

Chelsea Opera is a professional company presenting fully staged operas with chamber orchestra. Offering the highest artistic values, Chelsea Opera operates in an intimate performance space in a landmark venue in the Chelsea district of New York City.

Year Established: 2004

Founders: Lynne Hayden-Findlay and Leonarda Priore

Music Director/Principal Conductor: Samuel McCoy

Main Venue: St. Peter's Church in Chelsea (346 W 20th St, New York, NY)

Premieres Presented:

World Premiere: *The Mark of Cain* (Harris/Quinn) 2012

Regional Premieres: *Emperor Norton* (Mollicone/Bowman) 2014

Ballymore – Part One: Winners (Wargo) 2013

A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams (Fagin/Quinn) 2013

Number of patrons served/year: 1,200

Brief history:

In its decade-long history, Chelsea Opera has presented an eclectic mix of opera including classics, newer works, and premieres. In recent seasons the company has shown a dedication to opera written by American composers. In addition to the 2014 performance of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*, Chelsea Opera recently presented Matthew Harris's *The Mark of Cain*, Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied*, Lee Hoiby's *This is the Rill Speaking*, programs dedicated to the vocal works of Terry Quinn, in *Quintessentially Yours* and *Quintessentially Yours II*, and a concert featuring works by composers Anne Phillips, Ben Moore, and Tom Cipullo in *Musical Portraits*.

Chelsea Opera is equally at home with the classical operatic repertoire. Critically-acclaimed performances include *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze de Figaro*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and many more. Not limited to staged productions, Chelsea Opera often presents its company members in recitals of art song and operatic arias and scenes such as the 2012 Verdi/Wagner program celebrating the 200th year of their births.

In 2011 Chelsea Opera launched the *Nicholas S. Priore New Possibilities Fund* in honor, memory and tribute to long time fan, supporter and brother of co-founder Leonarda Priore, Nicholas S. Priore,. The fund designates and makes available much needed start-up monies to launch special projects as they emerge. The first recipient was then 13-year old Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg, their former 2009 Amahl, in a workshop of his two-act opera, *The Sleeping Beauty*, that was later awarded an ASCAP prize.

Funded by:

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs - New York State Council on the Arts - The Amphion Foundation – The Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation – The New York University Community Fund – The Tow Foundation – The H.O. Peet Foundation - The National Endowment for the Arts - Art Works Program – The Friends of Chelsea Opera.

