

To our Lowbrow Fans, Supporters, and Performers,

First of all, thank you for helping Lowbrow Opera Collective successfully complete its first official season as a registered non-profit organization! Whether you offered your support financially, artistically, or emotionally, please know that we truly could not have done this without you. The Board of Directors is so grateful to have such an incredible community of patrons who offer so much encouragement and love.



We were lucky enough to wrap up our revival of *#adulthood* in February of 2020 before the world turned on its head. As COVID-19 became a long-term reality, we had a challenging task ahead of us — as a small, emerging, and underfunded opera company, how could we stay afloat and continue to provide the community with quality, new works? We took the abundance of time quarantine gave us and decided to register as a non-profit organization and move forward with a virtual season.

Through a lucky and small-world turn of events, we were put in contact with east coast creative team, composer Zach Redler and librettist Sara Cooper. We decided to showcase two of some of their earlier works for our season — *Breakfast*, and *Windows*.

Due to the health risks of COVID-19, the cast of 3 required for *Breakfast* was perfect. Rehearsals were held in an open garage with air purifiers blasting and masks securely fixed to our faces. Through hours of planning, filming, and editing, we had a product we were proud of. We used this period of isolation and quarantine tensions to highlight key elements of *Breakfast*; though it had been written almost 10 years prior, its themes perfectly correlated with the pandemic experience.

For the close of our season, we decided to extend the casting call for *Windows* across the country. We were delightfully overwhelmed with the number of performers who submitted applications. We ended up having not just one, but four separate productions of *Windows*. Each of the co-founders of Lowbrow Opera Collective had the opportunity to remotely direct and coach performers from across North America. This collaboration yielded a product that not only reflected our ideas, but the interpretation and concepts of our beloved performers as well.

We are so proud of what we have accomplished thus far, and the future is promising and exhilarating. As our society makes the gradual transition back into live performances, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming season, and hope to be able to perform for a live audience within the year. We could not have made it through this year and a half without you. From our Board of Directors to you, our wonderful community, thank you.

Warmly,

Christine Oshiki
Lowbrow Opera Collective Board President