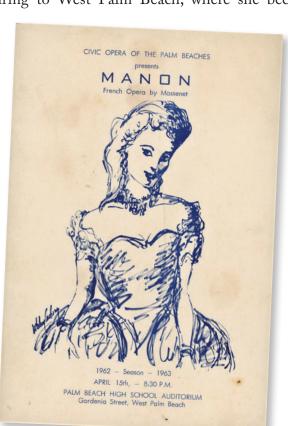
THE WOMEN OF PBO

Without women, there would be no Palm Beach Opera as we know it today. From the inception of the company as the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches to the stories we continue to tell on stage, the strength and determination of women continues to be an ever present theme in Palm Beach Opera's history and legacy.

Palm Beach Opera was founded as The Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches in 1962 through the work of Isabel Chatfield. A student of opera sensation Mary Garden, Chatfield was a former opera singer, performing across the country and abroad before

retiring to West Palm Beach, where she became





active in social circles and with arts-based causes. During a 1961 meeting of the Music Study Club, a social club for women, Chatfield was asked to produce Manon for a future meeting. It was during that presentation that the idea of forming a local opera company was born.

The women Isabel Chatfield relied on to help fund and organize the inaugural opera quickly became paramount to the success of the newly incorporated Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches. which would later become Palm Beach Opera in the 1980s. Rosita Franks and Charlotte Miller (both of

whom would go on to star in the first few seasons with the Civic Opera), Princess Jane Obolensky, Octavia Gould, Albert Grant, and Thelma Miller were the signers of the Charter of Incorporation, effectively becoming the first installed leadership of

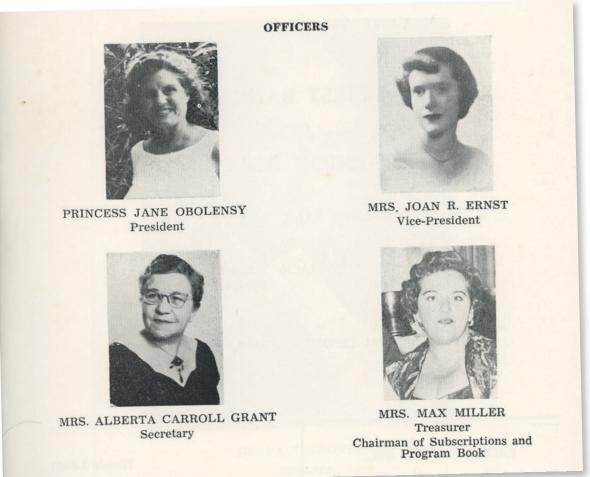


Rosita Franks

the organization. The first donation of \$100 (about \$880 today) came from female philanthropist Alice Tully—the same Alice Tully for whom Alice Tully Hall in New York is named.

It was not just the administrative arm that benefitted from the contributions of women. An acclaimed pianist and interpreter of Bach, Winifred Young acted as Associate Conductor for the first few seasons, leading the orchestra in early production of La boheme and Die Fledermaus. Women were often handling many of the production duties as well—stage managers, properties supervisors, wig and make-up staff, costumers, and set painters frequently were represented by women. Beginning in the 1970s, women also took on more artistic roles. Sonia Diaz and Martha del Piro were the first female choreographers (Carmen, 1970), Judith **Somogi** was the first female conductor (*La Traviata*, 1983), and Linda Brovsky was the first female stage director (Don Pasquale, 1992).





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60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 1960'S

Palm Beach Opera was founded in the summer of 1961 as the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches by Isabel Chatfield, Charlotte Miller, Rosita Franks, Princess Jane Obolensky, Octavia Could, Alberta Grant and Thelma Miller. On January 29, 1962 at the Palm Beach High School Auditorium, the organization presents its first-ever production -

CIVIC OPERA OF THE PALM BEACHES

presents A GALA NIGHT IN VIENNA

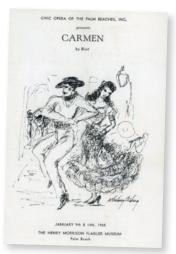
"DIE FLEDERMAUS"

by Johann Strauss

DECEMBER 3rd and 5th - 8:30 P.M.

HENRY MORRISON FLAGLER MUSEUM, Palm Beach

La traviata – to a sold-out audience of 1,200 with a live chorus and 26-piece orchestra under the baton of Dr. Paul Csonka, the company's Artistic Director for the first 22 years. During this decade, the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches began to attract international stars, including Beverly Sills and Robert Merrill.





ZUNIGA, a captain of Dragoons

CARMEN, a gypsy girl .. FRASQUITA, gypsy friend of Carmer

FL REMENDADO amusalas

EL DANCAIRO, smuggler

DANCER IN TAVERN .

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR and MAKEUI

STAGE DIRECTOR

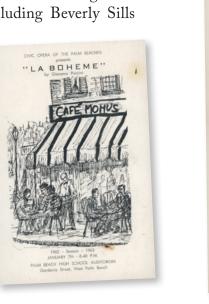
LIGHTING SCENERY PAINTED BY

PUBLICITY ..

CHORAL DIRECTOR .

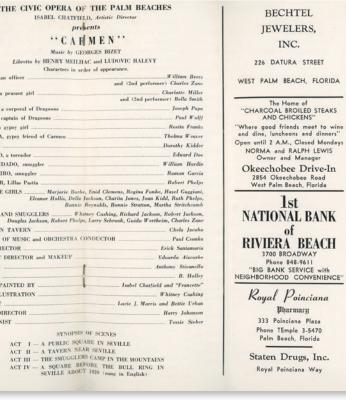
MERCEDES





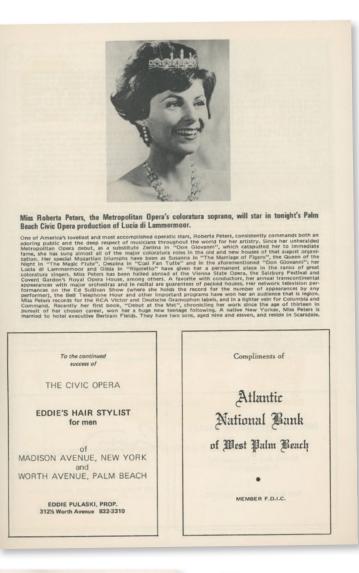
"CARMEN"

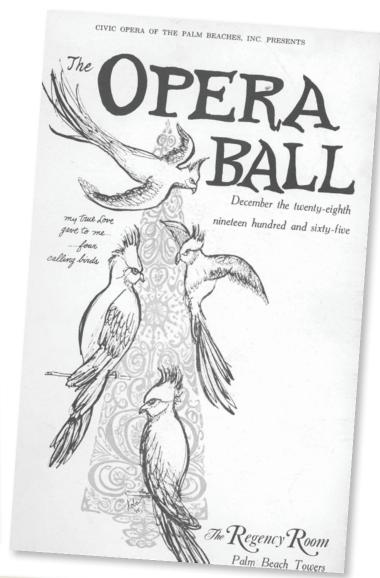
Music by GEORGES BIZET Libretto by HENRY MEILHAC and LUDOVIC HALEVY



INC.

Pharmacu













19 Palm Beach Opera 21-22 Season 60th Anniversary 20

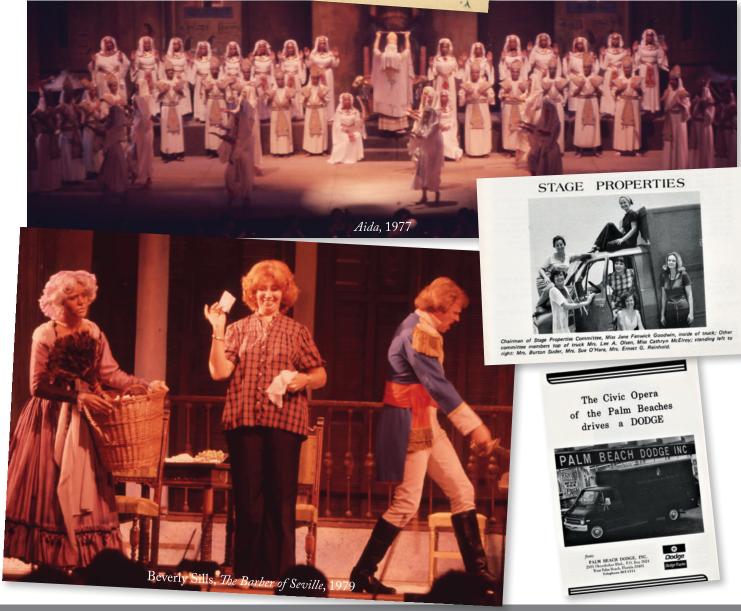
60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 1970'S

After nearly 15 mainstage performances, including productions of *Carmen* and *La bohème*, performances on a boat cruise, and a Puccini festival, the company finds a new home at the West Palm Beach Auditorium. Affectionately known as "The Leaky Teepee," the West Palm Beach Auditorium will remain the opera's primary performance venue for the next 20 years. The company's scholarship program – later known as the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition – is established during this decade and the Junior Opera

Guild begins presenting educational programming with *Hansel & Gretel*. Notable performances include Italian tenor Giuseppe Campora debuting in *Carmen* in 1970 and Metropolitan Opera star Roberta Peters singing in *The Barber of Seville* in 1972. Other opera stars appearing during this time include Robert Merrill, Norman Treigle, Mary Costa, and Beverly Sills, who was honored at both the 1975 and 1977 galas.







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60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 1980'S

The Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches becomes Palm Beach Opera. During the first few years of the decade, Cristina Deutekom sings *Norma*, Gian Carlo Menotti directs his own works *The Medium* and *Amelia Goes to the Ball*, and James McCracken sings Canio in *Pagliacci*. In 1983, after more than 20 years, Dr. Paul Csonka steps down and Maestro Anton Guadagno becomes the new Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, bringing a new artistic vision

to the company. In 1985, Robert M. Montgomery Jr. becomes Chairman of the Board, a position he will hold until 2005. Together with General Director Herb Benn and Guadagno, Montgomery turns the company into a major arts organization in Palm Beach County. Other notable opera stars during the 80s include James Morris in *Faust* in 1986, Leona Mitchell's PBO debut in *Aida*, and Ghena Dimitrova as Lady Macbeth in 1989.



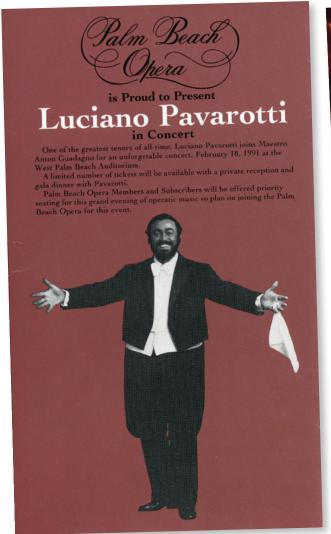


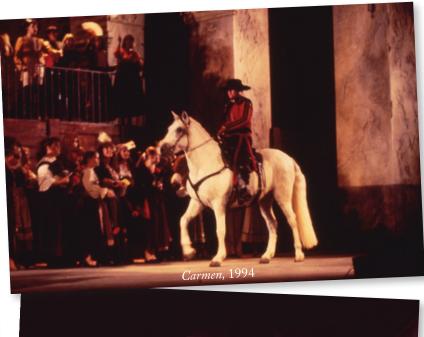
23 Palm Beach Opera 21–22 Season 60th Anniversary 24

60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 1990'S

Palm Beach Opera presents one of the biggest opera stars of all time, Luciano Pavarotti, in a special concert spearheaded by Reneé and Arthur Silvester. In 1992, the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts opens and the acoustically refined Dreyfoos Hall becomes Palm Beach Opera's new home with a spectacular inauguration performance of *Aïda*. The Palm Beach Opera Orchestra is created by the board in 1993 and includes musicians from major professional orchestras across the country and abroad. The 65+ piece orchestra and the PBO Chorus - comprised of 50 local singers - draws increasingly critical acclaim and becomes a

cornerstone for future artistic success. Distinguished baritone Sherrill Milnes, who sang the title role of *Don Giovanni* in 1991, returns to sing Scarpia in 1998 opposite Diana Soviero's Tosca. Other notable opera stars in the decade include Katia Ricciarelli in *Norma* and *Il trovatore*, Ewa Podles in *L'italiana in Algeri*, Fabio Armiliato in *La bohème*, and gala performances by Ghena Dimitrova, June Anderson, Denyce Graves, and Plácido Domingo. Educational programs expand to include performances in South Florida schools and the company enjoys organizational and financial growth at the end of the century.







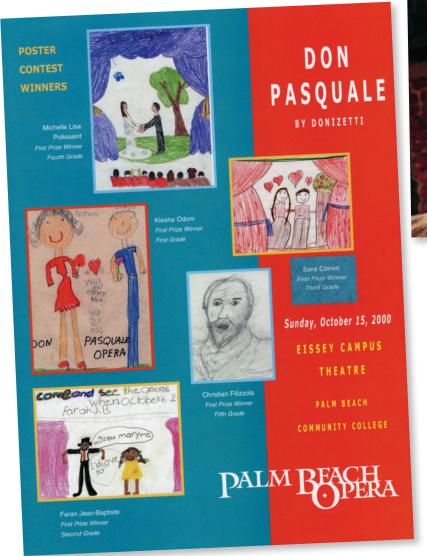


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60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 2000'S

After Guadagno's passing in 2002, the performances are led by esteemed resident and guest conductors, including Kamal Khan and Julius Rudel, and opera administrator Plato Karayanis joins Palm Beach Opera as a consultant and interim General Director. In 2004, PBO expands educational programming with its first family-friendly opera *Hansel and Gretel* (later known as Children's Performance) and introduces new company mascot The Great Poochini, which was created to expose younger audiences to opera. In 2006, Gregory Ritchey – who serves as PBO's Associate Conductor & Chorus Master today

leads the chorus for the first time in *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. Gala artists during this decade include Kiri Te Kanawa, Angela Gheorghiu, Bryn Terfel, Susan Graham, and Thomas Hampson. Maestro Bruno Aprea becomes Artistic Director and Principal Conductor in 2005 and in 2009 Daniel Biaggi is appointed General Director. Palm Beach Opera prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary with the Golden Jubilee Gala featuring Ruth Ann Swenson, Denyce Graves, Brandon Jovanovich, and guest conductor Julius Rudel. The event was co-hosted by opera legend Sherrill Milnes.







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60TH ANNIVERSARY THE 2010'S

Palm Beach Opera performs in new venues, brings on a new Chief Conductor, and presents its first-ever world premiere. In 2011, PBO holds the 41st and final annual vocal competition, which continued to garner critical acclaim and attention since its inception in 1969. Previous winners of the esteemed competition include Anthony Roth Costanzo, Nadine Sierra, and Irene Roberts, who all returned to perform in principal roles at PBO later in their careers. In 2014, renowned Maestro David Stern debuts in *Macbeth* and joins PBO as the new Chief Conductor one year later. Palm Beach Opera presents Opera at the

Waterfront, the county's largest outdoor classical music event at the time, for free at West Palm Beach's Meyer Amphitheatre. One year later, Palm Beach Opera presents its first world-premiere *Enemies, A Love Story*, based on the 1966 novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer and set in 1948 in New York. The production is praised as "a compelling theatrical experience" and "brilliant" by Palm Beach Daily News. After serving as Managing Director for several successful seasons, David Walker is appointed General & Artistic Director in 2019.





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PRODUCTION HISTORY 1998-2021

2020-21 Season (2021 Festival)

Puccini La bohème Mozart Die Zauberflöte Leoncavallo Pagliacci

2019-20 Season

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel

Puccini Turandot

2020 Gala, An Evening with Christian Van Horn

Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia

Children's Performance: The Barber of Seville

Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin *canceled due to pandemic*

2018-19 Season

A night of ... Rising Stars & Classic Melodies

Verdi La traviata

Gala 2019, An Evening with Matthew Polenzani

Mozart Don Giovanni

Strauss Die Fledermaus

Children's Performance: The Revenge of the Bat

2017-18 Season

Puccini Tosca

2018 Gala, An Evening with Sondra Radvanovsky

Bernstein Candide

Mozart Le nozze di Figaro

Children's Performance: The Marriage of Figaro

2016-17 Season

of Penzance

Puccini Madama Butterfly 2017 Gala, An Evening with Michael Fabiano Verdi Rigoletto Sullivan The Pirates of Penzance Children's Performance: The Pirates

2015-16 Season

Bizet Carmen

Gala 2016, An Evening with Diana Damrau

Strauss Ariadne auf Naxos

Donizetti Don Pasquale

Children's Perfermance: Don Pasquale

2014-15 Season

Puccini La bohème

2015 Gala, An Evening with Ildar Abdrazakov

arre Enemies, A Love Story *World Premiere*

Donizetti La Fille du Régiment

Children's Performance: The Daughter of the Regiment

2013-14 Season

Verdi Macheth

2014 Gala, An Evening with Joyce DiDonato

Offenbach Les Contes d'Hoffmann

Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia

Children's Performance: The Barber of Seville

2012-13 Season

Verdi La traviata

Rossini La cenerentola

Children's Performance: Cinderella

2013 Gala, An Evening with

Renée Fleming

Strauss Salome

Britten The Turn of the Screw

2011-12 Season

Puccini Madama Butterfly

2012 Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary Concert

Gounod Roméo et Juliette

Donizetti Lucia di Lammermoor

2010-11 Season

Verdi Nabucco

2011 Gala and Verdi's Requiem

Monteverdi Orfeo ed Euridice

Mozart Così fan tutte

Children's Performance: Così fan tutte

Puccini Tosca

42nd Annual Vocal Competition Grand Finals Concert

2009-2010 Season

Beethoven Symphony No. 9 Choral in D minor, opus 125

2010 Gala, Dinner with the Artists in Honor of Mary M. Montgomery and Helen K. Persson

Verdi Otello

Mozart Don Giovanni

Bizet Carmen

Children's Performance: Carmen

2008-09 Season

Verdi Rigoletto

Bellini Norma

Mozart Le nozze di Figaro

Puccini La bohème

2007-08 Season

Puccini Turandot

Beethoven Fidelio

Donizetti L'elisir d'amore

Verdi La traviata

Children's Performance: La traviata

2006-07 Season

Mascagni Cavalleria rusticana

Leoncavallo Pagliacci

Massenet Thaïs

Rossini L'italiana in Algeri

Puccini Madama Butterfly

Children's Performance: Madame

2005-06 Season

Verdi Aida

Butterfly

Children's Performance: Aida

Donizetti Don Pasquale

Mozart Die Zauberflote

Puccini Tosca

2006 Gala, Evening of Splendor with Susan Graham

2004-05 Season

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel

Children's Performance: Hansel

and Gretel

Bellini I puritani

Gounod Faust

Puccini La bohème

Children's Performance: La bohème

2005 Gala, An Evening of Splendor with Plácido Domingo

2003-04 Season

Verdi La traviata

Bizet Carmen

Poulenc Dialogues des Carmélites

Massenet Manon Lescaut

2004 Gala with Bryn Terfel and Friends, Fabiana Bravo and

2002-03 Season

Iohn Matz

Mozart Don Giovanni

Donizetti Lucia di Lammermoor

Offenbach Les Contes d'Hoffmann Lehar The Merry Widow

2003 Gala, An Evening of Splendor Featuring Bryn Terfel

2001-02 Season

Bellini Norma

Puccini Madama Butterfly

Floyd Susannah

Wagner Tannhäuser

2002 Gala, An Evening of Splendor Featuring Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

2000-01 Season

Verdi Un ballo in maschera

Verdi Rigoletto

Verdi Luisa Miller

Verdi Otello

2001 Gala, An Evening of Splendor Featuring Deborah Voight and Mario Malagnini

1999-2000 Season

Giordano Fedora

Puccini La fanciulla del West

Wagner Der fliegende Höllander

Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia Pergolesi The Perfect Lady

2000 Gala, An Evening of Splendor Featuring Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna

1998-99 Season

Puccini La bohème

Massenet Manon

Verdi Don Carlo

Leoncavallo Pagliacci

1999 Gala, An Evening of Splendor featuring June Anderson and

Denyce Graves

60th Anniversary 32 31 Palm Beach Opera 21-22 Season

PRODUCTION HISTORY 1961-1998

1997-98 Season

Mozart Così fan tutte Saint-Saëns Samson et Dalila Puccini Tosca Strauss Die Fledermaus

1996-97 Season

Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin Verdi Rigoletto Donizetti L'elisir d'amore Puccini Madama Butterfly 1997 Gala with Ghena Dimitrova

1995-96 Season

Mozart Le nozze di Figaro Puccini Turandot Verdi La traviata Lehár The Merry Widow 1996 Gala, An Evening of Splendor with Placido Domingo

1994-95 Season

Bizet Carmen Strauss Salome Donizetti Lucia di Lammermoor

1993-94 Season

Verdi Il trovatore Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia Mozart Die Zauberflöte

1992-93 Season

Verdi Aida Rossini L'italiana in Algeri Puccini La bohème

1991-92 Season

Verdi Otello Verdi La traviata Donizetti *Don Pasquale*

1990-91 Season

Bellini Norma Mozart Don Giovanni Puccini Madama Butterfly

1989-90 Season

Verdi Macbeth Puccini Tosca Rossini La cenerentola

1988-89 Season

Bizet Carmen Verdi Rigoletto Giordano Andrea Chénier

1987-88 Season

Verdi Aida Donizetti L'elisir d'amore Offenbach Les Contes d'Hoffmann

1986-87 Season

Puccini Manon Lescaut Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia Strauss Die Fledermaus 1987 Gala with José Carreras

1985-86 Season

Verdi Nabucco Gounod Faust Puccini La bohème

1984-85 Season

Puccini Madama Butterfly Verdi La traviata Saint-Saëns Samson et Dalila

1983-84 Season

Puccini Tosca Verdi Il trovatore

1982-83 Season

Leoncavallo Pagliacci Puccini Gianni Schicchi Mozart Die Zauberflöte Donizetti Lucia di Lammermoor

1981-82 Season

Bizet Carmen Cilea Adriana Lecouvreur Verdi La forza del destino

■1980-81 Season

Verdi Rigoletto Bellini Norma Menotti Amelia Goes to the Ball Menotti The Medium 1981 Gala, Gian Carlo Menotti

1979-1980 Season

Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia Puccini La bohème Mozart Così fan tutte

1978-79 Season

Puccini Turandot Donizetti Don Pasquale Verdi Un ballo in maschera

1977-78 Season

Donizetti La Fille du Régiment Massenet Manon Mozart Don Giovanni

1976-77 Season

Mascagni Cavalleria rusticana Leoncavallo Pagliacci Lehár The Merry Widow Verdi Aida

1975-76 Season

Verdi La traviata Strauss Die Fledermaus Verdi Il trovatore

1974-75 Season

Donizetti L'Elisir d'Amore Puccini Tosca

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel

25-19.18 BL

1973-74 Season

Offenbach Les Contes d'Hoffmann Puccini Madama Butterfly Mozart Le nozze di Figaro

1972-73 Season

Puccini La bohème Gounod Faust

1971-72 Season

Gounod Roméo et Juliette Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia

1970-71 Season

Verdi Rigoletto

1969-70 Season

Bizet Carmen

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel

1968-69 Season

Donizetti Lucia di Lammermoor

1967-68 Season

Verdi La traviata

1966-67 Season Puccini Madama Butterfly

1965-66 Season

Puccini Tosca

1964-65 Season

Shakespeare Festival Bizet Carmen

Showboat Cruise on the Paddlewheel Queen

1963-64 Season

Offenbach Les Contes d'Hoffmann

1962-63 Season

Strauss Die Fledermaus

Puccini La bohème

Massenet Manon

1961-62 Season

Verdi La traviata

Puccini Festival

A Night on the Mississippi – Civic Opera Showboat Dinner Cruise

33 Palm Beach Opera 21-22 Season