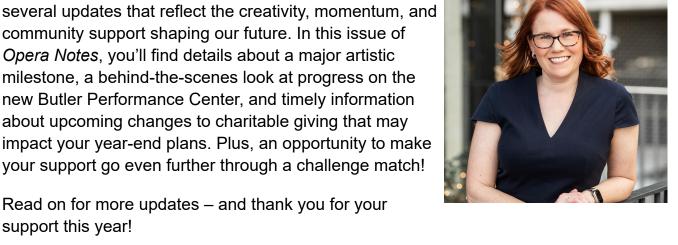






community support shaping our future. In this issue of Opera Notes, you'll find details about a major artistic milestone, a behind-the-scenes look at progress on the new Butler Performance Center, and timely information about upcoming changes to charitable giving that may impact your year-end plans. Plus, an opportunity to make your support go even further through a challenge match! Read on for more updates – and thank you for your support this year!

As we look ahead to a new year, we're delighted to share



With gratitude,

Annie Be

Annie Burridge

General Director & CEO **An Exciting Announcement** 

## *Ofrenda*, will open the new Butler Performance Center in October 2026. The *Austin*

American-Statesman, CultureMap, Opera Wire, and BroadwayWorld all reported the good news! The 90-minute bilingual chamber opera is supported by the **Butler Fund for Spanish** Programming and has been years in the making, thanks to a close collaboration with

Last week, we announced to the press that our first **World Premiere commission**,

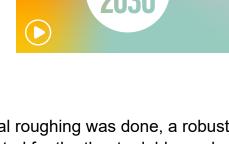
composer Jorge Sosa and librettist John de los Santos. Inspired by Día de los Muertos traditions, *Ofrenda* is a heartfelt celebration of family and cultural memory. When it opens the 2026–2027 season, the piece will mark a major moment for Austin Opera as the company's first commissioned work and a powerful reflection of its ongoing commitment to new voices and stories rooted in community, family, and tradition. Read the Press Release Ofrenda in the News

**Inside the Trade | Building Towards the Future** 

At the Celebrate Opera: A Spectacular Birthday

#### **Concert** in November, we were delighted to share INSPIRE Inspire 2030 with our community, a movement designed

to bring the new Butler Performance Center to life and expand what's possible for Austin's arts and cultural ecosystem. Watch the exciting video we shared at the concert! Since the summer, framing has been completed, electrical roughing was done, a robust lighting system was ordered, and colorful tiles were selected for the theater lobby and



#### for the state-of-the-art seating system to arrive in mid-February.

Curious to see how the project is progressing? We're excited to offer an exclusive look at the new Austin Opera facilities while under construction. Please complete this form to indicate your interest in attending a guided hard hat tour. Find out more about how you can join the movement <u>online</u>, and stay tuned for more

bathrooms. In January, the new wood floors will be installed in the theater, just in time

updates through our eNewsletter.



to make the most of current rules.



### Here is a very brief overview of some of the changes that could impact your philanthropic plans:

New tax break for everyday givers—If you don't itemize your deductions, you'll soon be

able to claim up to \$1,000 (or \$2,000 for joint filers) in charitable donations on your federal return, even if you take the standard deduction. Heads up for itemizers—If you do itemize, only contributions that exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) will be deductible beginning in 2026, and the tax benefit for high-income filers in the top bracket will be slightly reduced.

Planning matters—Because of these shifts, many financial advisers suggest thoughtful timing of gifts (like "bunching" donations or using donor-advised funds) before year-end

Whether you give big or small, these changes mean it's a great time to think about how your generosity fits into your 2025 and 2026 plans! Should you wish to make a gift to Austin Opera this year, your gift will go twice as far! Founding Austin Opera donors Cindy and Gerald Stone have pledged to match

all donations up to \$20,000 in an effort to raise \$40,000 in honor of 40 years of opera in Austin! Please make a gift by December 31 to double your impact and help ensure Austin Opera can provide joy, awe, and community to more and more Austinites

each year. Austin Opera does not provide financial or tax advice. We encourage you to consult your tax advisor to determine what is most appropriate for your individual circumstances.

Make A Year-End Gift

Start a New Family "Tradition"

Start a new "Tradition" with Austin Opera and bring the family to the nine-time Tony award-winning musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Long Center. Family 4-packs to the February 5 & 6 performances are available for \$187-that's \$46 per ticket! An enduring story of family, faith, and resilience, the new-to-Austin production includes the iconic songs "Tradition," "Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man," and more. Broadway legend and 2024 Tony nominated singer Steven Skybell stars as Tevye. Experience Steven and a top-tier cast of vocalists in four incredible

Give the gift of Austin Opera! Gift certificates available all year round.

Fiddler on the Roof

**Gift Certificates** 

performances that will have you singing right out of the theater!

Enter promo code **FAMILY4** online today and start your tradition.

Zone D) and is available throughout Dell Hall. This offer cannot be combined with other discounts, or used on previous purchases. A \$(3) order fee still applies and will be added in your cart. Offer expires on Wednesday, December 31 at 11:59 p.m. Tickets to Austin Opera performances are available exclusively through AustinOpera.org and the Austin Opera Box Office. Tickets obtained through unauthorized vendors are not valid and may be denied entry. Please visit our <u>Ticket Policy</u> page for more information. Artists, programs, dates, and prices

\*\*Promo code FAMILY4 valid for Fiddler on the Roof on Thursday, February 5 & Friday, February 6, 2026. \$46 applies to Orange seats (Prize

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