

LYWOOD

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north

# REVIEW 2021



# WELCOME

**In a year overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Opera North has responded with characteristic imagination, resilience and enterprise to continue to deliver on its commitment to make extraordinary creative experiences with and for our communities in the north of England.**

The Company's financial position was somewhat protected in the early months of the pandemic by the government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme and latterly by an award from the Culture Recovery Fund administered by Arts Council England. We are more than ever grateful for the continued support of the Arts Council, which has maintained the level of its core funding of the Company despite the unavoidable curtailment of live activity wrought by the pandemic for much of the performing year. We have also been enormously heartened by the overwhelming generosity of many of our individual supporters, by our partners in the corporate and Higher Education sectors, and by the trusts and foundations which support our community and education programmes.

A priority has been to keep the Company intact so that it can continue to play its essential role in the cultural life of the region once the country enters the recovery phase of the pandemic, recognising the immense value of retaining our hugely talented core artistic ensembles of Chorus and Orchestra in the region alongside a highly skilled technical,

education and administrative staff. This value extends well beyond the Company's outstanding performances to the immeasurable benefits Opera North's people deliver in community and educational settings, such as our work with refugees and people seeking asylum, our leading role in championing environmental sustainability in the arts industry, or the delivery of instrumental tuition in schools in some of the most deprived areas in Leeds.

Whenever circumstances permitted during the past year the Company has made every effort to return to performing for live audiences, firm in the belief that nothing is a substitute for music and opera shared in person with others in the same space. When the imposition of further lockdowns last autumn made live performance impossible, Opera North's resourceful digital team built the Company's own digital platform, ON Demand, in a matter of weeks. ON Demand has enabled the Company to keep faith with audiences in its own region and to reach new audiences around the globe. We also harnessed the potential of digital technology to support people's wellbeing in the isolation of lockdown, with projects such as *From Couch to Chorus*, a series of online singing workshops, and *ONE-to-ONE*, which gave individual households the opportunity to receive a unique performance live on Zoom.

It was 40 years ago this year that Opera North truly began to establish its own unique identity. In 1981, the Company became fully independent of English National Opera – an act of faith in the future at the time, born out of the belief that the North deserved an opera company

Cover: *The Seven Deadly Sins*,  
livestream, 2020

These pages: Testament in  
*Orpheus in the Record Shop*,  
film, 2021

# 'It's good to know that more than a year of curtailed activity has not dulled this superb company's musical excellence and dramatic conviction'

Hugh Canning, *Sunday Times*, on *Fidelio*, June 2021

to call its own, making available music and opera of the highest ambition and achievement to all the people of the region. In the autumn of 2021 the Company finally gets the home that it deserves with the completion of the Music Works redevelopment project and the opening of the Howard Opera Centre. So it was with a sadness all the more acute that we learned in August of the death of the man after whom it is named: Opera North's President, Dr Keith Howard OBE. Without Keith's intervention and unprecedented financial support, Music Works would never have got off the ground and our real sorrow is that he was unable to witness the realisation of his and our dream of the completed Howard Opera Centre and Howard Assembly Room.

Keith was a man of great vision, determination, courage and not least wit, for which he will be fondly remembered. There is no doubt that he has set his own seal on Opera North's future, and his extraordinary legacy will live on in the Company's new home in the heart of Leeds, which will benefit countless artists, audiences and young people in the years to come.

## Paul Lee

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

## Richard Mantle

General Director

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# KEITH HOWARD 1931-2021



**It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of our President, Dr Keith Howard OBE, on 12 August 2021 at the age of 89.**

Keith was the single most generous benefactor of Opera North in the Company's history. The success of his publishing company Emerald enabled him to direct extraordinarily significant sums to Opera North and to his other chosen causes. In 2009 he created the Emerald Foundation, which makes grants of more than £1 million a year to charities in West Yorkshire in the fields of sport, performing arts and animal welfare.

Keith and his wife Pat became devoted supporters of Opera North after its formation in 1978 and his support for the Company grew exponentially over the decades. At first it took the form of membership of the Friends and modest levels of donation. After a visit to the Grand Theatre in 2003 he made significant contributions towards the Transformation fundraising campaign, both personally and through the Emerald Foundation. The Transformation project delivered major improvements to backstage facilities and the restoration of the Assembly Room adjacent to the theatre as a performance space. This was named the Howard Assembly Room in

recognition of Keith's generosity. Thereafter, the Emerald Foundation made substantial donations to the Opera North Future Fund.

In 2018 it was announced that Keith was to make an unprecedented personal donation of more than £11 million towards Opera North's Music Works redevelopment project, now in its final stages. Without Keith as benefactor, this visionary and transformative scheme would have been simply inconceivable. Our new home in the heart of Leeds is named the Howard Opera Centre in his honour.

**'Keith Howard was an outstanding benefactor of the arts and without equal in his generosity towards Opera North. His personal and financial support for the Company has been one of the cornerstones of its success in recent years and we mourn his loss to the musical world and to communities in Leeds and across the north of England.'**

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England

**Left:** Rafael Rojas, Giselle Allen, Keith Howard and Seckou Keita at Music Works launch event, Howard Assembly Room, June 2018

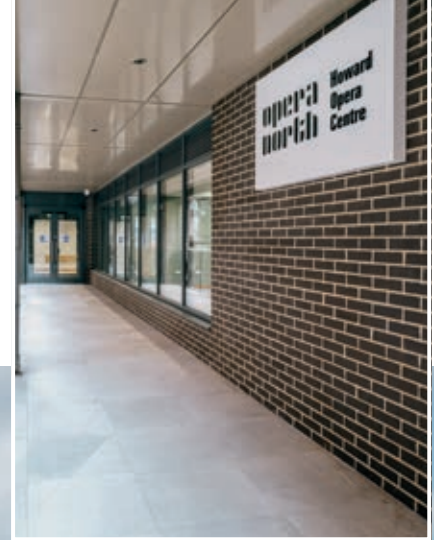
**Below:** View of the Mantle Music Studio at the Howard Opera Centre

**Right:** entrance to the Howard Opera Centre

**Below Right:** Orchestra Academy, Howard Opera Centre, August 2021

## HOWARD OPERA CENTRE

Named after its chief benefactor, Dr Keith Howard OBE, the Howard Opera Centre is a new home for Opera North in the heart of Leeds. It is a place where everyone is welcome to explore exhilarating music and performance, where young people are educated and inspired, and where creativity is nurtured in a state of the art, sustainable environment.



# SHAPING THE FUTURE

Music and the arts have a vital role to play on the country's road to recovery from the pandemic. From our new home at the Howard Opera Centre in the heart of Leeds, we will play a vital part in a transformed cultural landscape, creating extraordinary experiences every day for the communities we serve.



## ON DEMAND

A return to live performance at increasing scale was planned in the autumn, beginning with the Connecting Voices season at Leeds Playhouse in October. After a second national lockdown was imposed in November, Opera North's digital team created a new online platform for the Company from scratch in a matter of weeks, so that work planned to be performed to audiences in person, such as *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Fidelio*, could instead be livestreamed. More work was made available ON Demand in 2021, including a backstage film made during a BBC Radio 3 recording of *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and the Whitehall Road Sessions, a series of concerts livestreamed from the Company's temporary rehearsal facilities in Leeds.

## AS YOU ARE

The latest in Opera North's popular series of soundwalks, *As You Are – A Soundwalk for Leeds*, was created by composer and cellist Abel Selaocoe. Drawing on his South African heritage and recorded during lockdown with the Orchestra and Chorus of Opera North alongside guest musicians, *As You Are* opened up new perspectives on the city, taking in the River Aire and Leeds landmarks such as the Corn Exchange and the Victoria Quarter, each stage of the journey triggering a new musical chapter. Supported by Victoria Leeds, *As You Are* opened in December and ran for two weeks before a third national lockdown forced its premature closure.

## RESONANCE

Following an online 'lockdown' edition in 2020, Resonance resumed in person in 2021. Supported by the PRS Foundation's Talent Development Partnership, with additional support from The Leche Trust for the 2021 programme, Resonance is Opera North's annual residency for UK-based minority ethnic music-makers. Announced in January, the lead artists for Resonance 2021 are vocalist and composer Supriya Nagarajan, composer José Guillermo Puello and writer, performance artist and producer Keisha Thompson, all of whom are collaborating with other artists to explore new directions for their work.



## DARE ART PRIZE

Part of Opera North's pioneering partnership with the University of Leeds, the DARE Art Prize challenges artists and scientists to work together on new approaches to creativity. The winner of the 2020-21 Prize is artist Redell Olsen, whose *Weather, Whether Radar: Plume of the Volants* tracks and imagines a range of poetic, narrative, historical and cultural noises at the fragile intersections of radar, insects, weather, objects, people, music and film. Redell has collaborated with BioDAR researchers at the University of Leeds and the National Science and Media Museum archives and with the Chorus of Opera North to create this new work, including an imagined inter-species opera as a response to the current climate crisis and environmental degradation. The work will be showcased at a residency at The Tetley in November 2021.

**Main:** *Switch ON*, Leeds Town Hall, September 2020

**Left:** *As You Are* recording session: Abel Selaoocoe and percussionist Sidiki Dembélé

**Middle:** 2020 *Resonance* artist Khadijah Ibrahiim with Paulette Morris in *Dead and Wake*, part of the *Connecting Voices* season at Leeds Playhouse, October 2020

**Top:** Collage by 2020-21 *DARE Art Prize* winner Redell Olsen

# EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

From epic operas streamed to audiences across the world to pop-up performances in car parks; from soundwalks to carols for care homes; from online choruses to unique One-to-One recitals – Opera North creates extraordinary experiences every day for everyone in the north of England and beyond.

**‘A gripping operatic experience in which every aspect of the show seemed to come together. ... If there had been an audience, they would have been on their feet at the end.’**

Martin Kettle, *The Guardian*, on *Fidelio* livestream

**‘What this rising star does with his larynx is a wonder ... With the added force of the Opera North orchestra, it sends shivers down the spine.’**

Dominic Cavendish, *Daily Telegraph*, on Testament’s *Orpheus in the Record Shop*

**Main:** Testament in *Orpheus in the Record Shop*

**Top left:** Jack Liebeck and David Greed recording the Bach Concerto for Two Violins with the Orchestra of Opera North at Whitehall Road, Leeds, March 2021

**Top right:** Paula Murrihy (Orfeo) recording *Orfeo ed Euridice* for broadcast by BBC Radio 3, May 2021

**Middle:** still from *La Petite Bohème*, a short film by Matthew Robins, commissioned by Opera North Projects  
**Bottom left:** Dame Josephine Barstov (Madame Armfeldt) and Agatha Meehan (Fredrika Armfeldt) in *A Little Night Music*, co-produced with Leeds Playhouse, June 2021  
**Bottom right:** Rachel Nicholls (Leonore) in *Fidelio*, livestreamed from Leeds Town Hall, December 2020

**‘Working with Opera North on *Orpheus in the Record Shop* was a delight. The co-production with Leeds Playhouse was a unique commission – to write a work that takes us from isolation to community. In just six weeks or so we managed to turn around an epic piece – text, drama, composition and performance. The amount of dedication and skill from both the Opera North and Leeds Playhouse teams working together was incredible. I shall point out some of the Opera North heroes here – visionary director Aletta Collins; all the players and performers; Andy Fairley, who transcribed and arranged the music with me (often into the night); Philip Voldman, whose counsel and presence as orchestra stand-in during rehearsals was invaluable; and the amazing stage managers Lisa Ganley and Becky Wing – everyone went above and beyond to make the show happen. And when the audience came in the response was electric – gasping and laughing and crying during the show and ovations at the end. The fact the BBC asked for it to be recorded for broadcast, filmed by the ingenious Alex Ramseyer-Bache, was a bonus. I very much hope to work with Opera North on new projects in the future.’**

Testament



# FOR EVERYONE

**We make our award-winning work for everyone everywhere. You'll find us in grand theatres and shopping centres; in community venues and city squares; in pubs and on our digital platform, ONDemand.**

## **WHISTLE STOP OPERA: CINDERELLA**

**'Really great to have such a high-quality resource available free of charge to schools. It gave an excellent end-of-term treat for the children in all classes, whilst also giving them a cultural experience they otherwise would never have had. The filming was excellent – good to see that it was an actual stage show and it appeared to be 'live'. The characters were engaging, especially the fairy godmother, and it was great to have interactive elements including the song to learn before the show and the actions to follow during the performance.'**

Andrew Phoenix, Headteacher, Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery School, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich



## **FROM COUCH TO CHORUS**

**'Absolutely loving the workshops. I've only ever sung at football matches and don't think I will be starring on the stage any time soon, but really enjoying the experience. ...Thank you for opening a whole new world up to me.'**

Bass participant

**Top:** Whistlestop Opera *Cinderella* - streamed from City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds, December 2020

**Above:** Orchestra of Opera North live in concert for the first time after the first national lockdown, Leeds Town Hall, August 2020

**Right:** Shelley Eva Haden (Anna II) in *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Opera North's first live streamed performance on the ON Demand digital platform, November 2020



'Seven Deadly Sins from @Opera\_North was a triumph to pull off in lockdown. Punchy band, sparse and effective design, knockout singing from Wallis Guinta and superb dancing from @shelleevahaden. What a treat.'

**David Smythe,**  
via Twitter



'We just went on the most wonderful soundwalk in Leeds. @Abel\_Cellist bringing together the magic of @Opera\_North and his South African heritage. If you're in Leeds please go to the Opera North website and book. Pay as you feel. I can't tell you how it filled my soul with hope.'

**Anja Madhvani,**  
via Twitter



'This is fabulous singing and playing from all @Opera\_North and Mark Wigglesworth infusing the score with lustre, melancholy, light and energy. One of the best £15 I've ever spent! ... BRAVO Opera North.'

**Dame Sarah Connolly,**  
via Twitter, on *Fidelio* livestream

**Between September 2020  
and August 2021 there were:**

**385,533**

**Views of Opera North  
livestreams and filmed  
performances**

**524,962**

**Engagements with Opera  
North on social media**

**131**

**Countries in which Opera North's YouTube  
channel was viewed**

**4,557**

**From Couch to  
Chorus participants**

**324**

**One-to-Ones**

**1,078**

**Residents who  
experienced Opera  
North's work for  
care homes**

**100%**

**Opera North staff  
who have received  
Carbon Literacy  
training**

**100**

**Groups and organisations in the Opera North  
Community Partnerships scheme**



# EDUCATION

Opera North connects with communities and inspires people of all ages and walks of life to explore opera, music and the arts. Thousands of young people and adults engage with the Company's extensive Education programmes each year.



## *SONG OF OUR HEARTLAND*

A highlight of the year was the completion against all odds of one of the largest community projects in which Opera North has ever been involved. Commissioned by Northern Heartlands, the Great Place scheme for County Durham, and written in partnership with members of the local community over a period of three years, *Song of Our Heartland* was reimagined as a film when the pandemic forced the cancellation of its scheduled premiere at Locomotion in Shildon in May 2020. Orchestra, chorus, soloists and community members were recorded separately over a period of two months, and filming took place in and around Locomotion during the course of just two rain-sodden days in August. The elements were painstakingly stitched together to create a powerful new digital community work which was finally shared with participants and stakeholders shortly before Christmas 2020. *Song of Our Heartland* was subsequently nominated as Best Performance in the 2021 North East Culture Awards.

'I had the privilege of arranging and developing the fabulous material that had been generated by the participants in this extraordinary project. What struck me most as I began writing the libretto was the wealth of creativity at the heart of this group of people. Their feisty determination to tell their story, in their words, was both powerful and inspiring. The story told in *Song of Our Heartland* is one of resilience in the face of extreme duress. The creation of this opera and its transformation from a live performance to a film is a similar tale of resilience, resourcefulness and adaptability. Passion was at the heart of this project from the very start and passion will be the abiding memory of the whole experience.'

Emma Jenkins, librettist, *Song of Our Heartland*





**Left: Creative Arts Camp,** Herd Farm, Leeds, August 2020

**Opposite: *Song of Our Heartland*,** wrap photograph, Locomotion, Shildon, August 2020

**Below: Opera North Youth Company Summer Project,** Howard Opera Centre, August 2021

## OPERA NORTH YOUTH COMPANY

The Opera North Children's Chorus (ages 8-11), Young Voices (ages 11-14) and Youth Chorus (ages 15-19) are regular groups for children and young people from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate a natural aptitude for singing. They provide participants with a unique opportunity to develop musicianship, creativity and drama skills to a high level. Between September 2020 and March 2021, all ONYC activity had to move online. This opened up new opportunities for the young people to work with a diverse range of artists, including R'n'B singer/songwriter Christella Lytras, director Gitika Buttoo and South African singer-songwriter Thandanani Gumede, creating responses to their own experiences of the pandemic and new pieces on the theme of 'home'.

**'I'm not sure if the Opera North team realise that they have made a life-changing difference to young people who might otherwise have had a lockdown without the singing they love and vital companionship. ... Opera North has been a ray of light that has continued to shine with consistency, huge amounts of joy and professionalism throughout these worrying times. We can't thank the team enough for this.'**

Parent of Opera North Young Voices member



# COMMUNITIES

Through its groundbreaking Community Partnerships and Education programmes, Opera North engages with people of all ages and backgrounds. Our Encore groups and Community Partners help us reach people who, for many reasons, face significant barriers to experiencing the arts, and we are the first opera company in the country to be awarded Theatre of Sanctuary status.

## ARTS TOGETHER FOR CARE HOMES

Administered by Opera North, Arts Together Leeds is a collaborative network of arts and community organisations which aims to make cultural events in the city and beyond as welcoming and accessible as possible for everyone, whatever their background. In the summer of 2020, we supported freelance artists to perform to some of the people who were most adversely affected by the pandemic: the residents of care homes. Live performances were given outside 20 care homes throughout August and September.

Later in the year, Opera North continued its work for care homes by recording a concert of carols and Christmas songs at Leeds Town Hall performed by the Chorus and members of the Orchestra. Introduced by members of the Company, these performances were broadcast in a live webinar to more than 30 care homes in the run up to Christmas. In the New Year, individual members of the Chorus and Orchestra gave unique performances to care homes as part of Opera North's ONE-to-ONE project on Zoom.



**'Initiatives like these are hugely appreciated at a time like this when both residents and staff are having to adapt to a complex situation. Tessa [Smith] really brightened up everyone's day and brought them together.'**

Care Home Activities Coordinator, Beech Hall Care Home

**Main: Whistle Stop Opera at The Holbeck, Leeds**

**Top Right: Tessa Smith**  
singing outside Beech Hall Care Home, Summer 2020

**Middle Right: Guitarist Matias Reed**  
playing outside Dyneley House Care Home, Summer 2020

**Bottom Right: Tabita** photographed by Lizzie Coombes as part of **Mafwa Theatre's Women of Leeds** photography project, commissioned by Arts Together Leeds



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS Mafwa Theatre

100 community organisations are engaged in Opera North's Encore scheme. Each year, we work intensively with six Community Partners.

In 2020/21, one of our Community Partners was Mafwa Theatre, which brings together refugees, people seeking asylum and settled communities to celebrate diversity and campaign for a more welcoming society.

**'Being an Opera North Community Partner for 2020/21 has opened so many doors for Mafwa Theatre as an organisation and for our community of individual members. Although we have been unable to benefit as much as we would have liked from attending performances due to the pandemic, Opera North has involved us in many collaborative projects and offered so much invaluable support. We have worked together on a photography project, expanded our reach with lockdown creative packs, watched Zoom singing performances and received support from the Opera North marketing team who helped us to develop audiences for *Sit with Us*, our interactive art installation for Refugee Week 2021. We are so grateful for the support and opportunities and are confident that we will continue to collaborate with the Opera North Community Partnerships team and the Arts Together network to create more opportunities for Mafwa members.'**

Tamsin Cook, Co-Artistic Director, Mafwa Theatre

# PARTNERSHIPS

From its base in Leeds, Opera North's impact and influence extend throughout the North to the rest of the country and beyond. Our range and reach are underpinned by an array of powerful partnerships, in the public and private sectors, and with many individual supporters, trusts and foundations.

## OPERA NORTH AND LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

Councillor James Lewis, Leader, Leeds City Council:

'I am proud of Leeds City Council's partnership with Opera North, which has played a vital role during the pandemic in supporting the well-being of our communities through its creative and participative online activity and its outstanding education and community programmes, such as Arts Together Leeds, which brought the comfort and solace of music to care home residents during lockdown. Recently, it has been heartening to witness the Company's return to live performance at some of the city's iconic venues, such as Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Playhouse and The Holbeck. From its new home base at the Howard Opera Centre, Opera North will further enhance the cultural, social and economic life of the city region as we build together towards Leeds 2023.'

## DARE:OPERA NORTH AND UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Professor Frank Finlay, Dean of Cultural Engagement & Director of the Cultural Institute, University of Leeds:

'As well as depth, it is the sheer range of innovative and imaginative projects created each year through the DARE Partnership that excites me: from the 'academic in residence' scheme to collaborative research on arts engagement with refugees; from the Thinking with Opera podcast series where researchers and artists share their ideas in conversation to engaging University of Leeds' students in real-world problem-solving on issues such as the climate emergency. With our colleagues at Opera North we are able to explore the deep creativity that cuts across all subject areas in often quite radical ways, and to work in partnership to practise and celebrate the value of culture in our city.'

## OPERA NORTH AND PINSENT MASONS

Kate Fergusson, Head of Responsible Business, Pinsent Masons:

'Pinsent Masons is committed to inspiring young lives and through our engagement programmes we strive to raise young people's aspirations and break down the barriers that may prevent them from fulfilling their full potential. We are proud to have supported Opera North's award-winning music education programme which, through the power of music, has provided life-changing experiences to young participants.'

Above: Opera North Youth Company Summer Project, Howard Opera Centre, August 2021

Right: *As You Are*: composer and cellist Abel Selacoe





## OPERA NORTH AND VICTORIA LEEDS

**Jo Coburn, General Manager, Victoria Leeds:**

'We are passionate about making a positive impact in the community and this year we were proud to support the delivery of *As You Are*, a soundwalk through Victoria Quarter and Leeds city centre. We helped to create an environment that welcomed audiences of all ages to explore our city in a very special way. Our partnership with Opera North aligns with our values in promoting health and wellbeing through impactful performance and meaningful experiences.'

## OPERA NORTH AND DCMS

**Lord Mendoza, Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal:**

'The £2 billion Cultural Recovery Fund delivered by DCMS has protected cultural assets of international, national and local importance and supported the government's levelling up agenda by preventing the loss of valuable cultural fabric from our towns and regions. I am delighted that Opera North's imaginative projects were included in the 70% of grant funding that was awarded to organisations and sites outside of London. The funding has helped Opera North continue to reach existing audiences and stimulate new interest in music and opera during the pandemic and enable the Music Works redevelopment project, the completion of which is a testament to the Company's remarkable success in securing philanthropic support for this major addition to the cultural landscape of Leeds. Having visited the stunning new Howard Opera Centre, I know it will herald a fundamental and positive transformation for the Company and for its home city. I will continue to cheer on the tireless efforts made by Opera North and other great cultural organisations and ensure that the government continues to value our world-leading cultural sector.'

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Opera North gratefully acknowledges all the organisations and over 1,000 individuals across the country who generously support the Company's work.

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# MUSIC WORKS

**We thank all the funding bodies, organisations and the many individual supporters whose generosity has enabled us to create a transformative new home for Opera North in the heart of Leeds**

## Major Donors

The Late Dr Keith Howard OBE  
Arts Council England  
Leeds City Council  
Mrs Maureen Pettman  
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The Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Charitable Foundation

# FINANCE

For much of the past eighteen months the Company's income-generating activity has been reduced almost to zero, with the loss of anticipated box office income, as well as theatre and orchestra tax relief, resulting from the cancellation of an entire season of work. This in turn severely impacted our ability to fundraise, with some of our supporters suffering their own financial setbacks or uncertainties due to the impact of Covid-19. Government support has been critical, not only in enabling the Company to weather the worst of the pandemic, but crucially to emerge ready to continue to serve audiences and communities in the North and to provide employment in the region for the many freelance artists and musicians whose livelihoods have been disproportionately affected.

In the early phase of the pandemic, the Company received support from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough). Later in 2020 we were successful in our application to the Culture Recovery Fund administered by DCMS, which has enabled us to build our reserves in the face of continued uncertainty as we reopen, and to divert funds to the Music Works redevelopment scheme at a critical moment for the project. Throughout the period, Arts Council England maintained core funding for the Company despite the curtailment of planned activity, which, as well as providing a measure of financial stability, enabled us to adapt with resourcefulness and creativity to rapidly changing circumstances, particularly with a major expansion of our digital offer. We are also deeply grateful to the many individuals and trusts who maintained their support of Opera North during this challenging time as we continued to share music with people in new ways.

The remainder of the financial year 2021-22 continues to be fraught with uncertainty. As we take on the responsibility of a considerably enlarged estate with the opening of the Howard Opera Centre and the re-opening of the Howard Assembly Room, we will maintain our focus on building a resilient and sustainable financial footing on which to secure the Company's future.

Opera North Limited  
Grand Theatre  
46 New Briggate  
Leeds LS1 6NU UK  
(Registered Office)

Tel +44 (0) 113 243 9999  
Fax +44 (0) 113 244 0418  
info@operanorth.co.uk

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**Tom Arber** (Dr Keith Howard OBE with Rafael Rojas, Giselle Allen and Seckou Keita, p4; Howard Opera Centre, p5; Creative Arts Camp, pp12-13; Opera North Youth Company Summer Project, p13 & pp16-17; Whistle Stop Opera at The Holbeck, pp14-15); **Matt Clark** (Abel Selaocoe, p17); **Lizzie Coombes** (Tabita, p15); **Guzelian** (Orchestra of Opera North, p10); **Tristram Kenton** (*The Seven Deadly Sins*, covers, p11); **Redell Olsen** (DARE Art Prize, p7); **Opera North** (*Orpheus in the Record Shop*, pp2-3 & pp8-9; *As You Are* recording session, p7; Whistle Stop Opera *Cinderella*, p10; *Song of Our Heartland*, p12; Tessa Smith, p15; Matias Reed, p15); **Anthony Robling** (*Dead and Awake*, p7); **Justin Slee** (Orchestra Academy, p5; Switch ON, p6; Jack Liebeck and David Greed, p9; *Orfeo ed Euridice*, p9); **Richard H Smith** (*Fidelio*, p9); **Sharron Wallace** (*A Little Night Music*, p9).



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