



## **MARTINEZ OPERA CONTRA COSTA ANNUAL REPORT**

**2010-2011**

*Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.....*

*Ludwig van Beethoven*

We are honored to present to our family of patrons, corporate sponsors and foundations the **Martinez Opera Contra Costa 2010-2011 Annual Report**. What an eventful year to share with all who value and support the opera in the city of Martinez! Our efforts in continuing our programming have been rewarding and we are fortunate to have a strong and determined organization that believes in the long-term benefits we bring to our community.

Our season, though modest, yielded great success for the company. We saw a 20% increase in patronage and we developed wonderful new partnerships and exciting possibilities.

Let's start with our ever-popular series "**Dine with a Diva**" dinners. This series provides a valuable outreach opportunity for the opera. Many who have never attended a production or even been to an operatic performance can enjoy a laid-back event in a home environment. These fun-filled concerts

are graciously hosted by our patrons. Thank you to Ken and Gay Gerlack and the Campi Family!



*"Papageno's Search for Love"*

**"Papageno's Search for Love"** was presented at the Martinez Veterans' Hall in January 2011. Considered one of our all-time favorite outreach programs, it was performed to over 350 children.

Youth ages 0-5 years traveled from across Contra Costa County to watch Papageno and his friends find his love. Most of our attendees are enrolled in low-income and Head Start pre-school centers. For most, this is their first exposure to opera.



Audience for "Culture for Kids"

Our continued commitment to reach children has made a difference in our community especially with our pre-school program. We now have a waiting list creating a larger demand for this programming for 2012. Though our budget remains modest, we hope to expand this program to share the beauty of opera to our babies!



Crow Canyon Country Club "A Night at the Opera"

In September we produced "**A Night at the Opera**" at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. What a wonderful and elegant evening it was! We featured several fine artists, including Antonio Nagore and Duana Demus. It is unusual for MTZO to venture outside Martinez though well worth it to raise money for our "**Culture for Kids**" program and to expand our reach to other cities.

Moving on to March, MTZO was proud to present the first-ever "**Carmen**" in the Spanish language. With our original translation of the libretto, we mounted a concert version of the world-famous opera. The staging was simple and the artists were outstanding-- flamenco dancers, a children's chorus, and a very special cast of singers. We had record attendance at the Alhambra Performing Arts Center.



"Carmen"

"Carmen" has never been performed in Spanish, so this historic event was very exciting to our organization. To prepare for the opera, the singers had to memorize the Spanish version of

“Carmen” that they have performed in French in the past. This is quite a challenge, as the two languages are a bit similar but quite different at the same time. The overall effect of the production was elegant and it would mark the first time MTZO utilized projection for its sets. Knowing the limitations of our venue, we were able to master the effects of a “salon” on stage while conveying an intimate atmosphere to our audience. Our Artistic Director Cesare Curzi was a delight as our story teller and Cesar Cancino was masterful as the Music Director. All in all, we were quite pleased with this production.



L'elisir d'amore

Looking to the future we are planning for our next opera, Donizetti's enchanting comedy **L'elisir d'amore**, with much anticipation. Included in our future performances will be the “**Belle Voci**” concert featuring our favorite artists from the 2011 auditions and several free outreach concerts, including “**Papageno's Search for Love**” and the “**Italian Street Painting Festival**”.

Continuing the legacy of the opera company is a great joy to many of us. Though we did not produce a fully staged opera this year, we certainly kept opera alive through our many outreach endeavors, concerts and productions

The Opera continues to emphasize musical excellence and public awareness in the community. Most importantly, we exposed youth of all ages to opera through our “Culture for Kids” programs. These include our unique program “Pro-Production”, engaging at-risk youth in many aspects of the opera production.

We want to thank all of our donors, patrons and sponsors in 2010-2011 who made our season possible. We especially thank our very valuable volunteers who worked so hard to make MTZO one of the finest opera companies in Contra Costa County.

We hope you enjoyed reading about MTZO and we look forward to seeing you at our next event!



Thank you!

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Thank you all of our wonderful Donors and Patrons!  
 Thank you MTZO volunteer coordinators  
 Janet Andronis and Karen Wadler  
 Thank you volunteers!

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