

AMOC*

AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY
2022-2023 SEASON REVIEW



*“Wherever and whenever these artists return,
attention must be paid.”*

/ San Francisco Classical Voice

On behalf of the Company and Board of Directors, we are excited to share with you, our most dedicated supporters, a glimpse of our work in the 22/23 season. In this milestone sixth year, all five theatrical productions were AMOC* commissions, and the Company co-presented 15 events. We offered 34 performances at 10 venues across the US and made our international debut, touring to the Aix-en-Provence Festival, de Singel (Brussels), Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), and StARTfestival (Leverkusen). We supported 171 weeks' work for artists, including over 40 guest collaborators, and, in a new initiative, offered caregiving support to touring parents.

The magic of AMOC* is in the sum of our parts, and this includes you. We appreciate the opportunity to share this reflection, and look forward to continued shared experiences, with you!

The block contains four handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: the first signature is 'MHA' with a long horizontal stroke; the second is 'Zack' with a stylized 'Z'; the third is 'Courtenay Casey' in a cursive script; and the fourth is 'JChen' in a cursive script.

Matthew Aucoin and Zack Winokur / Co-Founders

Courtenay Casey / Executive Director

Jennifer Chen / Managing Director

AMOC*

AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY

AMOC* is a home for creative encounter. We are an artist-led ensemble united by a vision of opera as a meeting place for diverse forms. Reaching beyond our individual artistic practices, we build theatrical works bridging music, dance, design, and text. In our art-making and our organizational approach, we aim to create more adaptive, equitable models of collaboration as we grow and share an evolving body of interdisciplinary work.

www.runningamoc.org



THE COMPANY

CO-FOUNDERS

MATTHEW AUCOIN,
composer, conductor, pianist
ZACK WINOKUR,
director, choreographer, dancer

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ZACK WINOKUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COURTENAY CASEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JENNIFER CHEN

PRODUCER

CATH BRITTAN

PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

KEIR GOGWILT

ARTISTIC LIASON

MARY MCGOWAN

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

LANDON WILSON

CORE ENSEMBLE

JONNY ALLEN, percussionist
PAUL APPLEBY, tenor
DOUG BALLIETT, double bassist, composer
JULIA BULLOCK, soprano
JAY CAMPBELL, cellist
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violinist, violist
JULIA EICHTEN, dancer, choreographer
EMI FERGUSON, flutist
KEIR GOGWILT, violinist, writer
CONOR HANICK, pianist
COLEMAN IT'ZKOFF, cellist
OR SCHRAIBER, dancer, choreographer
BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancer, choreographer
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STEPHEN A. NOVICK, chair *(from July 2023)*
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BROKEN THEATER TOUR



Created and Directed by BOBBI
JENE SMITH

Choreographed and Performed by:

BANNING BOULDIN

MIKAEL DARMANIE*

JULIA EICHEN

VINSON FRALEY*

JONATHAN FREDRICKSON*

KEIR GOGWILT

CONOR HANICK

COLEMAN ITZKOFF

JESSE KOVARSKY*

GREGORY LAU*

YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS*

OR SCHRAIBER

BOBBI JENE SMITH

MOUNA SOUALEM*

World Premiere
Carolina Performing Arts, Chapel Hill, NC
OZ Arts, Nashville, TN
November 11-19, 2022

JOHN TORRES,
lighting Designer

CHRISTOPHER GILMORE,
associate lighting designer

VICTORIA BEK, costume
designer

CATH BRITTAN, producer

ANNA DROZDOWSKI,
stage manager

Bobbi Jene Smith's *Broken Theater* melds live dance-theater, music, and cinematic beauty. Twelve artists meet in a ghost theater where they grapple with love, humiliation, and loss at the cost of each other. When the script has disappeared, when the audience is gone, where are the lines between the part you play and the person you are?

Co-commissioned by La MaMa, Mass MoCA, AMOC*, and New Dialect.

*guest artist



“Fabulously dismantled” / Fjord

JENNY HOLZER'S "DEMENTED WORDS"

*Exhibition Opening
Hauser & Wirth
New York, NY
September 10, 2022*

Conceived by
ZACK WINOKUR
and company

With music arranged by
CELESTE ORAM* and
DAVÓNE TINES

ANTHONY ROTH
COSTANZO, countertenor

KEIR GOGWILT, violin

COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello

DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone

SAE HASHIMOTO*,
percussion

AMOC* offered a reactive
musical performance to
celebrate the long-anticipated
opening of Jenny Holzer's
DEMENTED WORDS at
Hauser & Wirth in New York
City, under the halo of Hol-
zer's *WTF* (2022)—a swinging
electronic sign juxtaposing
tweets posted by Donald
Trump and by Q, leader of the
QAnon conspiracy.

**guest artist*



"HOUSE OF THE IN HABITANT WHO REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE"

*Exhibition Opening
Tina Kim Gallery
New York, NY
December 16, 2022*

AMOC* artists ANTHONY
ROTH COSTANZO, coun-
tertenor, and COLEMAN
ITZKOFF, cellist, performed
at the opening of “House of
the Inhabitant Who Refused
to Participate,” Tina Kim
Gallery’s newest exhibition cu-
rated by the architecture and
interior design firm Charlap
Hyman & Herrero.

The exhibition brought togeth-
er works by Louise Bourgeois,
Heidi Bucher, Sam Chermayeff,
John Hejduk, Camille Henrot,
James Hong, Ficus Interfaith,
Anne Libby, Mathieu Matégot,
Emma McCormick Goodhart,
Pietro Melandri, Luke O’Hal-
loran, Eli Ping, Steph Shiu, So-
phie Stone, Kim Tschang-Yeul,
and Luc Tuymans.

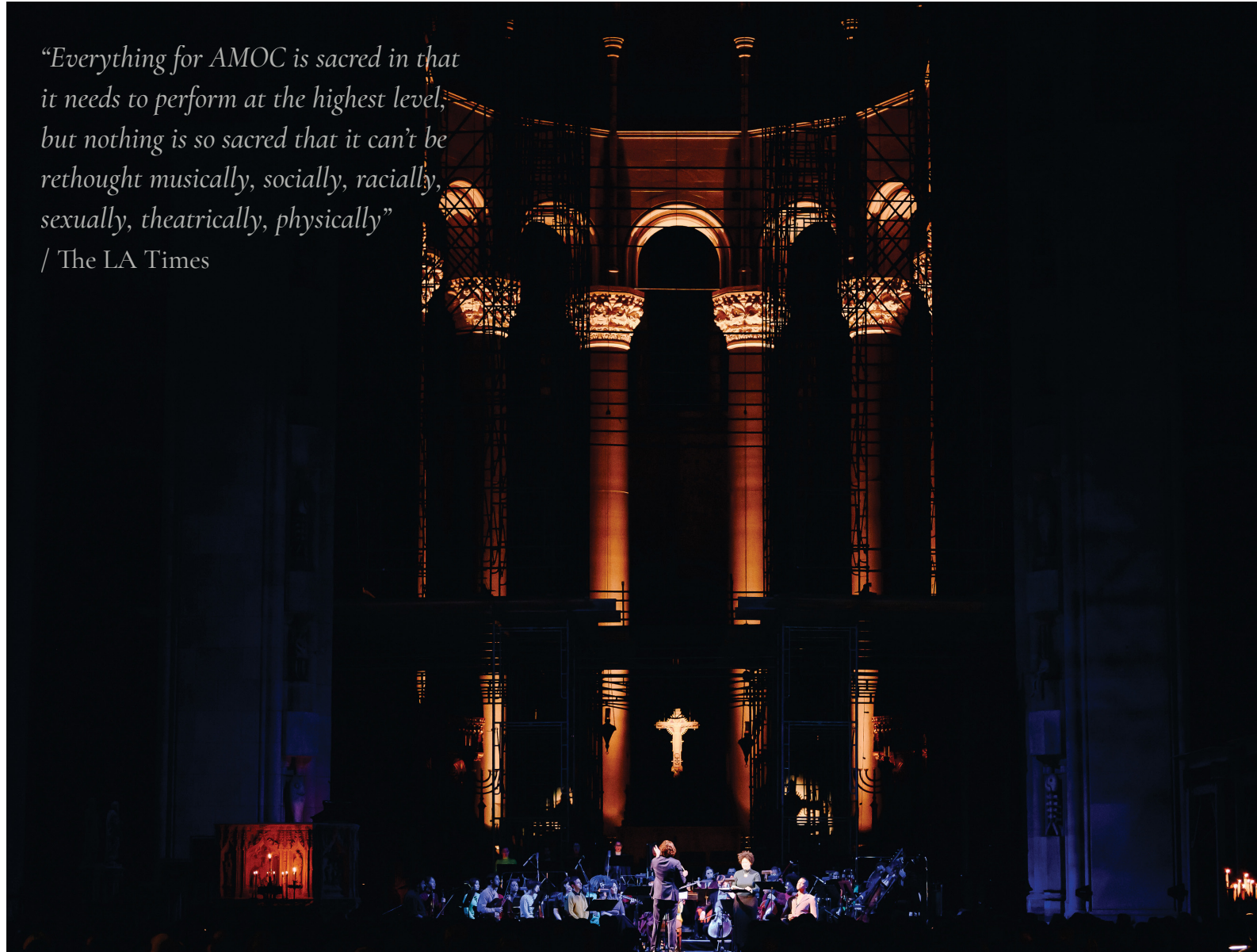
EL NIÑO: NATIVITY RECONSIDERED

*Cathedral of St. John the Divine
New York, NY
December 21, 2022*

In a chamber arrangement specially written for AMOC*, *El Niño: Nativity Reconsidered* celebrates Latin American poets and the voices of women, "[ruminating] on the notion that with the promise of new life, there is the equal threat of inexplicable violence and sacrifice," according to AMOC* soprano Julia Bullock, who curated the selections performed.

AMOC*, joined by The Choir of Trinity of Wall Street, welcomed nearly 1,000 audience members for a one-night-only engagement to the iconic Cathedral of St. John the Divine for this solstice performance in what we hope will become an annual holiday tradition.

"Everything for AMOC is sacred in that it needs to perform at the highest level, but nothing is so sacred that it can't be rethought musically, socially, racially, sexually, theatrically, physically"
/ The LA Times



Music by JOHN ADAMS

Libretto compilation by
PETER SELLARS

Musical selections by
JULIA BULLOCK

Musical arrangement by
CHRISTIAN REIF

JULIA BULLOCK, soprano

RACHAEL WILSON,
mezzo-soprano

DAVÔNE TINES, baritone

ANTHONY ROTH
COSTANZO, countertenor

EMI FERGUSON, flute

HASSAN ANDERSON, oboe

GLEB KANASEVICH, clarinet

ALEX DAVIS, bassoon

PRISCILLA RINEHART, horn

CONOR HANICK, piano

JOHN ARIDA, keyboard

JONNY ALLEN, percussion

JORDAN DODSON, guitar

KEIR GOGWILT, MIRANDA
CUCKSON, JULIA CHOI,
CURTIS STEWART, MIRAN
KIM, RAVENNA LIPCHIK,
QIANWEN SHEN, LADY
JESS, violin

ZOË MARTIN-DOIKE,
CARRIE FREY, TIA ALLEN,
CELIA HATTON, viola

COLEMAN ITZKOFF,
ANDREW JANSS, TITILAYO
AYANGADE, cello

DOUG BALLIETT,
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON,
bass

THE CHOIR OF TRINITY
OF WALL STREET

SHABNAM ABEDI, MEG
DUDLEY, MADELINE APPLE
HEALEY, sopranos

KIRSTEN SOLLEK, PAMELA
TERRY, altos

DAVID VANDERWAL,
TOMMY WAZELLE, STEVEN
CALDICOTT WILSON, tenors

JEFFREY GAVETT, STEVEN
HRYCELAK, basses

CHRISTIAN REIF, conductor

JOHN TORRES,
lighting designer

MARK GREY, sound designer

CATH BRITTAN, producer

STEFANO FLAVONI,
assistant conductor

THOMAS MCCARGAR,
chorus manager

BETSY AYER, stage manager

KIRK BALTZELL,
assistant stage manager

ANDREW LULLING,
sound engineer

ZACK WINOKUR, director

CONCERTS AT CONFORTI: *AWAY FROM HOME*

*The Clark Art Institute
Williamstown, MA
January 28, 2023*

DOUG BALLIETT, bass
EMI FERGUSON, flute
KEIR GOGWILT, violin
JORDAN DODSON*, guitar

Kicking off The Clark's
Concerts at Conforti series,
AMOC* performed a pro-
gram on journeying, featuring
music composed and arranged
by AMOC* musicians. Doug
Balliett, Emi Ferguson, Keir
GoGwilt, and special guest

Jordan Dodson blended folk,
baroque, and classical influenc-
es to tell musical stories about
journeys across the Camino
de Santiago, the Irish Sea, and
the continental United States.
Combining spoken narration,
song, and virtuosic instrumen-
tation, this program reflected
on the dreams, desires, and
difficulties that draw us away
from home.

**guest artist*



AMOC* AT BROWN

*Brown University
Providence, RI
April 16-20, 2023*

PAUL APPLEBY, MATTHEW
AUCOIN, DOUG BALLI-
ETT, MIRANDA CUCKSON,
and EMI FERGUSON joined
the echoing of tenses composer
ANTHONY CHEUNG and
students at Brown University
for a one-week collaborative
residency. Focusing on what
it means to be a musician of
today, they shared practices,
approaches to new work, and
learnings with each other,
culminating in a performance
featuring works by Julius East-
man, George Lewis, J.S. Bach,
Aucoin, and Balliett.

Sunday, April 16
Workshop with Miranda Cuckson
Tuesday, April 18
Workshop on open and graphic
notation with MEME Composers
Ensemble
Performance of Anthony Cheung's
the echoing of tenses
Wednesday, April 19
Composition Seminar on writing
for voice and piano
Workshop with Paul Appleby
Thursday, April 20
Baroque workshop
Concert featuring Brown students
and AMOC*



HOW TO FALL APART

New York Premiere
Baryshnikov Arts Center
New York, NY
February 10-11, 2023

Composed by
CAROLYN CHEN

JULIA EICHTEN, dance
KEIR GOGWILT, violin
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello
YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS*,
dance
MATILDA SAKAMOTO*,
dance

JULIA EICHTEN,
movement director
MARY ELLEN STEBBINS,
lighting designer
VICTORIA BEK,
costume designer
ANNA DROZDOWSKI,
stage manager

*guest artist



Developed at Baryshnikov Arts Center and The Lumberyard, AMOC*'s first collaboration with Carolyn Chen, *How to Fall Apart*, describes cosmic, natural, and human processes of disintegration, aging, and falling apart. This evening-length work for three dancers, one violinist, and one cellist integrates text, gesture, and music, building upon Chen's long-standing compositional work "in which sensuality and abstraction find common ground" (*LA Times*).

How to Fall Apart unfolds as various assemblages of sound, movement, and storytelling cohere, dissolve, and reform, telling personal and scientific stories about the climate crisis, cosmological history, the erosion of soil in Northern Chad, the aging body, The Billion Oyster Project in New York, and the operations of microbes.

ENSEMBLE CONNECT UP CLOSE: *SPACE(S)*

*Carnegie Hall Weill Music Room,
Resnick Education Wing
New York, NY
March 27, 2023*


MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin
CONOR HANICK, piano
JULIA EICHTEN,
dance/choreography

In collaboration with:
ENSEMBLE CONNECT

In collaboration with Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect series, AMOC* invited audiences to an evening of close listening and engagement with sound, silence,

movement, and space. With performances of compositions by Michael Pisaro, Jennifer Walshe, Jürg Frey, Carolyn Chen, and more, artists explored physical awareness, attention to each other, and the spontaneity of personal and collective responses. Listeners were encouraged to engage with Pisaro's "Space" and other pieces of music.





“Broken Theater is one of the most unusual dance/
theater productions I’ve seen, and one of the finest.
Simply put, it’s a work of astonishing creativity,
audacity, and genius.”
/ Critical Dance

BROKEN THEATER LA MAMA

*New York Premiere
La MaMa Experimental Theatre
New York, NY
April 20-30, 2023*

Created and Directed by BOBBI
JENE SMITH
Choreographed and
Performed by:
MIKAEL DARMANIE*
JULIA EICHTEN
VINSON FRALEY*
JONATHAN FREDRICKSON*
KEIR GOGWILT
COLEMAN ITZKOFF
JESSE KOVARSKY*
YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS*
ADAM McGAW*
OR SCHRAIBER
BOBBI JENE SMITH
MOUNA SOUALEM*
STEPHANIE TROYAK*

JOHN TORRES,
lighting designer
VICTORIA BEK,
costume designer
CHRISTOPHER GILMORE,
associate lighting designer
CATH BRITTAN and
REBECCA SIGEL, producers
ANNA DROZDOWSKI,
stage manager

As part of the La MaMa
Moves! Dance Festival,
AMOC* partnered with La
MaMa Experimental Theatre
to present a sold-out, special
extended run of Bobbi Jene
Smith's *Broken Theater*.

Broken Theater was co-com-
missioned by La MaMa, Mass
MoCA, AMOC*, and New
Dialect.

*guest artist

HARAWI EUROPEAN TOUR

*de Singel, Brussels, Belgium
StARTfestival, Leverkusen, Germany
Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, Germany
May 5-10, 2023*

Music and Text by
OLIVIER MESSIAEN

JULIA BULLOCK, soprano
CONOR HANICK, piano
BOBBI JENE SMITH, dance
OR SCHRAIBER, dance

ZACK WINOKUR, director
BOBBI JENE SMITH and OR
SCHRAIBER, choreographers
JOHN TORRES,
lighting designer
MARK GREY, sound designer
CHRISTOPHER GILMORE,
associate lighting designer
CATH BRITTAN, producer
BETSY AYER, stage manager

AMOC*'s production of HARA-
WI realizes Olivier Messiaen's
deeply affecting, hour-long song
cycle for voice and piano in new
physical and dramatic dimen-
sions, featuring soprano Julia
Bullock, pianist Conor Hanick,
choreographer/dancers Bobbi
Jene Smith and Or Schraiber,
with direction by Zack Winokur.
Moving from duet to quartet,
this production breaks open Mes-
siaen's cycle, connects movement
to music, and grapples with the
intensity of love and loss.



“Many in the arts these days talk a big game about interdisciplinary collaboration, but few walk the walk like AMOC.”

/ The New York Times



THE ECHOING OF TENSES

*New York Premiere
The 92nd Street Y
New York, NY
May 18, 2023*

Composed by
ANTHONY CHEUNG

PAUL APPLEBY, tenor
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin
ANTHONY CHEUNG*, piano
VICTORIA CHANG*, poet
ARTHUR SZE*, poet
MONICA YOUN*, poet
JENNY XIE*, poet

ZACK WINOKUR, director
JULIA BUMKE, dramaturg

AMOC* performed the New York premiere of Anthony Cheung's *the echoing of tenses* in a special evening featuring four poets in recitations of their own texts. Cheung's moving cycle sets to music poems by Asian-American writers reflecting on memory, cultural and personal identity, family, migration, and loss.

*guest artist



SALON WITH AMOC*

*Baryshnikov Arts Center
New York, NY
May 24, 2023*

ANTHONY ROTH
COSTANZO, countertenor
KEIR GOGWILT, violin
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin
CARRIE FREY*, viola
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello
DOUG BALLIETT, double bass
EMI FERGUSON, flute
CONOR HANICK, piano
MATTHEW AUCOIN, piano
JONNY ALLEN, percussion
CLARA WARNAAR*,
percussion*

MARY ELLEN STEBBINS,
lighting designer
JULIA BUMKE, dramaturg

AMOC* artists traversed centuries and landscapes in two programs that brought audiences from the Summer sunset to the-
atrical night. The first included
Cassandra Miller's *About Bach*—a
patient meditation on melody,
memory, and the passage of time
at the day's end—and Andrew
McIntosh's *Little Jimmy*, which
combines field recordings,
piano, and percussion to reflect
Southern California's terrifyingly
sublime expanse.

The second captured the irrever-
ent eclecticism of AMOC*, fea-
turing original works alongside
pieces by Gabriela Ortiz, Fang
Man, and Antonio Vivaldi, with
influences as varied as ancient
Roman history, Peking opera,
Mexican folk music, and classical
Italian poetry.

*guest artist



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CIRCLE*

AMOC* gratefully
acknowledges the supporters
who donated \$10,000+ in its
inaugural year (2017-2018):

- Susan Baker & Michael Lynch
- Mogens Bay / Bay Family Foundation
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- Elizabeth Tunick
- Robert L. Turner / The RLT Foundation



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CIRCLE*

AMOC* gratefully
acknowledges supporters
whose gifts bring
transformational change:

- Mellon Foundation
- Spring Point Partners

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AMOC* thanks our annual
supporters whose steadfast
contributions advance our work:

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 - Stephen A. Novick
 - The Kovner Foundation
- \$25,000+**
 - Edythe Gladstein
 - The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
 - Robert L. Turner / The RLT Foundation
 - Robert and Jane Toll Fund at The Miami Foundation

- \$10,000+**
 - Mogens Bay / Bay Family Foundation
 - Paul Bittenwieser
 - Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation
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 - Susan & David Young

- \$5,000+**
 - Helen & Will Little
 - Kathy Schuman
 - Judy Zankel
 - Fay & William Shutzer
 - Anonymous (1)

- \$1,000+**
 - Marian Page Ashley
 - Susan Baker & Michael Lynch
 - Susan Bienkowski
 - Matthew Bird
 - Gordon Brodfuehrer
 - Siu Li & Chris GoGwilt
 - Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera
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 - Daisy Soros

- Elizabeth Tunick
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- Peter Touman
- Peter Wender
- Andrea Whittle

(Gifts from July 2022-June 2023)

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