


Newspapers In Education and Seattle Opera present

# EXPERIENCE OPERA, ON OUR TURF AND YOURS



"If you love to sing, act, dance or make new friends — and you aren't afraid of having a little drama in your life — attending opera camp, an opera workshop or rehearsal are for you."

## ON OUR TURF


Every summer and during school breaks Seattle Opera has camps for kids. There are one-day, one-week and two-week versions, some are for people who've been onstage before, and other camps are for first-time singers. I've been having fun at opera camps since I was in second grade! Last summer in opera camp, I learned an aria from Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" and sang a duet with my friend Elisabeth.  
Info: [www.SeattleOpera.org/OperaCamp](http://www.SeattleOpera.org/OperaCamp)

I go to the opera with my friends — and you can, too! Seattle Opera offers memberships to schools so students like me can attend the dress rehearsals with friends! You can even wear fancy clothes (but it's not required)! Oh, and don't worry about not understanding what the singers are singing. At Seattle Opera, they project the words in English, above the stage.

If you're in a youth orchestra or kids choir, your conductor can arrange to attend an orchestra or chorus rehearsal to watch how they prepare for a production.



Photo credit:  
Sally Brown,  
Robert Wade,  
Bill Mohn



"They can bring opera workshops, like this acting workshop, to your school or community center!"

## WORKSHOPS

Seattle Opera comes to you! If your school or youth group has purchased a dress-rehearsal membership, someone from the opera will come to your school and tell your class or group about the opera you're going to see. You can ask questions about the opera or what happens in the story or backstage. Workshops in technical theater are also available. (I'll tell you more about that in tomorrow's edition.)  
Info: [www.SeattleOpera.org/ExperienceOpera](http://www.SeattleOpera.org/ExperienceOpera)

The opera can also bring "Our Earth" to your school! The principal singers are pros, and your school choir or kids from your school can learn the river parts! Info: [www.SeattleOpera.org/OurEarthSchools](http://www.SeattleOpera.org/OurEarthSchools)



Photo credit:  
Alan Alabastro



## SOME OF MY FAVORITE OPERA STUFF

"Sing Faster — The Stagehand's Ring Cycle" (DVD). I love this documentary because my dad is a stagehand. It's really funny, and it shows what happens backstage during a production of Wagner's "Ring."

I also have the operas "La Cenerentola," "The Magic Flute," "Pagliacci" and "Don Pasquale" on DVD. "La Cenerentola" was the first opera I ever saw, when I was 4 years old! It's a new spin on the "Cinderella" story.


"Sing Me a Story: The Metropolitan Opera's Book of Opera Stories for Children" by Jane Rosenberg. I love this book because it tells the stories of really popular operas and also of operas that aren't very common.

"Bravo! Brava! A Night at the Opera: Behind the Scenes with Composers, Cast, and Crew" by Anne Siberell. This book tells you about every aspect of opera, from what goes on onstage to what happens backstage — and what has to happen before an opera is produced.

I was a supernumerary in Giuseppe Verdi's "Macbeth." I played MacDuff's dead daughter, which totally freaked out my mom (but, as I told her, I was just pretending to be dead). When it was over, I listened to a CD recording of the opera over and over. I totally love the witches' choruses; Verdi really understood them and translated them into music.

## OPERA TALK

- An *aria* is the Italian word for "air," but it also means a song sung in an opera.
- A *duet* is a song that is sung by two people.
- Usually, two people write an opera: the **composer** writes the music and the **librettist** writes the words.
- A *supernumerary* or super is someone in an opera who doesn't sing or speak, they just act.
- *Forte* means loud and *pianissimo* means very quietly.



"Tomorrow, look for our recipe for stage blood, and I'll introduce you to one of the Seattle Opera stagehands, who also happens to be my dad!"