“Alas, the festival could only go on for eight days. The effect will last much longer, and I think it will head the charge in relaunching a Palm Beach arts scene that may well grow into a leading international center of creativity.”
– The New Criterion
2021 FESTIVAL
Overview

• 6 live performances
• 3 iconic operas
• 30+ artists
• 200+ cast, crew, orchestra, and chorus members
• 0 COVID-19 Cases
• Countless memories
Palm Beach Opera’s historic 2021 Festival was covered both internationally and locally by various print and digital outlets:

- WPTV
- Palm Beach Daily News
- OPERA News
- OperaWire
- BroadwayWorld
- Palm Beach Post
- South Florida SunSentinel
- City Journal
- Palm Beach Arts Paper
- AFP News
- South Florida Classical Review
- LivingFLA.com
- MSN Entertainment
- Yahoo News
- WLRN
- Florida Weekly
- Avenue Magazine
- Palm Beach Illustrated
- art&culture
- Boca Raton Magazine
- WSFL
- WFLX
- Musical America
- The New Criterion
“The centerpiece of this year’s season”
- WLRN

“grand opera with major league singers at an alfresco venue”
- South Florida Classical Review

“courageous winter operatic feast”
- South Florida Classical Review

“Palm Beach Opera reinvents its season”
- OPERA News

“there was a palpable feeling of joy in the performance”
- Musical America

“Palm Beach Opera to hold outdoor festival in February at South Florida Fairgrounds”
- WPTV

“a luxurious cast”
- The New Criterion

“a festival that has kept its donors happy; its musicians employed and its audience thrilled”
- Palm Beach Daily News

“Opera Returns with a Twist”
- AFP News

“Outstanding singing distinguishes PB Opera’s ‘Pagliacci’”
- Palm Beach Daily News

“Amid happy innovations, PB Opera mounts beautiful ‘Bohème’”
- Palm Beach Arts Paper

“Superb singers make PB Opera’s ‘Flute’ magical amid pandemic”
- Palm Beach Arts Paper

“Palm Beach Opera became the first company in the United States to stage a full-length performance”
- City Journal

“a luxurious cast”
- The New Criterion
Conducted by PBO’s Chief Conductor David Stern and directed by James Robinson*, La bohème was headlined by Metropolitan Opera stars Ryan Speedo Green*, Latonia Moore, Michael Fabiano*, Isabel Leonard* and Quinn Kelsey* to critical acclaim.

*Palm Beach Opera debut
International opera stars Matthew Polenzani*, Kathryn Lewek*, Janai Brugger, Peixin Chen*, Ryan Speedo Green*, Joshua Hopkins*, and Matthew DiBattista thrilled audiences in Mozart’s iconic opera, directed by James Robinson* and conducted by David Stern.

*Palm Beach Opera debut
Conducted by the renowned Patrick Summers* and directed by James Robinson*, Pagliacci starred more of opera’s biggest names—Ana María Martínez, Michael Chioldi, Matthew DiBattista, Joshua Hopkins* and our very own Benenson Young Artist alumnus Robert Watson.

*Palm Beach Opera debut
PBO’s Benenson Young Artists and Apprentice Artists and members of the PBO Orchestra performed Vincenzo Bellini’s sensuous bel canto opera to an at-capacity audience outdoors at the Norton Museum of Art Sculpture Garden. Award winning director Paul Curran directed the one-night-only performance and PBO Associate Conductor and Chorus Master Greg Ritchey led the chamber orchestra of 8 musicians.

“Palm Beach Opera continued its remarkably innovative season with a memorable semi-staged production”
– Palm Beach Daily News

“those ‘voices of tomorrow’ did plenty of justice to Bellini’s expressive bel canto writing”
– Palm Beach Daily News
This season’s Liederabend offered a musical journey around the world, with pieces from Germany, France, England, Italy, Russia, and Spain among other places. Featuring the Benenson Young Artists, Apprentice Artists, and pianist Ksenia Leletkina—who also serves as a PBO Vocal & Russian Diction Coach—Liederabend was moved outdoors and presented to another sold-out audience at the National Croquet Center.
ARTISTS IN TRAINING
2021 Season Benenson Young Artists & Apprentice Artists

• More than 600 applications
• Only 12 artists selected
• Combination of virtual and in person training
• One of the only companies world wide providing in person training for young artists
• Augmented curriculum with leading teachers, coaches, directors, and singers
AN DIE MUSIK
A New Digital Recital Series

Each week during April-August of 2020, a resident artist from the company’s Benenson Young Artist Program or Apprentice Artist Program performed and recorded a selected aria or song, accompanied by a member of Palm Beach Opera’s music staff, in a split-screen video, which included subtitles and a personal introduction by the artist.

Palm Beach Opera partnered with local organizations and long-term care facilities beginning in May to bring a new digital recital series, An die Musik, to those who may not have access to music during the unprecedented times our community faced in 2020.

Palm Beach Opera sent An die Musik videos directly to partnering and interested facilities, which included the YMCA of the Palm Beaches, VA Medical Center of West Palm Beach, Alzheimer’s Community Care, Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence, Palm Beach Habilitation Center, and Abbey Delray.

The 21 videos remain available for the public to stream, download, and share for free at Palm Beach Opera’s Vimeo library.
EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Going Digital

As schools and libraries restricted in-person events, our Teaching Artists pivoted and presented Story Time Series virtually.

Story Time Series books *The Magic Flute*, *The Magic Love Potion*, and *The Barber of Seville* were presented to 14 schools and libraries virtually with many schools postponing in-person visits to the 21-22 school year.

- **The Interability Chorus** met virtually in the summer and fall and has since resumed socially distanced in-person meetings as they prepare for an all-Disney concert in June 2021.
- **Adult Engagement continued virtually** with written content in the new PBO Mobile App and virtual lectures throughout the county. PBO’s partnership with the Palm Beach Cultural Council is thriving with PBO participating in Family Saturdays on May 1 and an early learning module this summer.
- **Palm Beach Opera Studio** provided a free eight-month training program to 10 Performance Track students and 3 Arts Administration Track students in both virtual sessions and safe outdoor classes. Singers have had Masterclasses with several artists in preparation for their April 19th recital and the Arts Administration Track students presented portfolio presentations.

PALM BEACH OPERA STUDIO

*Top row, from left to right:* Matthew Pollak, Gabriella Pizzi, Lucy Kleinschmidt, Kayla Esther Zakarin, Dena Simone Wolfs, Reed Wolf from

*Bottom row, from left to right:* Sydney Horan, Devin Embrich, Marbella Deininger Zayas, Hope Sears, Sophia Marie Spencer, Rebecca Voigt, Emma Beers
Palm Beach Opera and supporters toasted to the first festival performance at **Opening Night Dinner**. Guests were welcomed by PBO’s Chairman of the Board David Genser and enjoyed an introduction by General Director David Walker, who shared behind-the-scenes insights into the company’s historic festival and thanked all in attendance for their continued support. Guests and audience members were also able to join in a special celebratory moment honoring the company’s previous Board Chairman, Dennis Williams.

Palm Beach Opera Guild members and major supporters also celebrated the 2021 Festival at a **brunch reception** before the matinee performance of *The Magic Flute*. 
On April 13, the Palm Beach Opera Guild hosted their final event of the season outdoors at Table 26. The Dinner & Opera Interlude featured local vendors, a three-course dinner, and live performances by PBO’s Benenson Young Artists and Studio singers. The event raised funds for Palm Beach Opera Studio.
20-21 BY THE NUMBERS
COVID Compliance

• 6,000 masks
• 1,360 COVID tests administered
• 7 new outdoor rehearsal venues
• 2 new outdoor performance venues
• 3 risk mitigation managers
• 9 staff trained covid compliance officers
• ZERO cases of COVID
• 4,000 Total Audience
• 1 opera company performing large-scale live opera
LOOKING AHEAD

60th Anniversary Season

CARMEN
L’ELISIR D’AMORE
THE MERRY WIDOW

NEXT YEAR

• We are returning to the Kravis Center for our highly-anticipated 60th Anniversary Season.
• Our 2022 Gala will present Nadine Sierra at the Breakers Palm Beach on February 7.
• PBO continues to work to move into a new facility in July 2022.