

TAPESTRY
OPERA



Tapestry Opera

Annual Report 2023–2024



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Table of Contents

4	Board of Directors
4	Staff
5	Message from the Board
6	Message from the Directors
7	Ten Years with Michael Mori
8–13	2023–24 Productions
8	Box Concerts
9–10	Rocking Horse Winner
11	TAPEX: Versus
12	Le Kitchen Party
13	Iron Chef d'Orchestre
14	Women in Musical Leadership (WML)
15	877 Yonge Street Chair Campaign
16	Financial Report
17	Thank You Funders!
18–19	Thank You Donors!



Board of Directors

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Ellen Karp

Ali Kashani

Jennifer McGillivray

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Isabelle Savoie

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Paul Maly | Caller, Fundraising Campaigns

Message from the Board

The past year was a watershed moment for Tapestry Opera as we began our move to 877 Yonge Street and celebrated the tenth anniversary of Michael Hidetoshi Mori's artistic and general leadership of the company. Together with Executive Director Jaime Martino and our outstanding staff, Tapestry continues to lead modern opera development, setting the stage for an even more promising future.

Remounting an original production is perhaps the truest test of an opera's quality, so we were delighted to see massive attendance for *Rocking Horse Winner*, our earlier (2016) multiple Dora award-winning show.

Tapestry was recognized by the Music Writers Guild's best new opera for *Ten Days in a Madhouse*, our co-production with Philadelphia Opera. We eagerly look forward to staging this opera in Toronto soon, and we hope you share our excitement! It should be noted that Tapestry's *R.U.R. A Torrent of Light* (2022) was the first Canadian recipient of this prestigious award.

The season concluded with a flourish when Women in Musical Leadership (WML)—a program designed and managed by Tapestry and supported by numerous opera and symphony companies across Canada—held a Masterclass tutorial with Maestro Gustavo Gimeno and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for the three cohorts. Two participants, Jennifer Tung and Juliane Gallant, had just finished leading two light-hearted, entertaining productions – *Iron Chef d'Orchestra* and *Le Kitchen Party* – which, taken together with their WML conducting, demonstrated their versatility and skill.

Finally, in what has become a Tapestry tradition, we welcomed and enjoyed summer with our travelling Box Concerts, bringing musical entertainment to you throughout Toronto and its region.

We could not have accomplished all the foregoing without the generosity of our supporters, the enthusiasm of our artists and volunteers, and the hard work and dedication of our staff.

On behalf of the Board,

Thank you and see you soon at 877 Yonge!

Brian Dawson

Board Chair

Message from the Directors

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 season and over four decades of championing Canadian artists and advancing the art of opera, we stand at a pivotal moment in our journey. Tapestry Opera's commitment to innovation and new approaches has never been more critical, particularly when the arts face many challenges and performance venues vanishing from our vibrant cultural landscape. Tapestry's triumphant return of *Rocking Horse Winner* to a nearly sold-out, extended run at Streetcar Crowsnest was a significant step forward in proving the potential of new opera to increasing audiences in Toronto. In 23-24, we were proud to announce the expanded vision for our new performing arts facility and theatre at 877 Yonge St., in what will become Toronto's most flexible, affordable, and well-equipped theatre of its kind. The new space will fulfill our dream to foster creativity and provide a new home for Tapestry, our partners Nightwood Theatre, and the diverse creative artists and independent producers supporting the development of new works and engaging increasing audiences in the joys of live theatre, opera, music, and dance.

This was also an auspicious year as the culmination of what has become one of the world's largest and most in-depth professional development programs for female conductors, Tapestry Opera-led *Women in Musical Leadership*. By empowering more women in musical leadership, we are enriching our artistic landscape and reshaping the future of classical music and opera. We were delighted to receive Opera Canada's prestigious Nada Ristich Change Makers Ruby award in recognition of the program's impact and potential.

As we look ahead to a bold new chapter, we remain steadfast in our mission to produce remarkable and provocative works, elevate Canadian talent, foster artistic innovation, and create an inclusive cultural community. Together with our artists, partners, and patrons, we will continue to make a lasting impact on the landscape of Toronto and the larger performing arts community.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. We look forward to seeing you at 877 Yonge St. for our exciting next chapter.



Michael Mori
General Director



Jaime Martino
Executive Director

Ten Years with Michael Mori

Ten years seems like an eternity and at the same time, the blink of an eye. When I first encountered Tapestry Opera, I had never considered becoming an artistic director. It was founding artistic director Wayne Strongman's invitation to participate in the LIBLAB (Composer-Librettist Laboratory) in 2011 that hooked me on the beautiful dream and possibility that was Tapestry. I am so proud and grateful to the artists, staff, board and leadership colleagues who have helped grow Tapestry Opera and develop and launch great new works, productions and programs over this past decade. In particular, since 2016, the co-leadership with Jaime Martino as Executive Director has helped Tapestry become the unique and influential entity that it is, leading national initiatives for conductors and seeing our commissioned-works flourish in other cities and countries, showcasing Canada's elite creative talent.

After ten years, I am equally thrilled that the future is full of promise with our new performing arts facility and dynamic new commissions from some of the most exciting voices in theatre and music.

—MICHAEL MORI



ALICIA AULT | PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ



ANIKA VENKATESH, ALEX HETHERINGTON, PETER MCGILLIVRAY,
ASITHA TENNEKON, KEITH KLASSEN, MIDORI MARSH, KORIN THOMAS-SMITH
PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ

Box Concerts

August 2–September 10, 2023

Live Outdoor Concerts in Toronto

A Tapestry Opera production

Box Concerts was back for our FOURTH summer of live outdoor music this year and for the first time, in partnership with Arts in the Parks. We had the privilege of setting up the Box Concerts stage at three Toronto parks—Cedar Brook Park, Morningside Park, and Guild Park & Gardens—featuring our fabulous singers **Alicia Ault**, **Jorell Williams**, **Natalya Genadi**, and **Midori Marsh**.

Tristan Zaba | Production Manager

Rachel Forbes | Set, Props, and Costumer Designer

Rocking Horse Winner

November 1–12, 2023

Gulloien Theatre, Streetcar Crowsnest

A Tapestry Opera production in association with Crow's Theatre

A dark horse returns!

Tapestry Opera presented a reimagined production of the 2016 world-premiere *Rocking Horse Winner*. Winner of five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction, *Rocking Horse Winner* is a modern adaptation of D. H. Lawrence's masterful short story.

This powerful one-act opera combines magical realism and lyrical minimalism to offer an intimate, psychological look at love, luck, greed, and obsession.

Creators

Gareth Williams | Composer
Anna Chatterton | Libretto
Michael Hidetoshi Mori | Director
Kamna Gupta | Music Director

Creative Team

Steven Hao | Assistant Director
Ming Wong | Costume Design
Echo Zhou | Lighting Design
Jawon Kang | Set Design
(based on original designs by Camellia Koo)
Kathleen Johnson | Head of Wardrobe
Carlos Varela | Production Manager
Micah Champagne | Assistant Production Manager
Myra A. Malley | Stage Manager
Tamara Vuckovic | Assistant Stage Manager
Jingyi Zhou | Surtitlist

Cast

Asitha Tennekoon | Paul
Lucia Cesaroni | Ana
Peter McGillivray | Bassett
Keith Klassen | Oscar
Midori Marsh | The House
Alex Hetherington | The House
Anika Venkatesh | The House
Korin Thomas-Smith | The House

Orchestra

Aysel Taghi-Zada | Violin I
Tanya Charles Iveniuk | Violin II
Brenna McLane | Viola
Sybil Shanahan | Cello
Stéphane Mayer | Piano / Répétiteur



TAPEX: Versus

February 22, 2024, 5 & 8 pm

The Great Hall, OCAD University

Presented in partnership with OCAD U and Art Battle Canada

A truly unrepeatable night of beautiful art!

Piano legend Robi Botos, Tapestry Opera, and Art Battle Canada reunited for an evening of inspirational creation with pianist Morgan-Paige and visual artists Julie Amlin and Enrique Bravo. Music and painting unfolded together before our eyes, building off one another for an unforgettable experience.

Robi Botos | Pianist

Morgan-Paige | Pianist

Julie Amlin | Visual Artist

Enrique Bravo | Visual Artist

“It was amazing,
I’ve never seen
something like that.”

—AUDIENCE MEMBER

“Despite invoking dark themes of anxiety and dysfunctional familial relationships, *Rocking Horse Winner* executes it all gloriously. Tapestry Opera’s *Rocking Horse Winner* is a sumptuous indulgence of the senses!”

—TORONTONICITY



“The artistry was astounding and the heartfelt connection to the material was visceral. Deeply touching, hugely moving. So poignant.” –AUDIENCE MEMBER

MARIE ANDRÉE GAUDET, PIERRE-ANDRÉ DOUCET, JACQUES ARSENAULT, JULIEANE GALLANT | PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ



“I had no idea what to expect but it was great fun with great voices!”

–AUDIENCE MEMBER

JENNIFER TUNG, KEITH KLASSEN | PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ

Le Kitchen Party

May 21, 2024 | Theatre Passe Muraille

Produced by Tapestry Opera in collaboration with Theatre Passe Muraille

An Acadian celebration of food and music hosted by Juliane Gallant.

We turned Theatre Passe Muraille into an Acadian kitchen party, bringing warm and infectious Acadian music and the comforting aromas of Fricot to Toronto.

Exceptional guest performers Jacques Arseneault, Pierre-André Doucet, and Marie Andrée Gaudet shared a mix of traditional and contemporary compositions and storytelling that transported the room to small-town Maritime Canada and filled our hearts with nostalgia for a home-cooked meal around the kitchen table with friends and family.

Juliane Gallant | Associate Artistic Director, Conductor

Sophie Dupuis | Composer

Pierre-Andrée Gaudet | Librettist

Carlos Varela | Production Manager

Mabel Wonnacott | Performance Manager

Juliane Gallant | Host

Jacques Arseneault | Tenor & Accordion

Marie Andrée Gaudet | Violin

Pierre-André Doucet | Piano

Iron Chef d'Orchestre

May 22, 2024 | Theatre Passe Muraille

Produced by Tapestry Opera in collaboration with Theatre Passe Muraille

Jennifer Tung cooked up musical mayhem! Jennifer Tung and Keith Klassen co-hosted Iron Chef d'Orchestre, a delicious concert inspired by Jennifer's 15 years of working with Tapestry and Keith's unique sense of humour. Hungarian-Canadian mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabó joined in an evening of new ideas, sharing the excitement of creation.

And we all got to meet Randy. Sort of.

Jennifer Tung | Associate Artistic Director, Conductor

Keith Klassen | Co-Creator

Ivan Barbotin | Composer

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard | Librettist

Carlos Varela | Production Manager

Mabel Wonnacott | Performance Manager

Jennifer Tung | Piano

Keith Klassen | Host, Tenor

Krisztina Szabó | Mezzo-Soprano

Peter McGillivray | Baritone

Randy | Puppet

Women in Musical Leadership

Created and led by Tapestry Opera and in lead partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Pacific Opera Victoria, Women in Musical Leadership supports women and non-binary conductors by providing training and placements with orchestras, opera companies, and ensembles across Canada. 2023-2024 was the largest year of the WML program with six conductors and 55 placements with our twenty-five partner organizations.

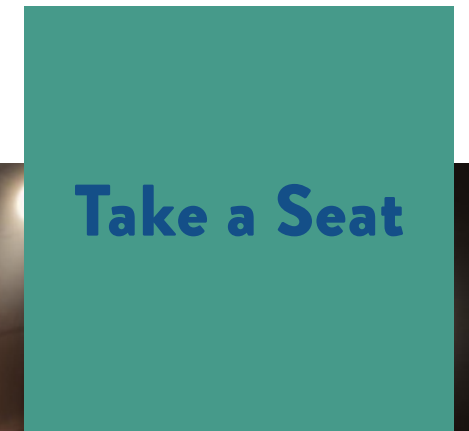
The annual highlight of the WML program, a masterclass with the TSO in June 2024, gave five of our six conductors (Juliane Gallant, Jennifer Tung, Naomi Woo, Kelly Lin, and Monica Chen) the opportunity to showcase their expertise working with Maestro Gustavo Gimeno. Patrons had a genuinely unique behind-the-scenes glimpse of the artistic process and celebrated the orchestra leaders of tomorrow. It was an exceptional night out, showcasing the conductors' deep knowledge, artistry, talent, and incredible evolution during the program.

Our first cohort, Juliane Gallant and Jennifer Tung, finished their three years in the WML program at the end of June 2024. For this season they were made Associate Artistic Directors of Tapestry Opera and they each programmed a show in May 2024 showcasing their artistry. Le Kitchen Party was programmed and led by Juliane Gallant, and Iron Chef d'Orchestre was created by Jennifer Tung.

The 23/24 season was an exciting one for all four of our continuing conductors: Naomi Woo made her debut with the TSO, conducting their Lunar New Year Celebration concert. She was also announced as the National Youth Orchestra of Canada's new Artistic Director, and Assistant Conductor at the Philadelphia Orchestra. In November, Maria Fuller was a finalist and award winner at the 11th Grzegorz Fitelberg International Conducting Competition in Poland, which garnered her a full season of appearances in Europe including the position of Resident Guest Conductor at the Teatr Wielki w Łodzi in Poland. Through WML, Monica Chen was able to supplement her busy schedule as RBC Assistant Conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra with assistant conducting engagements at partner organizations across Canada. Kelly Lin also had a very busy first season with WML, working with orchestras across the country and stepping into the world of opera for the first time by assisting WML Mentor Tania Miller with Vancouver Opera's production of The Magic Flute. Later in the fall she conducted two brilliant performances of Shaw Festival's Brigadoon, assisting Music Director Paul Sportelli.

Take a Seat 877 Chair Campaign

As part of the capital campaign for Tapestry's new office and theatre at 877 Yonge Street, we launched the Take a Seat chair campaign. For a donation of \$877 (or more!) donors got to put their name on one of the chairs in our new theatre space. The beautiful new raked seating in our theatre space will be modular so that we can utilize the full space for rehearsals and set up the comfortable audience seating in different configurations depending on the requirements of the performance. The campaign was a huge success, selling out of all our chairs. We can't wait for you to find your named chair in the theatre!

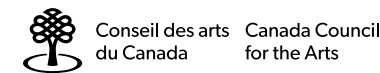


Statement of Operations 2023–2024

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	2024	2023
Revenues		
Fundraising	539,080	484,439
Grants	458,237	744,950
Earned and other	203,159	687,894
Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment	52,331	39,131
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,917	4,191
	1,254,724	1,960,605
Expenses		
Artistic		
Programming	385,175	550,012
Artistic salaries	148,869	147,094
Artistic professional fees	141,542	392,457
Production and technical salaries and fees	54,053	190,339
Royalties	6,554	25,144
Administration		
Salaries, benefits and fees	92,972	91,236
Office and general	85,335	72,130
Fundraising and donations	165,371	156,774
Marketing and communications	100,817	104,477
Professional fees	23,900	26,330
Facility	19,009	34,070
Amortization of capital assets	4,402	7,798
Digital strategy development project		-231,236
	1,227,999	2,029,097
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues		
Over expenses before the undernoted item	26,725	68,492
Other Revenue		
Realized gains on investments		-8,497
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues		
Over expenses	26,725	59,995

Thank You Funders!



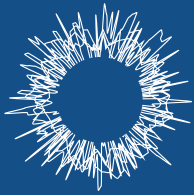
Thank You Donors!

Abdullah Ansari
Adrian Ishak
Alain Coulombe
Albert Weinstein
Alex Nikolic
Alexandra Conliffe
Alexis Diamond
Ali Kashani
Alicia Payne
Alison Kenny-Gardhouse
Amanda Hale
Amy Colson
Andrea Bellefeuille
Andrew & Tauna Staniland
Angela Cuddy
Ann MacKenzie
Anna Miransky
Anne Fleming
Anne Richards-Bentley & Bob Bentley
Annie and Ian Sale
Anthony Sargent
Aria Umezawa
Barbara Thompson
Barbara Basta
Brenda Graham
Brian Dawson & John Therrien
Brooke Manjuris
Bruce Chown
Bruce Reid
Bruce Murray
Byron Bellows
Caitlin Coull
Carl Lyons
Carol Percy
Carol & Ken Anderson
Carole Brearley
Caroline Howes
Caryl Clark
Catherine Graham
Catherine Merkley
Celia Harte
Chavi Ellen Karp
Chimwemwe Alao
Christian Perry
Christina Trunn
Cindy Wagman
Clement Kent
Colleen Renihan
Confluence Concerts

Conrad Sheck
Cornelia Schuh & Michiel Horn
Danny Richmond
Deanne & Joe Bogdan
Debra Chandler MacLennan
Dennis Wilson
Diana Olanmi
Dina Graser
Don & Francie Kendal
Don & Helen McGillivray
Dona Arbabzadeh
Douglas & Joanne Colbourne
Edna Heath
Eileen Smith
Elaine Iannuzziello
Elaine Singer
Elizabeth Asselstine
Elizabeth Greisman
Ellen Hrivnak
Ellen Richardson
Elmira Kashani
Emily McMinn
Eric Petersen
Ernest Balmer & Barb Parsons
Eva Ing
Eva Innes
Gail Cook Johnson
Genevieve Proulx
George & Kathy Kawasaki
Gillian Kearney
Gillian Cummings
Harold Chmara & Danny Hoy
Isabelle Gibb
Aidan Cosgrave
Jane Liu
Janice Ketchen
Janice Lavery
Jeffrey Coull
Jennifer Hashimoto
Jennifer & Peter McGillivray
Jialiang Zhu
Jill Kelman
Jill & David Roussy
Joe Martino
Joel Goldberg
Jordan de Souza & Jana Miller
Joseph Mulder
Joseph Lewis
Josie Ionno

Judith John
Julia Bass
Julia Gorman
Julia Grant
Julie M Foley
Karen Rice
Kelly Lin
Ken Marple
Ken & Ginny Goldberg
Kim Hewitt
Kimberly Barber
Kristine Anderson & Richard Wolfe
Laura Lane
Laurence Packer
Leslie Dala
Leslie Jost
Lilie Zendel
Liza Balkan
Lorraine & Ken Coull
M Ann Jones
Mahmoud Rezk
Maral Maclagan
Marc-André Savoie
Margaret Genovese
Margaret Fisher
Maria Soulis
Maria Braico
Marie Josée Chartier
Marilyn Cook
Marsha Groves
Marta Braun
Martin Nash
Mary Newman
Mary MacKinnon
Matthew Jocelyn
Maureen Tingley
Michael Tranter
Michael & Linda Hutcheon
Michael Lewis and Rita Deverell
Miranda Hubbs
Mohamed Khaki
Molly Thom
Murray Gold
Nancy Hermiston
Norah Bolton
Pamela Thomson
Patricia Bellamy
Paul Gingrich
Paul Maly

Pavel Straka
Peter & Hélène Hunt
Philip Adams
Philip Conlon
Racheal McCaig
Reginald Bronskill & Helen Findlay
Rex & Rita Deverell
Riki Turofsky
Robert Dick & Krista Halder
Robin Shonfield
Robin Roger
Roderick McKeown
Ronald Forbes
Ronan McGrath & Sarah Perry
Rosemary Thomson
Sally Holton
Samantha Summers
Sami Anguaya
Sarah Winterton
Scott Brubacher
Seiichi Ariga
Shawn Kerwin
Stewart Arnott
Sue White
Sue Mortimer
Susan Cesari
Susan Aihoshi
Susan & Joe Salek
Thomas Jason Fernandes
Timothy & Frances Price
Tom Diamond
Toshifumi Mori
Tricia Black
Trixie Postoff
Tuan Nguyen
Ulrich Menzefricke
Vilnius Manor
Vinetta Strombergs
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