



Classic Lyric Arts

The 2020 Annual Report



Table of Contents

- 2 - Opening Letter
- 3 - Our Values
- 4 - Pandemic Response: The Alumni Relief Fund
- 5 - CLA Continues: Faculty and Alumni Connections
- 6 - Our Community: Media Report
- 7 - Financial Report: Continuity through Change
- 8 - Expense Breakdown
- 9 - 10 Our Donors



Dear friends,

The year 2020 will not be forgotten. It was a time filled with extremes—fear, uncertainty, disappointment, and the loss of too much and too many. Yet what emerged has given us more hope, more trust, and a greater awareness of our responsibilities for the honor of having a life in music. It also renewed and reinforced our desire to carry out the mission of Classic Lyric Arts. The work we've done to help emerging singers and pianists realize their place in the field of opera and song since 2009 has been satisfying beyond words. Our potential to support and influence future generations of artists seems limitless.

To that end, during the hiatus year of 2020, we strengthened our organization to prepare for the work ahead. Our former participants now assume a more significant presence in all CLA activities, sharing their talent and experience with our current young artists and the broader community. One alumnus, John Viscardi, now serves as CLA's first Executive Director, overseeing an administrative team made up of other CLA alumni (Maria Miller, Wesley Diener, Daniela Magura, and Samuel Rachmuth). Their collective creativity and professionalism are setting the stage for expanding our outreach and fulfilling our aspirations to be a force for good in the world of musical training.

While we postponed last year's summer programs due to the pandemic, we refocused our efforts in several ways:

1. CLA launched an Alumni Relief Fund, offering financial support to our artist family during the worst of the economic downturn. While performing arts stopped for a year, we were committed to assuring that performing artists survived.
2. With the help of our alumni, we created "Songs of Gratitude," a collection of performances demonstrating their appreciation for the training received at CLA and for the community of donors that make it possible.
3. We affirmed that our multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-national community has and always will define the best of who we are. Our belief in the merit of each young artist we teach mirrors our faith in the dignity and humanity of everyone we encounter.
4. This summer, we will transport the CLA programs to New York's historic Hudson Valley, a safe alternative as we await the end of the current health crisis. While we are excited to return to France and Italy in 2022, we now plan to add a third program to our annual offerings—CLA New York.

Our dedication to supporting the development of talented young artists is stronger than ever. Our belief that they enrich the world through their brilliance and beauty seems indisputable. Our optimism that we can collectively imagine a future filled with greater hope and extraordinary music is unshakable.

We look forward to reconnecting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Glenn Morton, Artistic Director





OUR VALUES

Classic Lyric Arts condemns all racial injustice and bigotry as it represents the polar opposite of everything that we strive for in our community of artists. We reaffirm that racial diversity is our strength, not our weakness. Cultural exchanges and a celebration of the inherent and unique talent in all of our students, teachers, supporters, and friends have created the essence of our work and our mission. We will continue to educate ourselves and our artists for the betterment and increased enlightenment of all, changing minds through advocacy, alliance, and music.

ACTION POINTS

In 2020, we examined our role within the industry of classical voice, our own history of inclusion, and our capabilities to better serve the Black community and the larger BIPOC community.

- Underwent an internal audit of CLA's diversity, equity and inclusion history, successes and challenges.
- Developed an organizational anti-racism value statement with organizational goals and objectives.
- Developed an expanded participation strategy for artists from historically Black colleges.
- Prioritized internal reflection and communal conversations on the integration of anti-racism best practices.

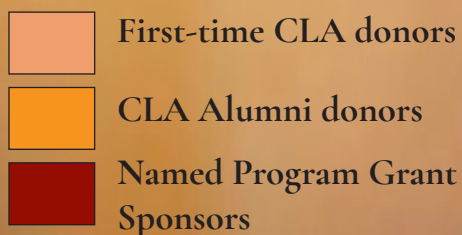
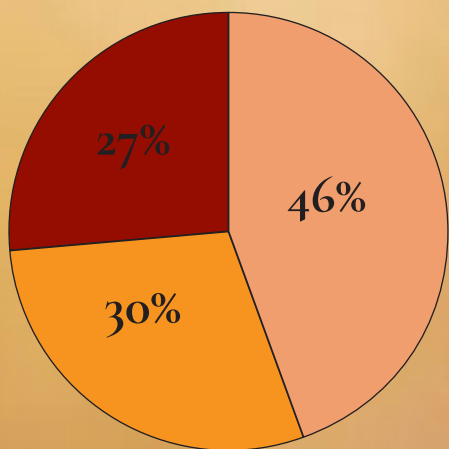


PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The Alumni Relief Fund

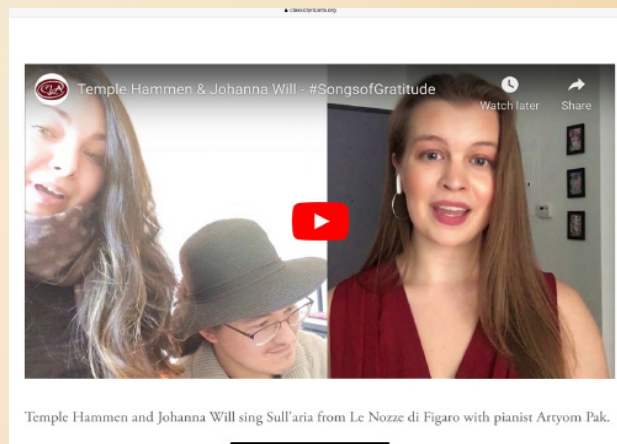
The Alumni Relief Fund was created to provide financial assistance to alumni of the Classic Lyric Arts Programs during the global pandemic. All alumni since CLA's inception in 2009 were contacted to determine immediate need. The Alumni Relief Fund would ensure that those who needed assistance could have access to funding. Many of our Named Program Grant donors elected to direct their donation toward the Alumni Relief Fund, and still more donors came from the pool of alumni themselves.

The Alumni Relief Fund was an extraordinary success. It demonstrated the true character of CLA donors and alumni, as well as the strength of the CLA Community. Nearly \$17,000 was raised for the Alumni Relief Fund!



Songs of Gratitude

Building upon the reestablished connections with CLA alumni, virtual reunions were held for each program in CLA's history. Faculty and alumni gathered via Zoom to share a coffee hour complete with photo albums from their class years. 29 CLA alumni showed their thanks through the newly established [Songs of Gratitude](#), a series of vocal music performances and testimonial videos about alumni's Classic Lyric Arts experiences.



Recipient Follow Up

"I am so grateful to have received the Alumni Relief Fund. In a time where artists were especially struggling, it was a blessing and personally it helped make ends meet. It was amazing to see all of the generosity and love that was poured into the Relief Fund. It really showed the magnitude of the CLA community and the impact it makes on every singer and person of attendance. A year later and looking at the end of the pandemic, I feel very optimistic, hopeful and excited to enter the performance world again. I'm looking forward to all of the many new opportunities that will come once the world has opened back up! Thank you again to CLA for the immense kindness to all of their artists."

Written on May 5, 2021

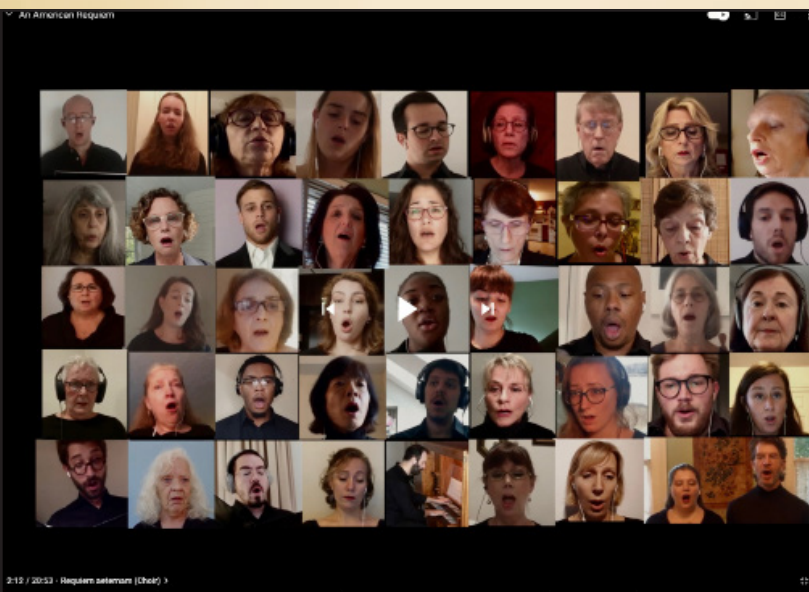
CLA Continues

Even though Classic Lyric Arts 2020 programs were cancelled, CLA alumni and faculty worked together on several independent projects. This year's report will focus on the CLA connections that continue well after the programs conclude.



Donata D'Annunzio Lombardi

DaltroCanto Association, founded by CLA Faculty member Donata D'Annunzio Lombardi, was part of the Tagliacozzo Festival in Italy in August 2020. Two alumni of CLA were invited to attend. Maestra Lombardi comes to CLA Italy for a residency each year, and alumni continue to take lessons from her, even many years later.



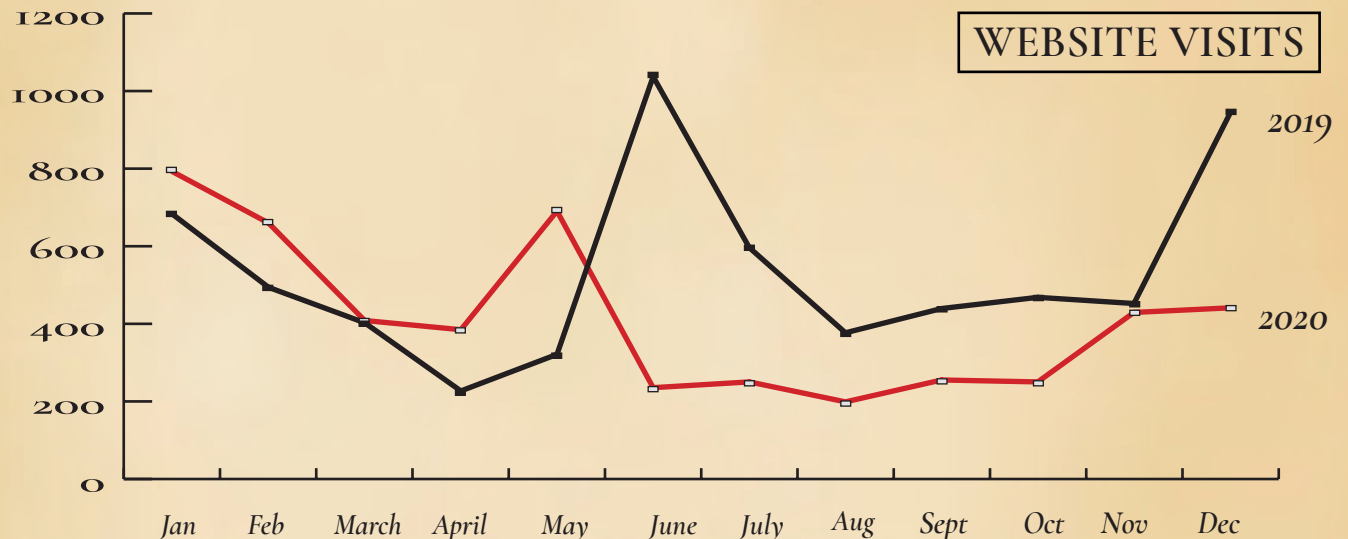
Raphael Fusco

Composer and CLA coach Raphael Fusco created an online premiere of his American Requiem in 2020, in the height of the pandemic. Several alumni from past years were asked to join the ensemble for this touching work, available for streaming on Youtube.

<https://youtu.be/aVZ8omdnz3U>

Media Report

Media in all forms became more important than ever in 2020. Here is a report of our media engagement for Classic Lyric Arts across all platforms.



New Social Initiatives

- [Faculty Features](#)
- [Alumni Interview Series](#)
- [Culture Spotlights](#)

The social media mission continues to be the sharing of CLA's spirit and uniqueness, in support of the belief that the organization's members and their experiences best demonstrate the character of CLA. These initiatives take this mission further.

Media Insights

(Compared to 2019)

Page Views: 12,200 (-19%)

Visits: 5,400 (+2%)

Unique Visitors: 4,700 (-10%)

Our email communications: 38% open rate (+4%) | 8% click rate (+1%)

Youtube Visits: 802

Instagram: 26 Posts, Avg Likes 56, Avg Comments 3, Avg Reached 361

Facebook: 36 Posts, Avg Reached 237



CLASSICLYRICARTS.ORG

Gabriela Flores - Alumni Interview Series — Classic Lyric Arts, Inc.



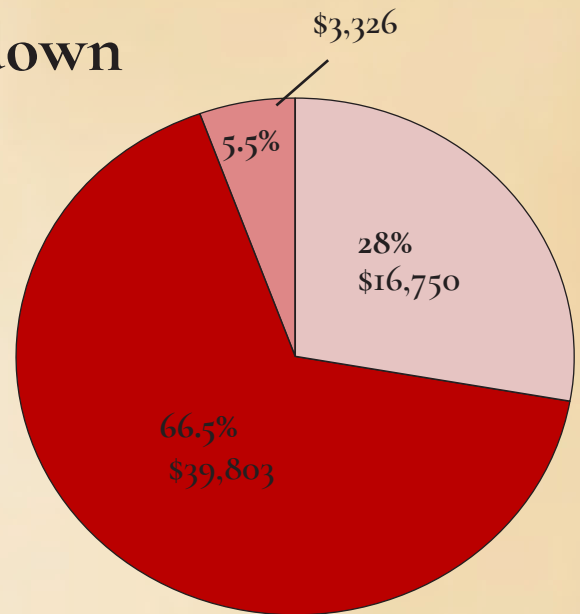
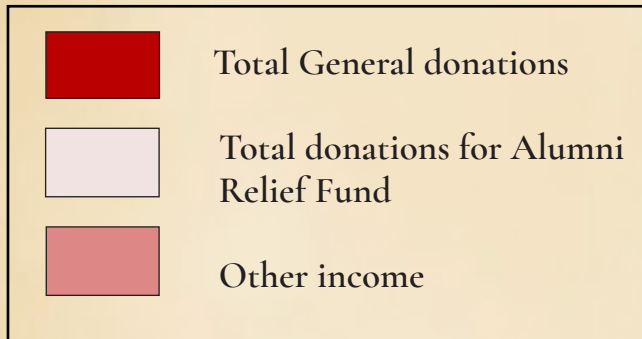
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Faculty Feature - Raphael Treiner — Classic Lyric Arts, Inc.

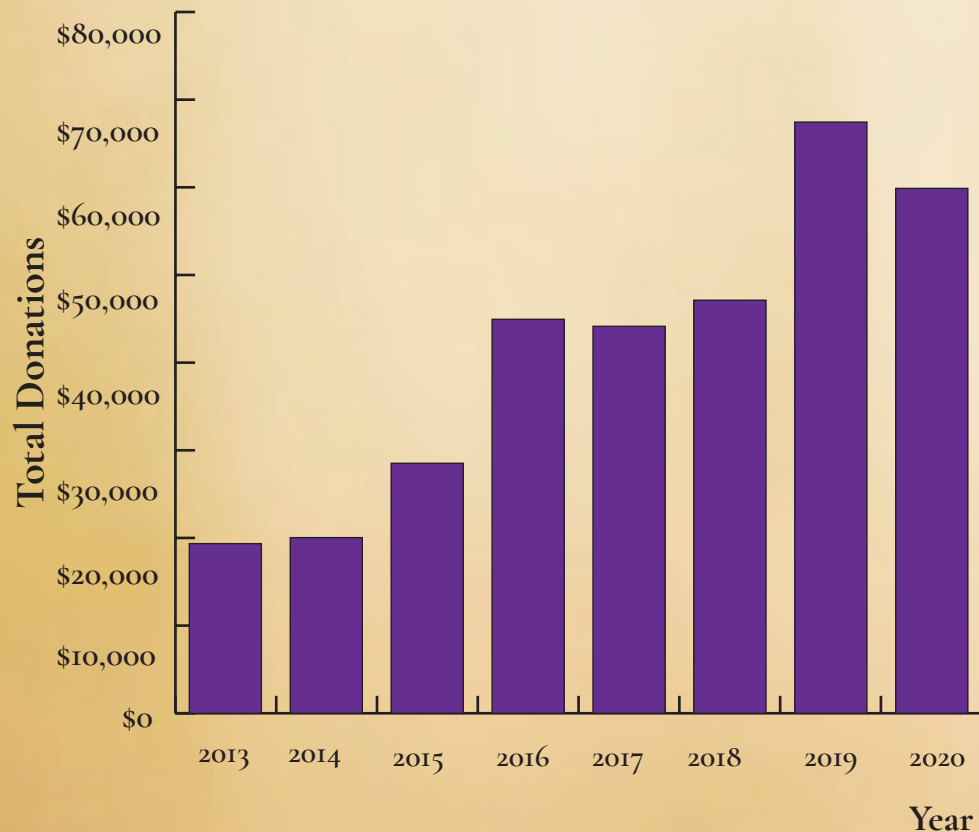
FINANCIAL REPORT

Continuity Through Change

Income Breakdown



CLA Donation History

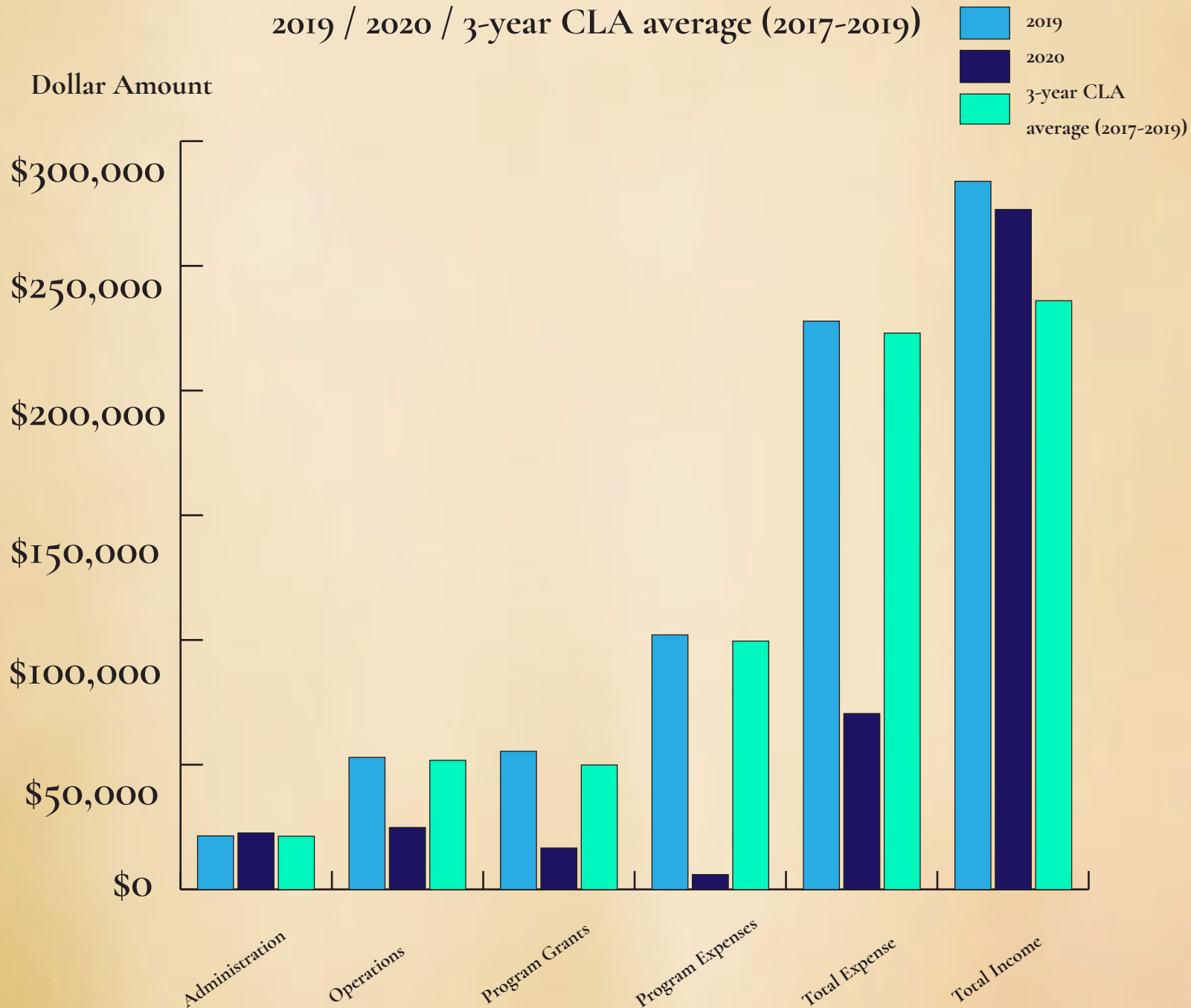


Total General Donations in 2020:
\$59,879

There was an 11.2% decrease in donations since 2019, but still a 13% increase in donations from our three year average. Despite the pandemic cancellations of 2020, CLA saw its second-highest amount of donations in history. In an average year at CLA, 85% of all donations go directly to participants. In 2020, 28% of all donations went to the Alumni Relief Fund, and the remainder went toward our operations, program cancellation expenses, and administrative staff.

Expense Breakdown

2019 / 2020 / 3-year CLA average (2017-2019)



The 2019 Program Expenses included \$48,734 for faculty and pianists, \$41,898 for housing and meals, and \$11,512 for travel and excursions. The 3 year average of Program Expenses is an average of \$49,493 for faculty and pianists, \$38,956 for housing and meals, and \$11,201 for travel and excursions.

CLA DONORS

Founders circle (\$20,000 and above)

John and Dolores Hunter
The Liebergesell Foundation, Inc.
Kathryn & Alan Stone
Robin Shoemaker
Glenn Morton & Charles Perrier

Benefactor (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

Marshall Berland
Carol Avery Haber
Northlands Foundation
So-Chung Shinn & Tony W. Lee
Thierer Family Foundation

Patron (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Lisa Folsom
Alan & Mary Frankel
Gerda Lissner Foundation, Inc.
Meche Kroop
William Moran
Kathleen Ritch
Barbara Saltzman
David Sheehan

Sponsor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Jeffrey Coe
Estate of Virginia Minichiello
Barbara & Sylvain Nagler

Donor (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Marie-Claude Akhobadze
David and Eugenia Ames
Key Bank
Michael Bolton
Linda L. Bryant
Josephine de Caro
Lydia Ciaputa
Jean-François Clément
Patrick Gallagher
Mark & Paula Granofsky
Geena Jeffries-Mattox
Fang Tao Jiang
Arthur Levy
Dave and Leslie McIntosh
Peter Minichiello
Musicians Emergency Fund, Inc.
Alfred and Christine Palladino

Antonia Pew
Murray Rosenthal
Christopher Schuman
Charlotte Scott
Jane Shaulis
Dan Rabinowitz and Ann Thomas

Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Susan Cooper
Kate Draper
Michaela Estrin
Hope Fitzgerald
Adam Granofsky
Philip Hagemann
Ana Iborti
Jeff Lick and Steve McCarthy
William Moeck
Reiko Osumi
Judy and Nino Pantano
Alice and Joe Perdue
Christopher and Susan Preston
Penelope Rowlands
Richard Sennett
Terry Stephens
Dennis Wedlick

Contributor (\$250 and above)

Raymond Bilinski
Lochlan Brown
George Connerat
James and Susan DeCarlo
Celia and Joseph W. DeMatteo
George and Romana Farrington
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Bob Funck
Brian Goldman
Jacob and Kristina Goldstein
Dan Gueron
Isaac Irizarry
Eloise Jackson
Carrigan Jobin
Mark and Joy Lamb
Betsy Lichtschein
Gabriella Lorenzotti
Anthony V Manoli
Vicki Polon
Eunice Poulos and Eric Siegeltuch
Barbara Protass
Beth Roberts
William Ronayne

CLA DONORS

William Ronayne
Mitchell Rosenberg
Eliot W. Rowlands
Vesper Foundation
John Viscardi
Jessica Watt

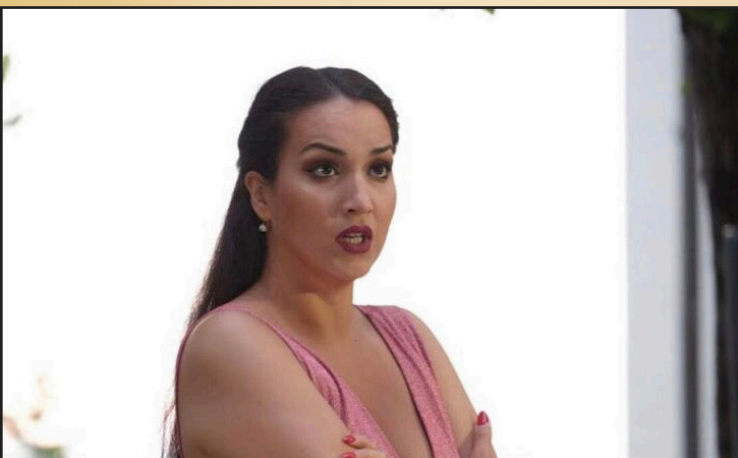
Friend (up to \$250)

Alexandra Anderson
Judith Argon
Alice Bach
John Baggett
Marie Baggett
Jeff Bailey
Lou Barrella
Rosemary Benda
Robin Berenholz
Ellen Berenholz
Sal Berenholz
James Birney
Ted Blumenthal
Luigi Boccia
Noah Borenstein
Robert A. Boyer
Javor Bracic
Howard and Melanie Brandston
Peter Caputo

John and Ruth Cella
Luis Cerra
Miriam Charney
Haley Clay
Kathleen Crandell
Csilla Criner
Suzanne Davidson
Shannon Delijani
Delyan Dimitrov
Talia Engstrom
Rebecca Escolas
Anton Evangelista
Kady Evanyshyn
Chelsea Feltman
Sarah Fleiss
Matthew Frankel
Joanna Frankel
Gloria Friedman
Michelle Geffner
Cheryl and Harvey Geller
Bob Goodman
Shelly Gowen
Loella Grah
Tony Guinta
Malcolm Halliday
Mur Sherman Hayman
Fabiola Hensley

Cynthia Hoffmann
Valerie Jester
John Johnson
Rachel Kaloian
Ralph Kerr
Pamela Kuhn
Robert Leib
Steven Lember
Jay Lesenger
K. Renato Lings
Hui Liu
Allison Lonstein
Dorothy MacKinnon
Deborah Mayer
Tom and Cindy Miller
Christine Moore Vassallo
Leesa Moorman
Elizabeth Moran
Philip Morton
Eric Myers
Nils Neubert
Jane Olian
Bill Petti
Paul and April Rachmuth
Samuel Rachmuth
Susan Rice
Lindsay Rider

Ernan and Sheri Roman
David Ronis
Mildred Rotter
Laetitia Ruccolo
Linda Sage
Amy Schectman
Diana and Michael Sheetz
Patricia Sheridan
Anthony Shillingford
Jerry Shively
Michael John Simkin
Christie Snyder
Sara Sobel
Hyerim Song
Deborah Stone
Janet Stoupel
Carol Tanenbaum
Nyla Teasdale
Mimi Tompkins
Charles Wilster
Jie Yi
Diane Zilka



“Some people think that CLA is only for younger singers, and I have to say that it’s not true. Some participants are doing their first summer program, and some are ready to launch a career, and it does not matter. Everyone comes at their own level, and the coaches meet them where they are and help them to grow. That is so impressive. I’d love to go to CLA every year and keep getting better.”

— Carolina Lopez Moreno, soprano, Germany

https://youtu.be/j3WgaHA_qmg