



SARASOTA OPERA

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Sarasota Opera Receives \$41,000 Grant from T.T. and W.F. Chao Foundation for Purchase of Pianos

SARASOTA, FL— Sarasota Opera has been awarded a \$41,000 grant from T.T. and W.F. Chao Foundation to purchase four upright pianos. With the receipt of this generous grant, the Sarasota Opera has received most of the funding needed to replace seven pianos, three Boston baby grand pianos and four upright pianos, that were in disrepair. These new instruments will replace those most damaged by humidity and an intense two decades of daily use. The new Boston pianos, designed by Steinway & Sons, will enhance the quality of instruments used in rehearsals, training, and community outreach and youth education programs at Sarasota Opera.

“Sarasota Opera is extremely fortunate to have the support of the T.T. and W.F. Chao Foundation for this crucial need. The instruments this grant allows us to acquire are vital for us to be able to not only create world-class opera, but more importantly, to bring music and opera education to the greater Sarasota community,” said Richard Russell, General Director of Sarasota Opera.

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