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**Short Form
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax**

2009

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)**
▶ Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$500,000 and total assets less than \$1,250,000 at the end of the year may use this form.
▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning 7/01, 2009, and ending 6/30, 2010

<p>B Check if applicable:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Address change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Name change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Initial return</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Termination</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amended return</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Application pending</p>	<p>Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>SIERRA CHAMBER OPERA 834 E ALAMOS AVE FRESNO, CA 93704-3103</p>	<p>D Employer identification number 94-2515886</p> <p>E Telephone number (559) 227-4377</p> <p>F Group Exemption Number</p>
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▶ **Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).**

G Accounting method: Cash Accrual
Other (specify) ▶

I Website: ▶ WWW.SIERRACHAMBEROPERA.ORG

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

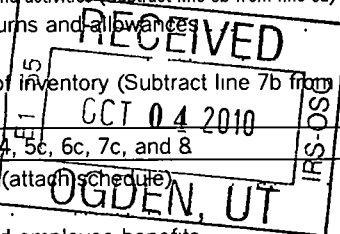
J Tax-exempt status (check only one) — 501(c) (3) (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts, if \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. ▶ \$ **58,766.**

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

	Description	Amount	Line
REVENUE	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	45,553.	1
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	11,390.	2
	3 Membership dues and assessments		3
	4 Investment income	1,790.	4
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory		
	5b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses		
	5c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)		
	6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
	6a Gross revenue (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1)	33.	
	6b Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	35.	
6c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	-2.		
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances			
7b Less: cost of goods sold			
7c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)			
8 Other revenue (describe ▶)			
9 Total revenue Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8	58,731.	9	
EXPENSES	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach Schedule)		10
	11 Benefits paid to or for members		11
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	75,681.	12
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	650.	13
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance		14
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	7,023.	15
	16 Other expenses (describe ▶ <u>SEE STATEMENT 1</u>)	9,120.	16
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	92,474.	17
18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	-33,743.	18	
NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	274,608.	19
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation) <u>SEE STATEMENT 2</u>	10,550.	20
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	251,415.	21



Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$1,250,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22	Cash, savings, and investments	272,443.	251,775.
23	Land and buildings		
24	Other assets (describe ▶ <u>SEE STATEMENT 3</u>)	4,873.	2,239.
25	Total assets	277,316.	254,014.
26	Total liabilities (describe ▶ <u>SEE STATEMENT 4</u>)	2,708.	2,599.
27	Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	274,608.	251,415.

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Form 990-EZ (2009)

6-9-12 2

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (See the instructions.)	Expenses (Required for section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts; optional for others)
What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? SEE STATEMENT 5	
Describe what was achieved in carrying out the organization's exempt purposes. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, or other relevant information for each program title.	
28 ----- ----- ----- (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/> 28 a	
29 ----- ----- ----- (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/> 29 a	
30 ----- ----- ----- (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/> 30 a	
31 Other program services (attach schedule) (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/> 31 a	
32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a) <input type="checkbox"/> 32	

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees. List each one even if not compensated. (See the instrs)

(a) Name and address	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
BARBARA VLYMEN (NON-BD MEMBER) 452 E RICHMOND AVE FRESNO, CA 93720	GENERAL DIR 16.00	22,000.	0.	0.
SUSAN LIBERTY 329 W BULLARD AVE #102 FRESNO, CA 93704	PRESIDENT 3.00	0.	0.	0.
KATHY BARBA 2435 E MENLO AVE FRESNO, CA 93710	VICE PRESIDENT 1.00	0.	0.	0.
JERRY GURSS 7520 N CHESTNUT AVE #127 FRESNO, CA 93720	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
CAROL N BLORE 834 E ALAMOS AVE FRESNO, CA 93704	TREASURER 3.00	0.	0.	0.
EDWIN FERRALL 1845 N HARRISON AVE FRESNO, CA 93704	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
CARL NUSS 3614 W POMEGRANATE LN FRESNO, CA 93711	BOARD MEMBER 1.00	0.	0.	0.
REBECCA SARKISIAN 6644 N PALM AVE FRESNO, CA 93704	SECRETARY 1.00	0.	0.	0.

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instrs for Part V.) **SEE STATEMENT 6**

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a detailed description of each activity		X
34 Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If 'Yes,' attach a conformed copy of the changes		X
35 If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining why the organization did not report the income on Form 990-T.		
a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or was it subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?		X
b If 'Yes,' has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If 'Yes,' complete applicable parts of Schedule N		X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions 37a 0.		
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the period covered by this return?		X
b If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved 38b N/A		
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations Enter		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a N/A		
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b N/A		
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under section 4911 0. , section 4912 0. ; section 4955 0.		
b Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or is it aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part I 40b X		
c Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 0.		
d Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization 0.		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If 'Yes,' complete Form 8886-T 40e X		
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed NONE		

42a The organization's books are in care of **SUSAN LIBERTY** Telephone no. **(559) 227-4377**
 Located at **834 E ALAMOS AVE FRESNO CA** ZIP + 4 **93704-3103**

	Yes	No
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country. 42b X		
See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22 1, Report of a Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country: 42c X		

43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of **Form 1041** — Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year **43** N/A N/A

	Yes	No
44 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ 44 X		
45 Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ 45 X		

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts only. All section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must answer questions 46-49b and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part I		X
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part II		X
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E		X
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?		X
49b If 'Yes,' was the related organization a section 527 organization?		

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None'

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
NONE				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶ _____

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None'

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶ _____

Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

▶ *Susan S. Liberty* Signature of officer ▶ 4-27-80 Date

▶ SUSAN S. LIBERTY Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature ▶ <i>Mary Ann Stites</i>	Date ▶ 9/20/10	Check if self-employed ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions) ▶ P00123908
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ▶ MARY ANN STITES, CPA 4949 N. CRYSTAL AVE., STE. 110 FRESNO, CA 93705-0231	EIN ▶ 77-0045728	Phone no ▶ (559) 222-9667	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ Yes No

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received. (Do not include 'unusual grants'.)						
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to it or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished to the organization by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge.						
4 Total. Add lines 1-through 3						
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33-1/3 support test – 2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and the line 14 is 33-1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 33-1/3 support test – 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, or 16a, and line 15 is 33-1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2009. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received (Do not include 'unusual grants')	90,529.	89,408.	82,516.	82,195.	45,553.	390,201.
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in a activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose	14,984.	7,926.	11,003.	14,425.	11,723.	60,061.
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						0.
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0.
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0.
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	105,513.	97,334.	93,519.	96,620.	57,276.	450,262.
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, 3 received from disqualified persons	28,650.	28,020.	28,745.	18,200.	8,250.	111,865.
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
c Add lines 7a and 7b	28,650.	28,020.	28,745.	18,200.	8,250.	111,865.
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						338,397.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	105,513.	97,334.	93,519.	96,620.	57,276.	450,262.
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	6,765.	12,452.	13,906.	5,306.	1,790.	40,219.
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						0.
c Add lines 10a and 10b	6,765.	12,452.	13,906.	5,306.	1,790.	40,219.
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0.
12 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						0.
13 Total support. (add lns 9, 10c, 11, and 12)						490,481.

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	69.0 %
16 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	70.8 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2009 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	8.2 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	7.6 %

19a 33-1/3 support tests – 2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33-1/3 support tests – 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or 19a, and line 16 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

SIERRA CHAMBER OPERA

94-2515886

**STATEMENT 1
FORM 990-EZ, PART I, LINE 16
OTHER EXPENSES**

BANK AND BROKER FEES	\$	1,238.
DEPRECIATION		1,897.
INSURANCE		3,333.
MISCELLANIOUS		113.
OFFICE EXPENSES		95.
PRODUCTION COSTS		83.
PROMOTION		1,406.
TRAVEL		955.
TOTAL	\$	<u>9,120.</u>

**STATEMENT 2
FORM 990-EZ, PART I, LINE 20
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES**

UNREALIZED GAINS	\$	10,550.
TOTAL	\$	<u>10,550.</u>

**STATEMENT 3
FORM 990-EZ, PART II, LINE 24
OTHER ASSETS**

	<u>BEGINNING</u>	<u>ENDING</u>
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 300.	\$ 0.
AUTOMOBILES	1,897.	0.
PREPAID EXPENSES AND DEFERRED CHARGES	2,676.	2,239.
TOTAL	<u>\$ 4,873.</u>	<u>\$ 2,239.</u>

**STATEMENT 4
FORM 990-EZ, PART II, LINE 26
TOTAL LIABILITIES**

	<u>BEGINNING</u>	<u>ENDING</u>
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$ 363.	\$ 397.
ACCRUED EXPENSES	2,345.	2,202.
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,708.</u>	<u>\$ 2,599.</u>

**STATEMENT 5
FORM 990-EZ, PART III
ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY EXEMPT PURPOSE**

DURING THE YEAR, WE PERFORMED OUR CURRENT ONE-ACT OPERA, "CHEFS GO 'ROUND THE WORLD", 153 TIMES. EACH OF THE 44,000 STUDENTS IN OUR AUDIENCES RECEIVED AN EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET, AND EACH TEACHER ALSO RECEIVED AN INSTRUCTIONAL CD. WE USED 2,200 CD'S. ALL THESE WERE SENT IN ADVANCE OF THE PERFORMANCE, TO ENHANCE THE AUDIENCE'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUSIC AND DRAMA OF OPERA. WE ISSUED A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. THE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF OUR WORK INCREASES, AS DOES THE

SIERRA CHAMBER OPERA

94-2515886

STATEMENT 5 (CONTINUED)
FORM 990-EZ, PART III
ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY EXEMPT PURPOSE

UNDERSTANDING OF OUR AUDIENCES AND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS.

STATEMENT 6
FORM 990-EZ, PART V
REGARDING TRANSFERS ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACTS

(A) DID THE ORGANIZATION, DURING THE YEAR, RECEIVE ANY FUNDS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO PAY PREMIUMS ON A PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACT?

NO

(B) DID THE ORGANIZATION, DURING THE YEAR, PAY PREMIUMS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ON A PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACT?

NO