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Sarasota Opera Receives \$30,000 Strategic Partnership Grant from Community Foundation

SARASOTA, FL— Sarasota Opera is proud to announce a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, provided by the Martha Leiter and Nancy Streetman Fund II and the Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund. The grant will support Sarasota Opera's Education Programs and help fund a special benefit event, The Aficionado Dinner, honoring the organization's leadership donors and celebrating the impact of their generosity.

[Sarasota Opera's Education Programs](#) engage thousands of Sarasota County students each year through live performances at the Opera House and in-school demonstrations for grades K–12. These experiences introduce students to the power of opera and offer opportunities to interact directly with professional artists.

"This generous support from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County helps Sarasota Opera continue its mission to inspire and educate through the power of opera," said Richard Russell, General Director of Sarasota Opera. "By investing in arts education and community engagement, the Foundation is helping to ensure that future generations have meaningful access to the performing arts."

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About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of \$544 million in nearly 1,600 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$56 million last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human

services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. Since its founding, the Community Foundation has been able to grant more than \$500 million to nonprofits in our community thanks to the generosity of charitable individuals, families and businesses. For more information, visit cfsarasota.org or call 941-955-3000.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is entering its 67th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast and is celebrating 100 years of the historic Sarasota Opera House. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984, the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater — now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company's Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive youth opera program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org