

A Guide to the Records of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, 1964-2011

Records of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, 1964-2011
1964-2011

A Collection in Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History RG 191
Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History
2018

Title Statement

A Guide to the Records of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, 1964-2011

Subtitle: Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, Records of

Collection: RG 191

Author: Heather Crocetto

Publication Statement

Date: © 2018 Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Publisher: Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Gregory Pierce, 26 October 2020

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 191

Language

English

Creator

Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia

Extent

7 boxes.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of OTNV member Jean Shirhall in March 2012.

Preferred Citation

Records of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, Collection # RG 191, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Researchers interested in arts groups in Arlington would be interested in [RG 166, Records of Signature Theatre](#), and [RG 54, Arlington Symphony Records](#).

Historical Information

The Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia (OTNV) began as the Arlington Music Theatre in 1961. In 1967, the group was formally incorporated "for the purpose of producing professional but accessible opera, normally in English." OTNV would produce two to three operas per season, and in the 1980s became more active in educating the public about opera, providing opera talks and producing smaller versions of their seasonal shows at Lubber Run amphitheater during the summer months. Every year, OTNV would produce a "children's opera," either an opera geared specifically towards children or an opera that was light, fun, and child-appropriate. These productions were advertised to public schools and local scouting groups, as well as to the general public. OTNV also produced new operas written originally in English by local composers.

Starting July 1, 2010, OTNV became the Aurora Opera Theatre with the same mission; the name change was to revitalize the group, which was in decline due to lower ticket sales and reduced support from individual and government sponsors. Aurora Opera Theatre disbanded in July 2011. However, opera is still alive in Northern Virginia through Opera Nova. Opera Nova is supported by the Opera Guild of Northern Virginia, which grew out of OTNV as a fundraising and support arm in 1991. Opera Nova carries out OTNV's original mission to bring opera to all people, bridging age, race, and income.

Scope and Content

RG 191 contains the records of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, and is 3.1 linear feet. The collection ranges from 1963 to 2011, and the bulk of the material dates 1980-2008. There is an incomplete run of board minutes and annual reports, along with scattered administrative records, found in *Series 1*. The majority of the materials in this collection are linked to individual productions by the theatre, which is *Series 2, Production Materials*. This series holds programs, publicity, reviews, correspondence, contracts, and photographs, to give a fuller picture of the creation, publicity, and response to productions included in this series.

Series 3, Scrapbooks, hold clippings (both reviews and publicity), ephemera such as tickets and programs, flyers for productions and OTNV fundraisers, and correspondence to display an entire season of OTNV activities, as opposed to breaking materials up into particular productions like in *Series 2*. *Series 4, Printed Materials*, contain material meant to be seen and used by the public, including programs (independent of *Series 2* materials), flyers, and mailers. There is a short run of the OTNV's newsletter, "Andante." *Series 4* contains the collection's only material on the Aurora Opera Theatre and has two folders of material on the Arlington Cultural Council, also known as the Arlington Arts Council and the Arlington Arts Affiliate Council. This group had representatives from OTNV and other Arlington arts groups, and worked for better support from the County (specifically the Office of Cultural Affairs) and for the joint program "A Gift of the Arts." These folders contain meeting minutes and correspondence with Arlington County officials.

Photographs are found throughout *Series 2*, and are usually production stills. Photographs in *Series 3* are usually publicity stills of singers featured in OTNV performances. In *Series 4*, there are color printouts of thumbnails of digital photographs, again production stills. However, original digital files were not donated, so these printed thumbnails are the only version of these images in this collection.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Theaters -- Virginia
Arlington (Va.)
Arlington County (Va.)

Arrangement

RG 191 is divided into four series. *Series 2 and 3, Production Materials and Scrapbooks*, were already

grouped together by the donor by type of material and then organized chronologically by the archivist. *Series 1 and 4, Administrative Material and Printed Material*, were originally in folders, and the archivist separated those folders by type of material. Folder titles in quotes [""] were originally given by the donor; folder titles without quotes were created by the archivist. Folder titles with an asterisk at the end [*] denotes files with photographs included. A separate list of photographs has been created.

Contents List

Series 1: Administrative Records

Subseries 1: Meeting Minutes

File 1: "OTNV Organization and Mgmt, Minutes," 1972-1975

Box 1

File 2: "Minutes 1988-1993 "

Box 1

File 3: "Minutes 1992-1993 "

Box 1

File 4: "Minutes 1993-1994 "

Box 1

File 5: "Minutes 1995-1996 "

Box 1

File 6: "Minutes 1996-1997 "

Box 1

File 7: "Board Minutes, 1998-2011 "

Box 1

Subseries 2: Other Administrative Records

File 1: Annual Reports/Reports at Annual Meetings, 1975, 1986-1996, 2002, 2007-2008

Box 1

File 2: "Arlington County Proclamation," 1978

Box 1

File 3: "Strategic Plan," 1997, 2005-2007

Box 1

File 4: "Board Development," 2006, 2008 , n.d.

Box 1

File 5: Report to Board of Directors from Task Force, 2009

Box 1

File 6: "Education/Outreach," 2010

Box 1

File 7: OTNV's Director's Policy Manual, n.d.

Box 1

File 8: "Retreat," n.d.

Box 1

File 9: "Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation," 1967, 1973, 1975, 1989, 1997, 2009, 2010

Box 2

File 10: "BVA Project Documents," 2006 , n.d.

Box 2

File 11: "Board Members - Prior Years," 1971-2009

Box 2

Series 2: Production Materials

File 1: "1963-64 Production: The Bartered Bride," 1964

Box 2

File 2: "1970-71 Production: The Turn in Italy," 1971

Box 2

File 3: "1981-82 Production: (Paisiello) The Barber of Seville," 1982

Box 2

File 4: "1983-4 Production: L'Amico Fritz," 1984

Box 2

File 5: "1984-5 Production: The Toy Shop," 1985

Box 2

File 6: "1984-5 Production: Perichole," 1985 *

Box 2

File 7: "1985-6 Production: A Bride from Pluto," 1985

Box 2

File 8: "1985-6 Production: The Italian Straw Hat," 1986

Box 2

File 9: "1986-7 Production: The Goose from Cairo," 1986

Box 2

File 10: "1986-7 Production: The Consul," 1987

Box 2

File 11: "1987-88 Production: Glencarlyn Centennial Performance," 1987

Box 2

File 12: "1987-8 Production: Who Am I?," 1987

Box 2

File 13: "1987-8 Production (Lubber Run): Angelique," 1988

Box 2

File 14: "1987-8 Production: Incomplete Education; Angelique," 1987-1988

Box 2

File 15: "1987-8 Production: Lunatics and Lovers," 1988

Box 2

File 16: Starbird, 1988

Box 2

File 17: "1988-89 Production: Perfect Wife/Chatterboxes," 1988-1989

Box 2

File 18: "1988-89 Production: The Three Pintos," 1988-1989

Box 2

File 19: "1988-89 Production: Lubber Run Chatterboxes," 1989

Box 2

File 20: "1989-90 Production: The Toy Shop," 1989

Box 2

File 21: Hello Out There, 1990

Box 2

File 22: "1994-5 Production: Edgar," 1995

Box 2

File 23: "1995-6 Production: Help! Help! The Globalinks," 1995

Box 2

File 24: "1995-6 Production: Madeleine/The Secret of Suzanne," 1996

Box 2

File 25: "1996-7 Production: Phantom Tollboth," 1996-1997 *

Box 3

File 26: "Phantom Toll Booth Score and Program Notes," 1997

Box 3

File 27: "1996-7 Production: Viva Puccini = Le Villi - Elec. March," 1997

Box 3

File 28: The Love of Don Perlimplin/La Vida Breve, 1997

Box 3

File 29: "1997-98 The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe," 1997 *

Box 3

File 30: "Victor Herbert Hit Parade," 1997-1998 , n.d.

Box 3

File 31: "1999-2000 Barber of Seville," 1999-2000

Box 3

File 32: "1999-2000 Lost in the Stars," 1999-2000

Box 3

File 33: "1999-2000 Les Moose - Rocky and Bullwinkle," 1999-2000 *

Box 3

File 34: "00-01 L'Ajo Nell Imbarazzo," 2000 (1)

Box 3

File 35: "00-01 L'Ajo Nell Imbarazzo," 2000 (2)

Box 4

File 36: "00-01 Charlotte's Web," 1999-2001

Box 4

File 37: "00-01 Charlotte's Web Lubber Run," 2001

Box 4

File 38: "Cendrillon, 2001-2," 2001

Box 4

File 39: "Yonder Mountain 6/16-17/01," 2001

Box 4

File 40: "01-02 Cricket in Times Square," 2001-2002

Box 4

File 41: "01-02 Nancy Preview," 2002

Box 4

File 42: "02-03 La Princesse Juane and Pomme d'Api," 2002 *

Box 4

File 43: "02-03 Araboolies of Liberty Street," 2002-2003 *

Box 4

File 44: "02-03 Heroes, Heroines, and Rogues," 2003 *

Box 4

File 45: "2003-2004 The Apothecary (Lo Speciale)," 2003 *

Box 4

File 46: "2003-04 Pinocchio," 2003-2004, 2009

Box 4

File 47: "2003-04 Nancy - Premiere," 2002-2004

Box 4

File 48: "2004-05 The Magic Flute," 2004 *

Box 4

File 49: "2004-2005 Love's Luggage Lost/ L'occasione Fails Ladro Feb '05," 2004-2005 *

Box 5

File 50: "2004-05 Fatal Song or The Great Opera Murders," 2005 *

Box 5

File 51: "2005-06 Barber of Seville," 2005 *

Box 5

File 52: "05-06 Smith Recital, Jan. 06," 2005-2006 *

Box 5

File 53: "2005-06 Così Fan Tutte March 06," 2001-2006 *

Box 5

File 54: "May 2006 La Canterina and Le Convenienze Teatral," 2005-2006 *

Box 5

File 55: "05-06 Barber of Seville Lubber Run July 06," 2006

Box 5

File 56: "06-07 Nightingale Nov. 06," 1999, 2006

Box 5

File 57: "06-07 Archibeque Recital Jan 07," 2006-2007

Box 5

File 58: "06-07 Bohemios Feb-March 07," 2006-2007

Box 5

File 59: "Bohemios 8x10s," 2007 *

Box 5

File 60: "06-07 Don Pasquale May 07," 2007

Box 5

File 61: "Hansel and Gretel," 2007

Box 5

File 62: "2008-09 Cinderella," 2008

Box 5

File 63: "Cinderella Photos Oct '08," 2008

Box 5

File 64: "Pinocchio 09," 2009

Box 5

File 65: "Tango," 2009-2010

Box 5

Series 3: Scrapbook Albums

File 1: 1961-1967

Box 6

File 2: "1967-1974," 1967-1973 *

Box 6

File 3: "1967-1974," 1973-1974 *

Box 6

File 4: "1974-1978," 1974-1977

Box 6

File 5: "1974-1978," 1977-1978

Box 6

File 6: 1978-1980 *

Box 6

File 7: 1980 *

Box 6

File 8: 1981, 1983 *

Box 6

File 9: 1981-1985 (1)*

Box 6

File 10: 1981-1985 (2)

Box 6

File 11: "1983-84," 1983-1985 *

Box 6

File 12: 1986-1987

Box 6

File 13: 1986-1989

Box 6

Series 4: Printed Material

Subseries 1: OTNV Programs

File 1: Programs, 1967, 1968, 1979, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997

Box 6

File 2: Programs, 1998, 2000-2004

Box 6

File 3: Programs, 2005-2009

Box 6

File 4: Programs, no date

Box 6

Subseries 2: Other OTNV Printed Material

File 1: Ticket Order Form Flyers, 1982, 1986-1989

Box 6

File 2: Mailers/Postcards, 1982, 2007-2010

Box 6

File 3: Digital Photo Contact Sheets, 2007, 2008

Box 6

File 4: Clippings and Reviews, 2003-2007

Box 6

File 5: "Andante" Newsletter, 2004-2005

Box 6

File 6: Miscellaneous, 1986, 2006 , n.d.

Box 6

Subseries 3: Other Organizations

File 1: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, 2008

Box 6

File 2: Aurora Opera Theatre, Programs and Mailers, 2010-2011 , n.d.

Box 6

File 3: "Arlington Cultural Council," 1986-1990

Box 7

File 4: Arlington Cultural Council & Arts and Humanities Advisory Committee, 1988-1989

Box 7