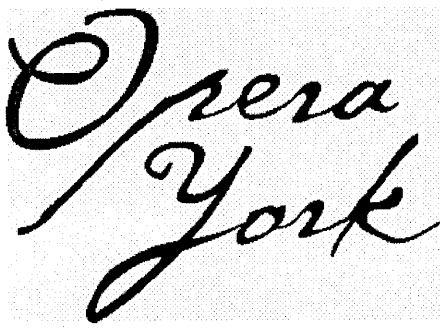




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December 17, 2004

2004 Board Members

Philip A. Trow
Co-founder
Joan A. Sax
Co-founder

Sonia Banner-Shapiro
Joseph Colangelo
Geraldine Di Marco
Luigi Gambin
Nicholas Gareri
Heather Heagle
Anne Martin
Teresa Moore
Rick Quinney
Walter Rigobon
Rosalie Shadlyn
Marsha Winton

Honourary Board Members
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M. P. Thornhill
Bill Fisch,
Regional Chair York Region
Michael Di Biase,
Mayor, Vaughan
Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor, Markham
Ian Proudfoot,
Publisher, YRNG

Members of the Finance Committee,
C/o Denis Kelly, Clerk, Finance Committee
York Region
17250 Yonge Street,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 6Z

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,
Opera York is a premier professional arts organization in York Region. We would like to request \$25,000 from Council to support our programming and community initiatives.

The company has been providing cultural services to York Region since 1997. Our mission is to provide professional opera that is accessible financially, geographically, and understandably, to the communities of York Region, and to encourage the development of the art form through educational and outreach activities. In pursuit of this goal, Opera York has identified the following priorities;

- Excellence in performance
- Collegiality of effort through volunteerism and community participation
- Promotion of cultural heritage and diversity
- Professional career opportunities for emerging and established Canadian artists

As well as concerts and full productions with orchestra at Markham Theatre, the company offers *Opera for Schools*, in English and French versions, *Opera for Seniors*, in English and Italian versions, workshops, *Through Opera Glasses* lectures, free performances at the Vaughan Woodbridge Italian Festival, Markham's *Tastes of Asia Festival*, YRNG's *Celebration of the Arts*, charitable galas and support to YRDSB and the YCDSB. These programs take place in Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Newmarket and are marketed across York Region.

Opera York has been honoured to receive support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. Most recently, under the direction of Mayor Di Biase's Task Force, we were pleased to apply and receive funding from Cultural Spaces Canada for technical equipment for the new YCDSB theatre at St. Elizabeth School for the Performing Arts. This brings \$360,000 of federal funding to York Region which is being matched by the YCDSB for a total of \$720,000 to develop a new acoustic theatre for our Region.

Opera York looks forward increasing cultural and economic development in our Region. We need your support to achieve these goals. We are grateful for your time and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Upon request, Opera York would be pleased to forward further papers regarding our charitable organization status and financial statements for your information.

Yours truly,

Philip Trow, Co-Founder

Joan Sax, Co-Founder