



Nickel City Opera

Western New York's Premiere Opera Company

3015 Genessee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

716-332-0745

<http://www.nickelcityoperaco.com>

Founder and Artistic Director - Valerian Ruminski

Music Director - Michael Ching

Production Manager - Wesley Krantz

Development - Raymond Castro, Jacqueline Ornsby

Artistic Advisor - Jim Price

Artistic Administrator- James Wright

Outreach - Sylvia Volk, Eileen Breen

Legal Aid - Michael Feeley at Rupp, Baase et al

Accounting - M-I Accounting in Cheektowaga NY

Riviera Exec Director - Jim Pritchard

Program Design - Jaime Strible

Telemarketing - Patti Ikeda

Composer-in-Residence - Persis Anne Vehar

Events Coordinator

/Artistic Administrator - Jacqueline Quirk

Board of Directors

Frederick Meli, Chairperson - P. Eng. Retired

Judy Wolf, Ph.D. - Former GBOC. Exec. Dir.

John Hoffman - Buffalo Bar & Grill, Owner

Vernon Siegel - President, Sieco

Suzanne Fatta - Independent Performer

Carrie Eckert - VP, Graduate Medical Education, UPMC

Francis Cirbus - Chopin Singing Society, Treasurer

Karen Podd - Nardin Academy

Andrea Todaro - President, Innovative Placements

Matthew DiCamillo - DeCamillo's Bakery, Owner

Advisory Board

Samuel Ramey-Metropolitan Opera star

George Shirley -U of M Professor in Ann Arbor, MI

Michael Moore -Oscar winning filmmaker

Richard Troxell -star of Mitterand film, 'Madama Butterfly'

Marc Verzatt-world class opera director

Jeannine Cowles -President of Weight Watchers of Oregon

Karen M. McCarthy, Clerk of the Legislature

Erie County Legislature District No. 11

Old Erie County Hall, 92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor

Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

Nickel City Opera is grateful to you for your support of art and culture in Erie County. Thank you for serving all of Erie County by working with the Erie County Legislators as they develop a budget which meets residents' needs and uplifts lives.

The Administrators and Board of Directors of Nickel City Opera respectfully ask you to support the 2015 Budget proposed by Erie County Executive Poloncarz on October 15, 2014. The 2015 "Proposed Budget" continues to support the Initiatives for a Smart Economy through: Increasing funding for cultural organizations that enrich our community and attract tourism dollars, including funding a number of new applicants and agencies that have never before been awarded funds.

Founder and Artistic Director Valerian Ruminski, Artistic Staff, Board of Directors, and Advisory Board of Nickel City Opera pledge to continue to bring high-quality, affordable grand opera to WNY audiences.

We invite you to attend our critically-acclaimed productions. Thanks to the generosity of patrons and local government, NCO has thrived in Western New York since 2004. We look forward to building on the success of Puccini's *Il Tabarro* staged aboard the USS The Sullivans, docked along Buffalo's waterfront at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park in June 2011, our magical *La Bohème*, our *Rigoletto* and *Tosca*. We will continue to delight audiences of all ages with our annual Thanksgiving weekend production of Menotti's beloved, classic opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Very truly yours,

Valerian Ruminski

Founder and Executive Director, Nickel City Opera

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About Nickel City Opera (NCO)

Founded in 2004, **Nickel City Opera** is a 501 c3 nonprofit and Buffalo's only major opera company producing full-scale operas, complete with costumes, sets and a full orchestra.

Founder and Artistic Director Valerian Ruminski utilizes his extensive network of friends and colleagues as well as his own experience as an opera and concert performer to cast NCO's shows with talent Western New York audiences might not have the opportunity to see.

"The one word that keeps coming up as I receive feedback on our productions is 'value,'" said Ruminski. Citing a region and era where dollars are tight, Ruminski says many different forms of entertainment compete to receive peoples' hard earned money. "I'm proud to say we're able to keep the ticket prices of our productions reasonable and still provide audiences with a quality show, including professional opera singers and musicians."

Indeed, NCO's productions have received favorable reviews from local media, which further underscore the surprise and delight in finding such a jewel amidst Western New York's celebrated artistic organizations.

NCO primarily stages its shows out of The Riviera Theatre and Performing Arts Center in N. Tonawanda, NY and also in Erie County. NCO staged Puccini's *Il Tabarro* aboard the USS The Sullivans, docked along Buffalo's waterfront at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park in June 2011 and will continue to perform and engage audiences and artists in Erie County.

Ruminski relishes the challenges and opportunities of bringing NCO productions to other WNY venues—both traditional and nontraditional—in his quest to bring opera to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

With the continued goal of producing high quality opera and a small but loyal following of patrons and supporters, NCO looks forward to building on its success through more acclaimed performances, innovative fundraising and community outreach.

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