

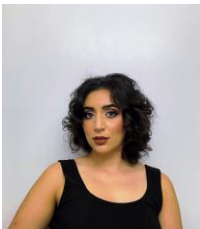


This year we announced the inaugural Patricia Crump Vocal Competition! It was our greatest joy to honor our founder, Patricia Crump, with an annual vocal competition in her name. This competition provides a platform for young singers with strong

Wisconsin ties to be supported during the crucial beginnings of their careers. The preliminary round was held virtually, with eleven singers advancing to the in-person finals. All finalists received \$500, the Philip Crump Encouragement Award winner received \$2500, and the Co-Winners of the Patricia Crump Grand Prize received \$5000. All finalists and winners are eligible to apply for additional career grants for the next three years, a unique aspect of SOS's commitment to early career singers. These grants are typically designated to assist with musical, dramatic, vocal, and language preparation for auditions, young artist programs, and professional engagements. However, other career related expenses may be considered at the discretion of the board of directors.

Patricia Crump Vocal Competition

Co-Winners



ARIA MINASIAN
MEZZO-SOPRANO



TZYLYE STEINMAN
MEZZO-SOPRANO

YEAR IN REVIEW

In **January**, SOS approved a career grant in the amount of \$1500 for tenor, Henry Benson. Henry used the funds to offset the cost of the audition season; auditions fees, pianist fees, and travel expenses, as well as getting new professional headshots, purchasing opera scores and building a new website.

In **February**, SOS approved an organization grant in the amount of \$7200 for a production of *Rusalka*, co-produced by Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Danceworks Performance MKE. This new adaptation was created by local singer-songwriter and frequent MOT collaborator Jason Powell. Our funds were used to pay seven principle Milwaukee based singers.

In **May**, SOS approved an annual contribution in the amount of \$2500 to Madison's Opera For The Young. We believe firmly in OFTY's mission to do more than simply present a show. OFTY involves students in all aspects from design to performance. Students from each school appear on stage in chorus and cameo roles, performing for their peers right alongside highly-credentialed artists. In addition, schools use their programming as a school-wide community-building experience.

In **September**, SOS approved an organization grant in the amount of \$7500 for the world premiere of *Night of the Living Opera*, a co-production with Milwaukee Opera Theater and local puppetry troupe Angry Young Men, Ltd. Our funds were used to pay the south-eastern Wisconsin based singers.

In **October**, SOS was able to step in at the last minute and help Opera For The Young attain their matching challenge grant goal of \$10,000 to fund a new touring van with a gift of \$3125.

In **November**, SOS awarded \$16,500 in prize money at the Patricia Crump Vocal Competition.

In **December**, SOS pledged \$3000 to Milwaukee's Small Arts and Culture Cohort! This group of twelve established and emerging organizations share a desire to support each other artistically as well as professionally, by inspiring collaboration rather than competition, creating opportunities for knowledge-sharing and mutual support, leveraging the built-in efficiencies of a cohort model, and supporting Milwaukee-based artists and their extended communities.

Mission Statement:

Supporters of Opera Singers strives to support exceptionally talented early career opera singers who have strong Wisconsin ties, such as having been raised in, gone to school in, or currently living in Wisconsin, as well as Wisconsin based organizations that promote and produce classical music featuring the artists with these ties.

Our History

Patricia Crump founded Supporters of Opera Singers, Inc. in 1998 with the vision of providing young opera singers with opportunities and financial support to help maximize their career potential. Through the course of the last 25 years, this financial support has been extended to include organizations that provide young singers with performance opportunities. An early and ongoing relationship involved encouragement and financial support for what has developed into the Milwaukee Opera Theatre. Starting in 1999 and continuing today at an increasing level, SOS has granted over \$100,000 to MOT.

Another significant project, which helped numerous singers in their development, was professional coaching sessions on a monthly basis, followed by a formal concert at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts. The program was administered by the Civic Music Association, but the concept and funding came from SOS. From August, 2002 through August, 2012, a total of \$25,000 was spent to benefit over 50 singers.

SOS has sponsored fifteen Master Classes, not only on voice but other subjects as well, such as audition techniques and considerations in hiring an agent. There have been numerous grants awarded to singers to assist with tuition at professional summer programs in the U. S. and abroad, as well as to help with audition expenses and role preparations. Organizational Grants include support for Fresco Opera Theatre and Opera for the Young in Madison, Kenosha Opera Festival, Brew City Opera, and for the Florentine Opera for Schools program, as well as for the development of an original musical, "Victory for Victoria", in Milwaukee.

The total spent for all activities over the 25 years exceeds \$450,000.

Our Organizations

A small sample of funded projects.

Brew City Opera, singer fees for a concert production.

Civic Music Association, vocal coaching program.

Early Music Now, master classes.

Fresco Opera, community outreach, mainstage productions.

Kenosha Opera Festival, singer fees for mainstage productions.

Milwaukee Opera Theatre, institutional support, challenge grant, mainstage productions, voice labs.

Opera For The Young, institutional support, challenge grant.



Our Singers

A small sample of singers we have helped.

Curtis Bannister, role preparation, audition travel, Opera National de Paris Atelier Lyrique Program.

~The Kennedy Center, Chicago Opera Theater, Atlanta Opera

Lauren Decker, tuition for Georg Solti Accademia and Institute for Young Dramatic Voice, role preparation, audition travel.

~Lyric Opera of Chicago, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Madison Opera

Kathryn Henry, tuition for Chatauqua Institute, voice lessons and coaching, audition travel, headshots, audition wardrobe.

~Santa Fe Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Florentine Opera

Nicholas Huff, voice lessons, audition and performance travel, website development, audio and video recordings.

~Florida Grand Opera, Sarasota Opera, Florentine Opera

Alisa Jordheim, national and international audition travel, audio recordings.

~Opéra national de Paris, San Diego Opera, Florentine Opera

Ian Koziara, tuition for La Musica Lirica, audition travel.

~Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Swedish Opera

Joshua Sanders, national and international audition travel, audio and video recordings, recital preparation.

~Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera

Alexander York, national and international audition travel, role preparation, language studies, voice lessons, vocal coaching.

~ Opéra national de Paris, Bayerische Staatsoper, Verbier Festival

Pictured (clockwise from upper left): Kathryn Henry, Joshua Sanders, Alexander York, Curtis Bannister, Lauren Decker, Alisa Jordheim, Nicholas Huff, Ian Koziara.