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**ORPHEUS|PDX Announces Strategic 2026 Hiatus,  
Plans Bold Return in 2027**

**April 2, 2026, Portland, OR** — OrpheusPDX announced today that it will pause opera productions for the 2026 season, with plans to return in 2027 with renewed artistic momentum.

This decision follows evolving dynamics in philanthropic support across the performing arts sector, along with broader economic challenges, which have impacted organizations in Portland and nationwide. While OrpheusPDX has not incurred debt and is not facing an immediate financial crisis, the company is responding proactively to shifting funding realities by taking a deliberate, strategic pause.

“OrpheusPDX is in the fortunate position of being able to navigate this moment from a place of stability and artistic intention, rather than urgency,” said General and Artistic Director Christopher Mattaliano.

“Much like our Pathways Program nurtures emerging artists, we see this respite as an investment in the artform. Our city is known globally for its creative spirit. Portland deserves the highest-quality music, theater, dance, and art, and OrpheusPDX will continue to deliver just that when we open our doors for the community next summer. Anything less is unacceptable.”

Since its founding, OrpheusPDX has built a reputation for producing intimate, innovative opera with international guest artists joining local professionals for performances that resonate deeply with audiences. Though still a young company, it has earned consistent praise for artistic work that exceeds expectations and contributes meaningfully to Portland’s cultural landscape.

Last season, *Oregon ArtsWatch* called OrpheusPDX's production of

*Jacqueline* “a triumph of imagination” and highlighted the “bevy of delighted bravos and bravas after almost every aria,” during *Scipio’s Dream*.

“We’re incredibly proud of what we’ve built so far,” Mattaliano added. “This pause is an investment in what comes next.”

The organization views 2026 as an opportunity to strengthen its long-term sustainability, deepen community relationships, and lay the groundwork for an ambitious return. Planning is already underway for a 2027 season that will reflect OrpheusPDX’s signature blend of bold storytelling, artistic excellence, and fresh perspectives on the operatic canon.

OrpheusPDX’s 2027 season will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, the organization remains committed to staying connected with its audiences, artists, and supporters, and to maintaining its role as a vital part of the region’s artistic community.

## **ORPHEUS|PDX**

Inspired by the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, where Orpheus’ singing is so beautiful that even the savage beasts of Hades are moved to tears, Portland’s new opera company, OrpheusPDX, aspires to do the same—to touch the very soul of the community through the power of great music and singing. The powerful experience of live opera is enhanced by OrpheusPDX’s venue, the intimate, 472-seat Lincoln Performance Hall Theater, where audiences can enjoy an enriching and personal experience with some of the best acoustics in the city. OrpheusPDX is committed to both honoring tradition and exploring new directions by presenting one opera from a classic Bel Canto composer and one from the body of great modern works that move and excite today’s audiences—thus providing them with the best of both operatic worlds each season.

## **CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Christopher Mattaliano founded OrpheusPDX in 2022 and serves as the company’s General and Artistic Director. His work as a stage director has been seen at major opera companies throughout the United States and Canada, and he has served on the faculty of The Juilliard School, Yale University, and Princeton University. He was named as one of 75 key figures in opera over the last 50 years by *OPERA America*. Mattaliano was the Artistic Director of the Pine Mountain Music Festival from 2001-2003 and General Director of Portland Opera from 2003-2019. The highlights of his 16 years at Portland

Opera include the expansion of programming and artistic standards, the creation of the young artists residency program, the regular engagement of women conductors, directors, and designers, and collaborations with Portland's music, theater, dance, and visual art organizations, as well as groups like Trans Affirming Spaces and Phame. Under his leadership, the company greatly increased its educational and community outreach programs, including offering the first bilingual opera production, and providing free access to local communities and thousands of students throughout the state. This led to the company being awarded the 2017 Governor's Arts Award.

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