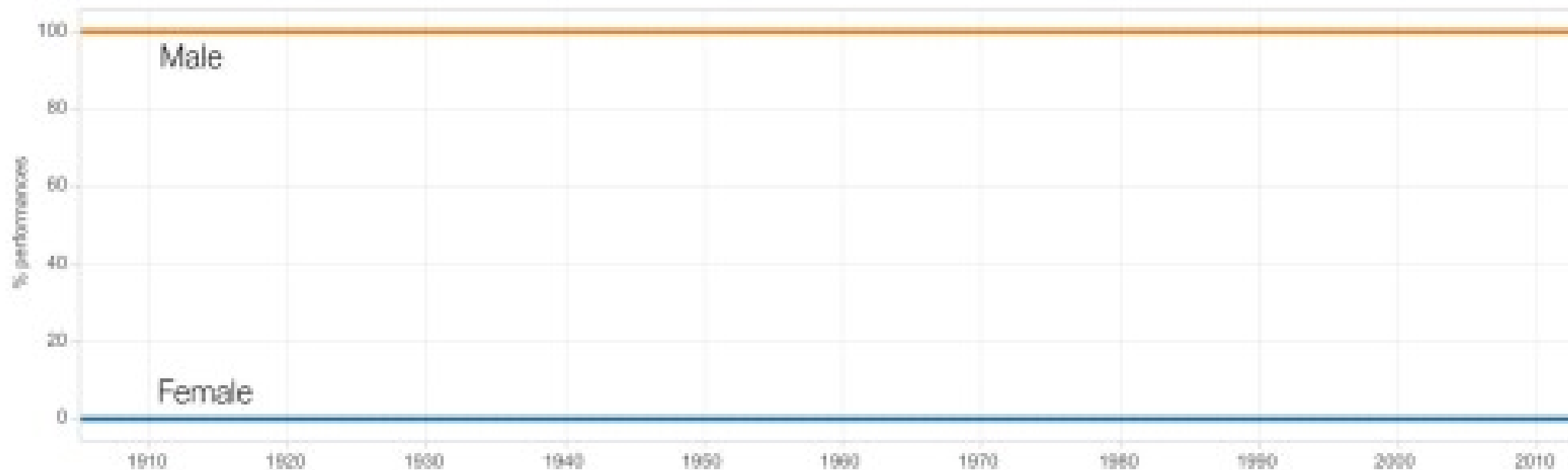


Female
Composers in the
Salt Lake City
Classical Music
Scene

Courtney Fairbourn

The Lack of Female Composers: The Metropolitan Opera

% performances of male and female composers



Raman, 2014

Why the lack of women?

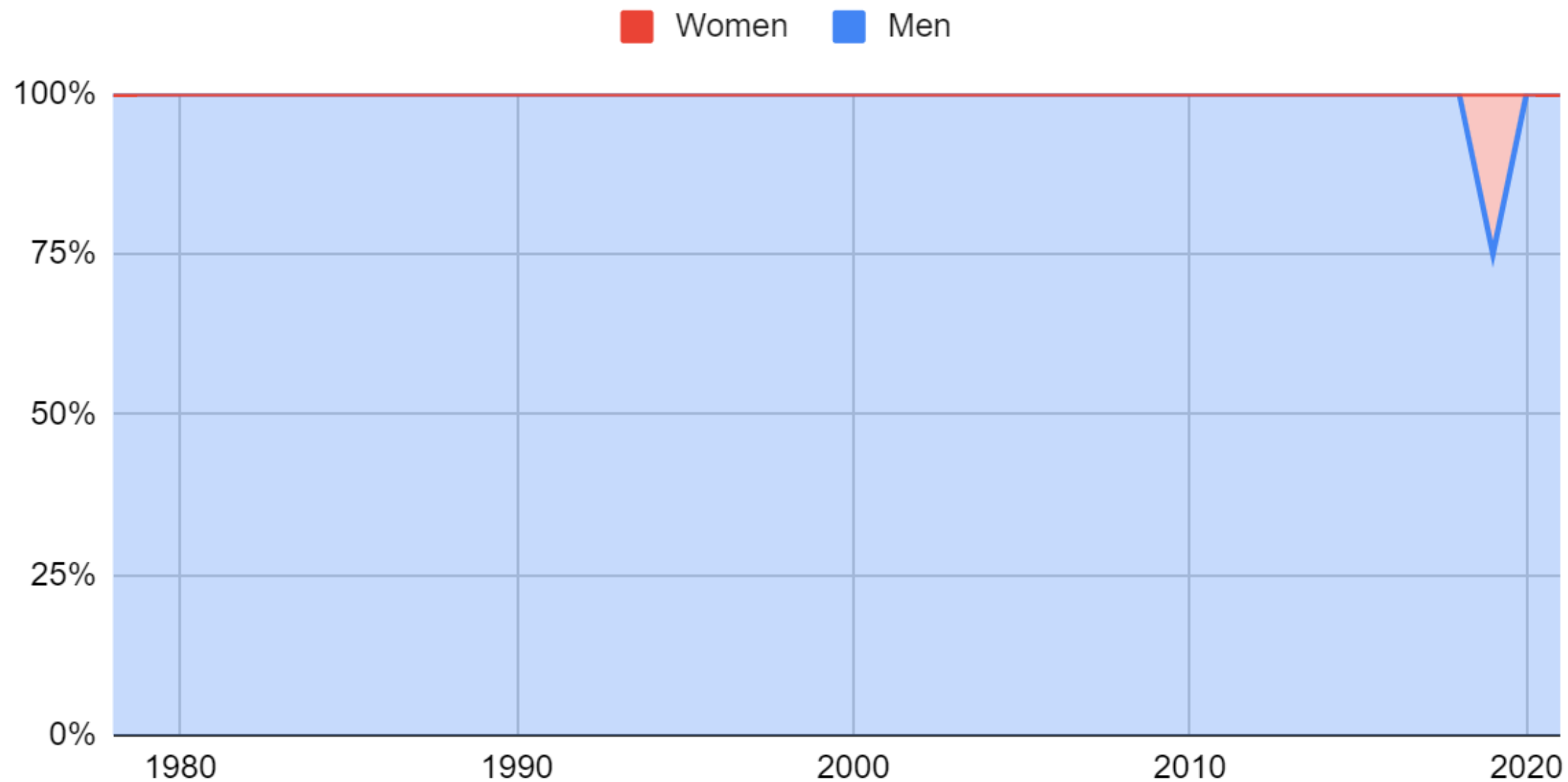
- ◇ Belief that there were few women who composed through out history. In reality, most people just don't know about works by women (Shaver-Gleason, 2017).
- ◇ Gendering of music (Legg, 2010, MacDonald, 1993)
- ◇ Women's music and musical culture is not considered relevant to the development of the western classical tradition (Shaver-Gleason, 2017, Wilson Kimber, 2013)

What are the decisions
being made locally and how
do they relate to this
problem?

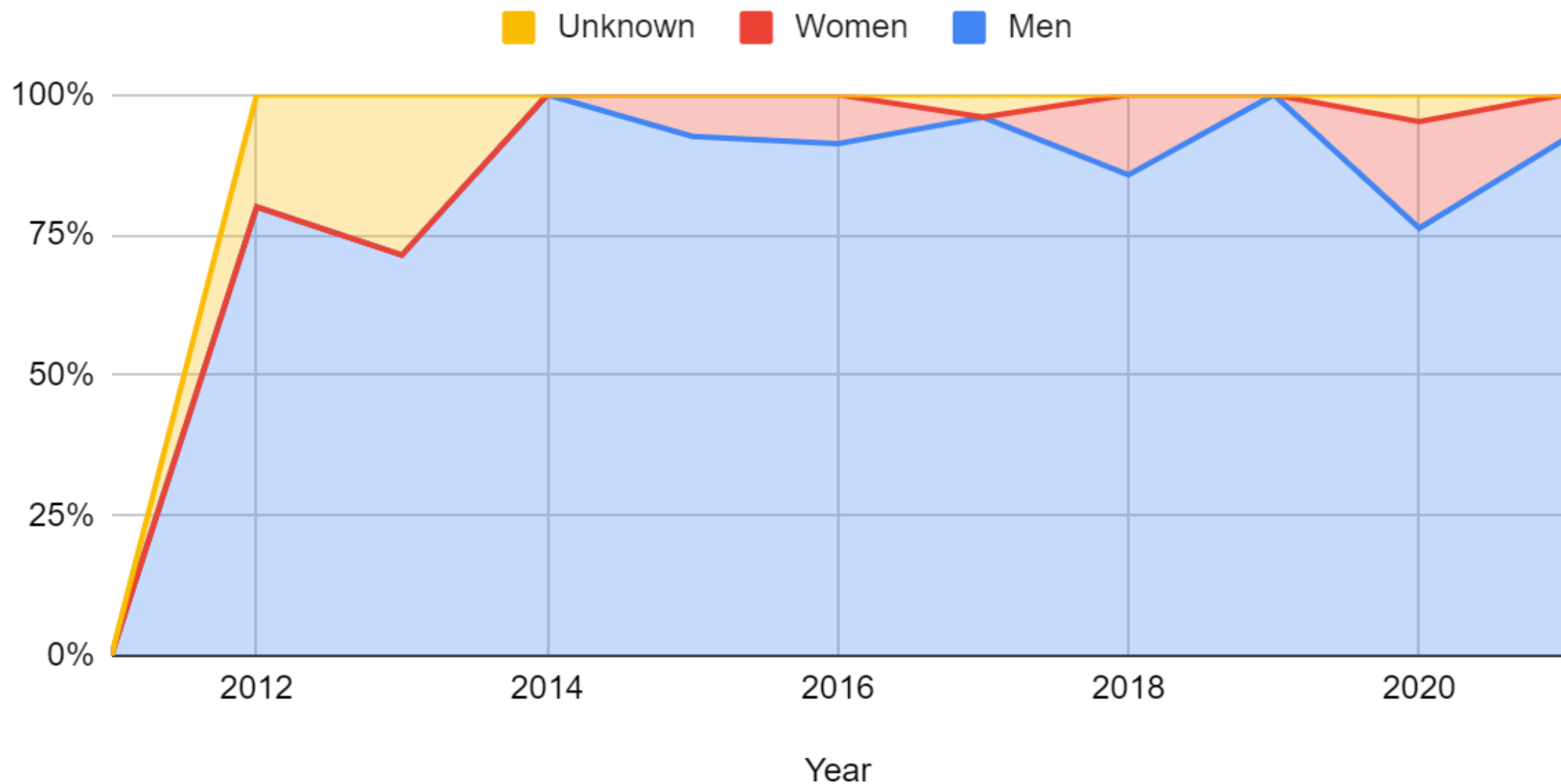
Methodology

- ◆ Literature Review to get context on the problem
- ◆ Used organization websites, press releases, and playbills to tally composer representation of seasons for Utah Opera, Utah Symphony, and Ballet West over the last ten years.

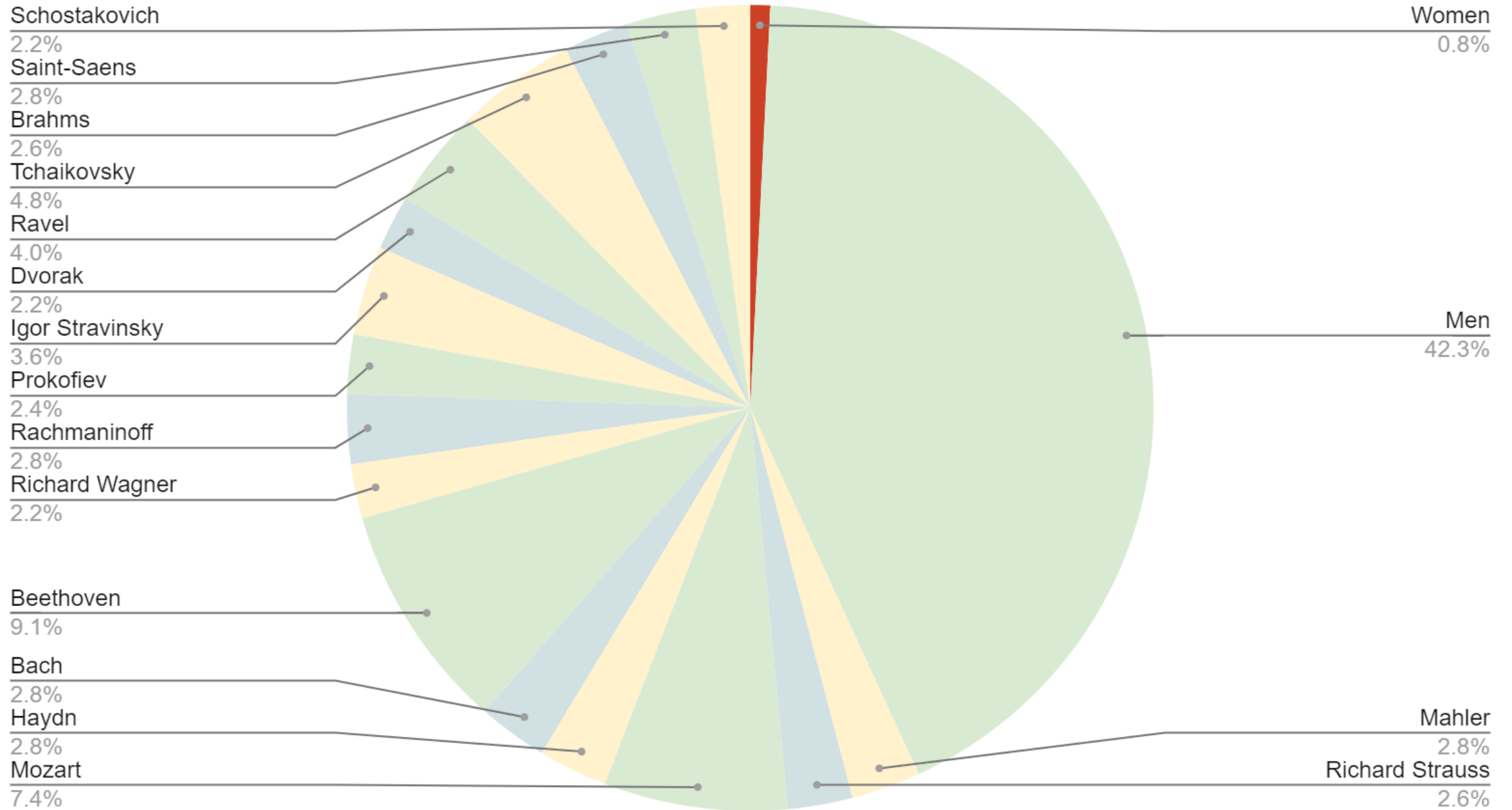
Percentage of Composers of Operas in each season at Utah Opera Since 1978



Percentage of Works by Men, Women and Unlisted Composers in Ballet West by Seasons Since 2011-2012 Season



Percentage of Works by Composers at Utah Symphony Since 2011-2012



How do local decisions relate to this problem?

- ◆ In Utah, women make up less than one percent of the works performed by their respective organizations, which is less than the national average.

Possible Causes

- ◇ Specific men make up a larger section because of:
 - ◇ Traditions (The Nutcracker)
 - ◇ Complete Cycles performed (Beethoven)
 - ◇ The Canon

Works Cited

- Legg, Robert. “‘One Equal Music’: An Exploration of Gender Perceptions and the Fair Assessment by Beginning Music Teachers of Musical Compositions.” *Music Education Research* 12 (2010): 141–49.
- Macdonald, Claudia. “Critical Perception and the Woman Composer: The Early Reception of Piano Concertos by Clara Wieck Schumann and Amy Beach.” *Current Musicology*, no. 55 (1993): 24.
- Wilson Kimber, Marion. “Jane Austen’s Playlist: Teaching Music History Beyond the Canon.” *Journal of Music History Pedagogy* 4, no. 2 (2014): 213-30.
- Shaver-Gleason, Linda. “If we've never heard of women composers from past centuries, does that mean they didn't exist?” *Not Another Music History Cliché* (blog). Blogger.com, December 19, 2017.