERFORD COUNTY.....	150
SUMNER COUNTY.....	360
WILLIAMSON COUNTY.....	11,345
WILSON COUNTY.....	208

**THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS**

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Cultivate. Create. Participate.

**PROMOTER**



**SUPPORTER**





Left to right: Benjamin Pessognelli, pianist; Yeonjae Cho, soprano;  
Katherine Kincaid, mezzo-soprano; Keaton Brown, baritone; Zachary Taylor, tenor

## Mary Ragland Emerging Artist Program, where the future of opera takes center stage.

Each year, four outstanding young singers and one pianist from across the country come to Nashville to train, perform, and advance their professional careers.

In 2025, these artists shone in Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* before touring Middle Tennessee as the

full cast of *Goldie B. Locks and the Three Singing Bears* and *Opera Out Loud*. They also graced the stage of *La Bella Notte*, Nashville Opera's signature fundraising gala. Together, they performed for more than 28,000 students and community members.



## Midnight on the Mediterranean

On February 8, 2025, Nashville Opera's signature gala, La Bella Notte, celebrated its 31st year with an evening of elegance and enchantment themed "Midnight on the Mediterranean." Presented by Friends of Nashville Opera and co-chaired by Jennifer Harris and Katie Marchetti, the gala filled the Meadow Ballroom at 1 Hotel Nashville with exquisite dining, captivating performances, and vibrant celebration.

The event honored **Kristin Chenoweth**, Emmy and Tony Award winner, with the Nashville Opera Honors BRAVO! Award for her

commitment to youth music education, and **Stacy Widelitz**, who received the Robinson Couch Award for his dedication to Nashville's creative community and advancing Nashville Opera's mission. Guests generously participated in silent and live auctions as well as a special giving moment, raising vital funds to sustain Nashville Opera's educational and outreach initiatives.

The evening reflected the very spirit of the company: connection, artistry, and the transformative power of music.

**La Bella Notte 2026 will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at The Omni Nashville Hotel.**





# The HBCU Fellowship Program

## Creating Pathways for the Next Generation of Artists

During the 2024–2025 season, Nashville Opera’s HBCU Fellowship Program, a partnership with Fisk University and Tennessee State University, continued to create meaningful pathways for talented students from historically Black colleges and universities to explore careers in the performing arts. Six students participated in the fellowship, taking part in masterclasses with professional opera singers who shared both vocal techniques and insights into the business of opera.

Students also attended Nashville Opera’s mainstage performances, experiencing firsthand the rhythm of a professional season and the collaboration it takes to bring productions to life. Through mentorship, artistic exploration, and professional exposure, the program strengthened Nashville Opera’s commitment to developing the next generation of artists and arts leaders.

*“We recognize that the opera world has work to do to address discrimination and inequity in our art form, both on and off the stage, and this program is moving the needle toward greater diversity in our industry.”*

John Hoomes – CEO & Artistic Director

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Thank You.

Your support helps us bring  
opera to life in Music City.