

Annual Impact Report

2025-2026 SEASON

Program Highlights

Operas: Opera Modesto's 25/26 season kicked off in September at the Gallo Center for the Arts with a cowboy themed production of **The Elixir of Love**, inspired by the Cowboy Capital of the World: Oakdale, California. In January, the company premiered a new English adaption and orchestration of Pauline Viardot's **Cinderella**, at the State Theater of Modesto. The season concluded at the at the Gallo Center for the Arts with a stunning production of **Rusalka**, featuring the premiere of a new orchestration.



Where in the world are our 2025-2026 Artists?

8 Local and Regional Singers (Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco)

15 National Singers (Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, Pittsburgh)

2 International Singers (Prague)





Concerts: The annual **Around the World Concert** once again brought together Modesto's unique community in an evening of music and cultural exchange on the stage of Prospect Theater Project. The company partnered with the Great Valley Museum and Planetarium and Modesto Junior College to present **Goodnight Moon**, a recital which featured a full dome planetarium show designed for the musical program. Opera Modesto also partnered with the Graffiti USA Museum and multiple community choirs to present the **Americana Concert** which celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States.



Opera Modesto's Americana Concert featured **7 Community Choirs** made up of **180 local singers**.

Summer Opera Institute: The annual 2025 Summer Opera Institute (SOI) provided conservatory-level musical training to 53 youth artists in the Central Valley through six weeks of private music lessons and a two week intensive featuring classes in language, dance, drama, conducting, improv, and music theory as well as workshops by international guest artists, and panels by professionals working in every aspect of the arts industry designed enhance self-confidence, leadership and performing skills. Beyond performance training, SOI is a transformative community experience where young people build friendships, discover their potential, and develop leadership and communication skills that carry into every aspect of their lives.

“Before SOI, I wasn’t confident speaking in front of people, let alone singing. With the support of these wonderful people, I found myself again.”

— 2025 SOI Participant

”

Story-Into-Song Literacy Initiative: Opera Modesto’s Story-Into-Song Literacy Initiative is a nationally unique program providing support for one of the Central Valley’s greatest challenges: critically low literacy rates. The Story-Into-Song Literacy Initiative brings literature to life through live, fully staged operas based on books and stories that align with multi-disciplinary school curricula. Students experience world-class performers singing without amplification, accompanied by hundreds of animated projections that embed sung English text directly into the visual storytelling, creating an imagination-filled reading experience.



13,000 Students

11 Theaters

4 Counties

41 Performances

100+ Schools



Additional Programs and Highlights

- Pilot program for Opera in the Schools
- Kristina Townsend Memorial Vocal Competition
- Two orchestration commissions and premieres
- One libretto commission and premiere

Community Impact

- **Inspired** 13,000 Students from over 100 schools at 41 performances in 11 Theaters, 4 Counties through the 2026 Story-Into Song Literacy Initiative.
- **Provided Artistic Opportunities and Employment:** For over 187 singers, instrumentalists, designers and technical staff during our 25-26 season.
- **Partnered** with 7 community choirs to present Americana, celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States.
- **Contributed to Local Economy** by attracting visitors and supporting local businesses and non-profits in our community including:

- Bookish
- Central West Ballet
- Center Stage Kids
- The Gallo Center for the Arts
- Graffiti USA Musuem
- The Great Valley Museum and Planetarium
- Macaroni Kids
- McHenry Mansion and Museum
- Modesto on Ice
- Modesto Junior College
- Pourr Decisions Wine Lounge
- Prospect Theater Project
- Rossini's Mensware
- Stanislaus County Libraries
- The State Theater of Modesto
- Visit Modesto

Grants and Corporate Support

We are honored to have received significant grant funding that enables us to continue our mission:

- Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation
- San Joaquin Community Foundation
- Boyett Make Dreams Real Foundation
- Modesto Irrigation District Community Support
- Sutter Health Community Investment

- Central Valley Opportunity Fund
- Cortopassi Family Foundation (Stanislaus Foods)
- E&J Gallo
- North Modesto Kiwanis
- Visit Modesto
- Walmart Stores/Spark Good
- Modesto Rotary
- PAEPF Program
- Beard Land
- Omega Nu

Annual Budget Overview

Category	Amount
Earned Revenue (Ticket Sales, etc.)	\$248,327
Contributed Revenue (Grants, Donations)	\$633,203
Program Expenses	\$540,818
Administrative Expenses	\$239,288
Total Income	\$881,530
Total Expenses	\$780,106
Net Income	\$101,424

Opera Modesto Board of Directors 2025-2026 Season

Hillari DeSchane, President
 Deborah Kavasch, Vice President
 Carl Bengston, Treasurer
 Kelly Osterhout, Secretary
 Steven Ames
 Rob Beasley
 Kate Donovan
 Nandini Krishnaswamy
 Duana (Demus) Leslie

John Mangelos
 John Peltier
 Roger Shanks
 Jennifer Velazquez
 Barbara Wesley
 Art Weisberg
 Ed Justen (new board member)

Emeritus Board Members

Nancy Brashear
 Joseph Lima
 Freda Motto
 Robert Saunders
 Amelia Schmidt
 Thomas Silvaggio
 Erika Townsend
 Tony Delgado

Donations

Gifts \$20,000+

Sue Flores
Deborah Kavasch
Christine and Dr. Robert
Kradjian
Dr. Katie and Charles
Menghetti
Freda Motto
Willie and the Honorable
Hugh Rose
Robert A. Saunders

Gifts \$10,000 +

Mark and Mona Couchman
Judith Haskins
Dr. Jody Hooper and Aaron
Rowan
Gail and Tony McBride

Gifts \$5,000+

Nancy Brashear
Jennie Garrison
Patricia and Joseph Lima
John Mangelos
Dallas and Garrad Marsh
Katy and Ken Menges
Ruth and David Radmore
Nancy Smith and David
Rockwell
Annalisa Winberg and Roy
Stevens
Marjorie and Michael Zagaris

Gifts \$2,000+

Eli Aywas
Hillari DeSchane
Diana and Richard Doll
Kate and Dr. Robert Donovan
Kenni and Lou Friedman
Kate Lindberg
Lenora Martin
Pat McGuire
Christine Olson and Jack J.
Heinsius
Nandini and Jaikumar
Krishnaswamy
Donna Pierce
Adair Ryan and Carl
Bengston
Linda Bunney-Sarhad
Nancy Silva and Norman
VanSpronsen
Ann Veneman
Babette and Dr. Gary Wagner

Gifts \$1,000+

Patricia A Beauchesne
Margaret and Dr. Phil Beck
Tony Delgado
Carol de Sá Campos
Truda and Kent Faulkner
Joann and Garry Found
Anakira Gabriella-Graça and
Jammy Graça
Liz and David Hosmer
Jeanette Hubbard
Linda Humble
Mary Jane and John Kiskinen
Susan and Dr. Robert Levy

Alexis Magaro
Lynne Marcus
Monica L. Mills
Barbara and Jeff Quinn
Alice Renfroe
Jolan Friedhoff and Donald
Roth
Myrna Rowland
Wendy Scott
Tom Seaver
Dr. Niamh and William Seavy
Thomas Silvaggio
Yuko and Dr. William Swartz
David Whiting
Margaret and Larry Zabel

Gifts \$500+

Dr. Daniel Afonso Jr.
Susan Anderson
Linda Baird
Marie and George Bairey
Bruce Beard
Susan and Rob Beasley
Christine Beckstrom
Hanna Renning and H. Dieter
Carole Dovichi
Janelle Gray
Maree Hawkins
Bryan Hofmann
Thomas Hogan
Mary Ann and Mark Jensen
Teresa Kaepernick
Mary L. Leonard
Hanna and H. Dieter Renning
Jane Manley and Ricardo
Cordova

Donations (continued)

Stacey Marckese
 Martha Martin
 Joy and Allan Mercier
 Kelly Osterhout
 Mary Ann Reynolds
 Andrew Rombakis
 Phillip Trompetter
 Tricia Turner
 Priscilla Wallack
 Art Weisberg

Gifts \$250+

Steven and Solange Altman
 Sandra Brown
 Rudy Bustamante
 Candace Harvey
 Christina Hicks
 Cheryle Hurtado
 Cheryl and John Goulart
 Philomena Iorns
 Tim Koop-Whittley
 Phil Meyer
 Gino Patrizio
 Katherine Redcay
 Roger Shanks
 Sue and Randy Siefkin
 Polly Steinpress
 Candace and J. Patrick
 Stevens
 Dr. Koni Stone
 Patricia and RV Bud Stone
 Dianne Teixeira
 Gwenn Thompson
 Alan Yates
 Beverly Shiba-Vanderlinden

Gifts \$100+

Diana Ahlem
 Lilly and Dr. Mussa Banisadre
 Robyn Bergquist
 Robert Cardenas
 Ann and Robert Chargin
 Colleen Charlton
 Carolyn and Carl Claybaugh
 Lesley Collins
 Bogdon Condor
 Martha Connor
 Bev and Steve Conrad
 Betty Davidson
 Jim Davis
 Lynn and Ron Dickerson
 Monica and Stephen
 Dougherty
 Brad Douma
 Kay Elson
 Stephen Endsley
 Joan Fischer
 Leesa and Mitchell Gagos
 Ernest Gallo
 Raul Garcia
 Paul Glickman
 Barry Goode
 Patricia and David Halvorson
 Kathy and Doug Harms
 Robert Huddleston
 Camille and Matt Iorns
 Ed Jeffers
 Robin Johnson and Ken
 White
 Diane Keller
 Mildred Kinser
 Farris and David Larsen
 Dr. Duana Demus Leslie and
 Joshua Leslie

Susan and Phil Martin
 Carrie Munroe and Michael
 Wolterbeek
 Barbara Neyens
 Julie Norman
 Jack O'Meary
 Marie Orsi
 Barbara Padmos
 Alison and John Peltier
 George Petrulakis
 Karin Reenstierna
 Robert Sterling Richards
 Sharon and David Schroeder
 Fatima and Matthew Seward
 David Shour
 Carletta Steele
 Carol Stevens
 Cherrie Llewellyn and Dr.
 Charles Suntra
 Paul Tischer
 Heather Tomas
 Lorese Vandemark
 Grace Valentine
 Jack Waldorf
 George Walker
 Daniel Wallis
 Daniel Waters
 Terry Wilson
 Susan and Lynn Zwahlen

Gifts up to \$100

Sylvia Aywas
 Joanne Bartolotti
 Tiffany Baxter
 Vedina Beard
 Michelle Borba
 Robert Bornmann
 Jayleen Boyd

Donations (continued)

Mari Bughi
Sharon Care
Michelle Coffman
Linda and Steve Collins
Linda Coy
Carolyn and Livio Di Piero
Carolyn Doyle
Donna Elias
Janice and Ron Emerzian
Emilie Faiella
Karen Freitas
Carol Frey
Rori Garcia
Kenneth Goode
Kathleen Hailey
Carlos Hernandez
Jadwiga Hoffmann
Cecelie Hymes
Sherry Ille
Lynn Iwase
Elisabeth Kasza
Helen Lamm
Carolyn Lipnick
Mikee-D Love-Asenjo
Jennifer Lukas
Betty Marinovich
Kristi McNanie
Andi McGhee and William
Mensing
Dana Morenzoni
Michael Munson
Margie Neder
Elizabeth Pierson Nelson
Denise Nordell
Glenda Olsen
Anna Petrulakis
Audea Preyer
Megan and Jeremy Robare

Ann Roland
Huan Rong
Tim Self
Diane Stark
Kyle Stephens
Bonnie Strauss
Mykaila Taylor
Elizabeth and Brad Thompson
Jonathan Thurston
Paul Tischer
Oscar Torres
Erika Townsend
Lani and Scott Turner
Stephen Vanlewen
Lorraine Walsh
Tammy Williams-Ankorn

Opera Modesto Angels

Eli Aywas
Kate and Robert Donovan
JoAnn and Garry Found
Kenni and Louis Friedman
Nandini and Jaikumar
Krishnaswamy
Dallas and Garrad Marsh
Pat McGuirre
Dr. Katie and Charles
Menghetti
Christine Olson and Jack J
Heinsius
Robert Saunders
Annalisa Winberg and Roy
Stevens

IN MEMORY

Steve Collins
Grace Valentine

Wilmar Jensen
*Marie and George Bairey
Gwenn Thompson
Annalisa Winberg and Roy
Stevens*

Rod Motto
*Betty Davidson
Carolyn and Livio Di Piero
Barry Goode
Kenneth Goode
Mark Jensen
Freda Motto
Margie Neder
Elizabeth Pierson Nelson
Anna Petrulakis
George Petrulakis
Elizabeth Pierson-Nelson
Lani and Scott Turner
Annalisa Winberg and Roy
Stevens*

IN HONOR

Donna Pierce
Dr. Koni Stone

Ken & Dottie Stevens
*Jennie Garrison
Christine and Dr. Robert
Kradjian*

Christine Kradjian
Bev and Steve Conrad