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Pittsburgh Opera to Receive \$25k Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

[Pittsburgh, PA]

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) will receive a \$25,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help support the new production of [Moby-Dick](#) by composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer which will make its Pittsburgh debut March 17th.

The grant is part of the more than \$25 million in grants which NEA Chairman Jane Chu has approved as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to Pittsburgh Opera, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives," said Chu. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring."

"We appreciate this strong endorsement from the NEA" said Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn. "This new production of **Moby-Dick** will help introduce thousands of people to opera."

Pittsburgh Opera is a co-producer of the new production of **Moby-Dick**, which was built by [Utah Opera](#) and debuted in Salt Lake City this January to great acclaim. The [Salt Lake Tribune](#) said "Erhard Rom's abstract set design, Jessica Jahn's exhaustively researched costumes and Kristine McIntyre's authoritative stage direction pull the audience into the action."

Moby-Dick, which is sung in English, will be performed at the Benedum Center March 17, 20, 23 and 25. Tickets start at just \$12, with Children's Tickets starting at only \$6. Tickets are available online at www.pittsburghopera.org/tickets, by phone at 412-456-6666, or in person at the Theater Square Box Office, 665 Penn Avenue, downtown.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 79th season in 2017-18. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.