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Sarasota Opera Receives \$60,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Funding will support the 2022/2023 Sarasota Opera Season

Sarasota, FL— Sarasota Opera is grateful to have received a \$60,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Aligning with their mission to find meaningful ways to invest in the arts, Gulf Coast Community Foundation allows grant award winners flexibility with their funding in order to pursue their own artistic missions. Gulf Coast Community Foundation will continue its longstanding support of Sarasota Opera by underwriting the 2022-23 season and will be recognized as a production sponsor of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. They are also a series sponsor of the popular Moonlight & Melodies Dinner Series and are sponsoring the Curtain Raiser Dinner, and Sarasota Opera's annual gala in April.

“We are so appreciative of the loyal support from Gulf Coast Community Foundation and their commitment to the arts in Sarasota. They are enthusiastic partners in our mission and through their unwavering support they are assisting in our efforts to build and maintain a culturally vibrant community,” said Richard Russell, the company's General Director.

“Our relationship with the Sarasota Opera is long and valued. We know how much arts organizations mean to our community, our own family of donors, and our local economy. We are proud to continually invest in these cultural institutions that play a vital role in our region. When we work together with these exceptional arts organizations, we reaffirm and strengthen a shared regional identity and cultural life, in other words, we transform, together,” said Mark Pritchett, President | CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

ABOUT GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Headquartered in Venice, Fla. and with a second office in downtown Sarasota, Fla., Gulf Coast Community Foundation has transformed the region through bold and proactive philanthropy for over 25 years. Serving the needs of the region as a partner in philanthropy, and leader in community initiatives, Gulf Coast has granted nearly \$500 million in the areas of: health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment. Gulf Coast was named one of the “Best Nonprofits to Work For” nationally by The Nonprofit Times in 2010, 2011, 2017, 2020, and 2021. To learn more visit GulfCoastCF.org and follow us on Facebook at [@GulfCoastCommFnd](https://www.facebook.com/GulfCoastCommFnd).

ABOUT SARASOTA OPERA

Sarasota Opera is entering its 64th Season of bringing world-class opera to Florida’s Gulf Coast. 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 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 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.

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