Report to the Community 2020/2021

It’s not often that a theater presents a full season of performances—everything from improv comedy to Celtic holiday music to outdoor cabaret productions featuring beloved Broadway tunes—without welcoming audiences indoors to watch the artists onstage. However, that is exactly what the Ordway did for our 2020-2021 season. It was an unusual year, to be sure, but one that was filled with everything that reminds us of the importance and beauty of the performing arts. And thanks to you and your encouragement, engagement, and unwavering support, we were able to continually find new ways to stay in touch and celebrate the connection we all feel when experiencing spirit-lifting performances together.

Throughout the year, students and educators were also able to remain involved with the arts with Virtual Field Trips. Showcasing artists through pre-recorded performances, educational activities, companion lesson plans, and even Q&A sessions with performers, Virtual Field Trips proved to be a popular addition to the arts education experience in schools across Minnesota.

I want to take a moment to give special recognition to Christine Sagstetter, who stepped into the role of Interim President and helped lead the way throughout the 2020-2021 season. Her dedication to the Ordway is immeasurable, and shows up in her work every day. It is with her help and guidance that we launched a comprehensive nation-wide search for the next Ordway President and CEO, which concluded with the announcement that Christopher Harrington would join the Ordway in the fall of 2021. We are all excited to welcome Chris to the Saint Paul and Ordway community.

Looking forward to the seasons ahead, we are grateful to be able to plan for the return of in-person performances and activities. It is because of you and your generosity that the road forward and back into the theater is possible. Thank you.

Brad Wood
Ordway Board Chair
2020 - 2021 Virtual Artistic Programs

Colin and Brad: Stream of Consciousness
John Lewis: Good Trouble*
Ordway Cabaret: Live at the Loading Dock* – Fall 2020, Spring/Summer 2021
Visionaries Who Matter For Such A Time As This: A Sally Awards Special Presentation
We are the Change
The Hip Hop Nutcracker Streaming Version
Christmas Vacation: Conversation with Chevy Chase and Beverly D’Angelo
Rhapsody in Black
A Virtual Celtic Christmas
 Sounds of Blackness: The Night Before Christmas

**MEET THE ARTISTS**

- Talking *RENT* with Martha Banta, Adam Pascal, and Anthony Rapp
- Jared Grimes “Scratching the Surface”
- Donna and the Dynamos Reunion Party
- Broadway Queen Andrea Macaset
- Broadway Queen Samantha Pauly
- Broadway Queen Brittany Mack
- Tamara Tunie
- Broadway Queen Adrianna Hicks
- Broadway Queen Anna Uzele
- Abby Mueller with Christine Sherrill
- Nicole Kyoung-Mi Lamberr, Courtney Mack, and Mallor Maedke
- Dick Scanlan
- Bailey McCall and David Socolar
- Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss – Live from London!

**WINTER WEEKENDS WITH THE ORDWAY**

- Naturally 7
- Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats
- The Red Hot Chilli Pipers
- Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra
- MOJO and the Bayou Gypsies

**FLINT HILLS FAMILY FESTIVAL**

- 8 artists/groups and 7 Festival Partners with 17 videos
- The Okee Dokee Brothers with Sonia De Los Santos*
- Dancing Familias Zoom Workshop

* live, outdoor
Ordway Cabaret: Live at the Loading Dock

A new stage emerged at the Ordway during the fall of 2020—the Loading Dock! Located outside the Ordway’s Travelers Artist Entrance on 5th Street, the Loading Dock played host to performers and audiences excited to reconnect and experience live, in-person performance for the first time in months. For the socially-distanced cabaret event, the sounds of downtown mixed in the fresh air with the musical talent of Twin Cities-based performers and charmed all who were in attendance over the course of seven performances. In spring of 2021, Ordway Cabaret: Live at the Loading Dock returned by popular demand for eight new uplifting performances.

“A perfect outdoor venue.”
— Cherry and Spoon

“What a sight for sore eyes — and ears and hearts. A sterling quintet of singers gathered on a makeshift stage in the loading dock of the Ordway Center last weekend for a selection of songs from the Ordway’s recent and upcoming seasons.”

— Rohan Preston, Star Tribune
Meet the Artists

Through a series of free, live-streamed conversations with performers, directors, designer, and choreographers, Ordway audiences have been able to stay in touch with some of their favorite artists. Each event boasted an hour-long, free-flowing conversation between artists and Rod Kaats, Producing Artistic Director at the Ordway, special behind-the-scenes clips, as well as an audience Q&A session.

Over the course of the 2020-2021 season, audiences had the chance to hear from 23 performer and creative team members during 13 Meet the Artists virtual events. With a mix of Twin Cities-based performers like Erin Schwab and people based on Broadway and beyond (Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, the creators of SIX, beamed in live from London!), Ordway audiences were able to experience the excitement of hearing directly from artists about their work and what they do for fun when they aren’t on the stage.
Sounds of Blackness
The Night Before Christmas: In Concert

Filmed at Elim Church in Minneapolis and available virtually for audiences to enjoy from the comfort of their own homes, Sounds of Blackness The Night Before Christmas was a holiday treat for kids from 1 to 92. Featuring 17 vocalists, including Ordway Resident Artist Jamecia Bennett, as well as the Sounds of Blackness 10-piece band, the presentation delivered a “front row feel” for viewers. Soulful Santa, Mrs. Claus, Santa’s Fine Reindeer, and the famous Dancing Chitlins delivered a show-stopping, roof-raising spins on the classic holiday poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas”. Sounds of Blackness is Minnesota’s own three-time GRAMMY Award-winning international music sensation, and they delivered nothing short of an extra special present for the 2020 holidays.
The Flint Hills Family Festival once again beamed into classrooms and homes with virtual offerings featuring dancing, singing, storytelling, and craft making. Along with a robust menu of online content, there was also the opportunity for children and their families to enjoy live, in-person, outdoor performances from The Okee Dokee Brothers with Sonia De Los Santos! The Family Festival proved once again that creativity can be found and nurtured not only on stage, but also through engaging programming available for families in the comfort of their homes.

“Thank you so much for offering this! In a year without field trips, it was a great opportunity for my students to experience such a cool event.”
— Montrose Elementary School
Spring Fête

On June 17, 2021, people around the country tuned in for the virtual Spring Fête—a cinematic celebration of music and theater. The theme of the event, “Waiting in the Wings”, was an expression of the sentiment from artists and audiences eager to return to the theater for in-person performances.

The special virtual presentation featured exhilarating Broadway, opera, and classical music performances showcasing the talents of beloved artists.

Travelers was the honoree of the evening, and donations, sponsorships, and winning auction bids generated over $461,000. These funds provided critical support for the Ordway as well as the Arts Partnership (a collaboration between the Minnesota Opera, Ordway, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Schubert Club) and our collective ability to recover from the effects of the pandemic and prepare to reopen the theater.
Special Thanks to the Following Leadership Teams

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ORDWAY
Report to the Community 2020/2021
Leadership Circle

The Ordway is deeply grateful to the following individuals for their generous annual contributions of $1,500 or more in support of artistic, arts education and community engagement programs, and maintenance of the Ordway.

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Special thanks to Ordway Friends who support the Ordway’s mission to connect people to the arts with a gift between $60 to $1,499. Ordway Friends support a captivating mix of musical theater, dance, concerts, comedy, and educational programs throughout the year.

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Barbara Zusan

‡ In remembrance
Barbara Zusan
Bill and Judy Zuccarini
Francis Zebot and Nancy Wiggers
Petronella Ytsma
Patricia Yehle
Richard and Mary Yapp
M. Wycoff
Bill and Judy Zuccarini
Barbara Zusan

ORDWAY
Report to the Community 2020/2021
The Ordway salutes the following organizations for their cumulative contributions and generous commitment over the past year to our artistic programming and community engagement activities.

**$250,000+**

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

**$100,000–$249,999**

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**Operating Revenue**
$15,096,300

- Contributed - Annual support 31.1%
- Endowment draws supporting operations — including 3rd party endowments 12.1%
- Program Services 10.7%
- Government stimulus programs 46.2%

**Operational Expenses**
$8,483,000

- Management and General $1,557,900
- Facilities $3,958,700
- Fundraising $845,700
- Programs $2,120,700

**Contributions**
$6,519,800

- Fundraising Event, Net $346,400
- Endowment $1,824,800
- Government $598,800
- Corporate $1,037,000
- Arts Partnership Annual Fund $403,800
- Foundation $371,800
- Individuals $1,937,200