

Opera is a window to the human soul.

Education Department Special Publications

Arts Event Discovery Packet

A packet for teachers and students planning to attend the opera. Activities address all 13 Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Lesson Plan Stems

A handout for teachers—includes over 100 lesson ideas for intersecting the opera with classroom curricula in all content areas, plus entry points for character education discussions.

Study Guide

A concise introduction to the opera—includes the characters and synopsis, biographies, and articles related to the historical and cultural context of the opera.

PLEASE NOTE:

Most programs require registration in advance.

Unless otherwise noted, all education programs occur at Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters in the Strip District.

For more information about Pittsburgh Opera's education programs, please contact:

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EDUCATION

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Discover Yourself



Verdi's

La traviata

Violetta experiences true love with Alfredo until his family comes between them.



Bizet's

The Pearl Fishers

Two men love the same woman, but recognize the value of their friendship.



Humperdinck's

Hansel and Gretel

A brother and sister find a happy ending in this darkly beautiful fairy-tale opera.



Puccini's

Tosca

An opera diva defies the most powerful and corrupt man in Rome, both in life and in death.



Mozart's

The Abduction from the Seraglio

Adventures in the Pasha's "palace" prompt laughter and pathos.

2011-2012 Learn About Opera

Pittsburgh Opera Education Programs

Pittsburgh Opera education programs are for educators, for students, for schools, for families, for adults, and for you! Join us to learn more about this fascinating art form. We pledge to be a quality educational partner, working to create opportunities for growth, enchantment, and meaningful learning.

Campaign by MARC USA. Photos © Rieder Photography

Programs for Educators

Workshops for Educators

Our signature program that ripples outward—we train teachers of all grade levels to integrate arts so thousands of students can enjoy opera! Workshops for Educators are unique professional development opportunities that address Pennsylvania Academic Standards in all content areas. And, while you explore the historical, cultural, and societal circumstances of an opera's creation, you can earn Act 48 hours! Each workshop includes activities, book, CD, lesson ideas, live performance, meals, PowerPoint, and resource materials. Workshops take place on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00–2:00.

<i>La traviata</i>	September 15 and 17, 2011
<i>The Pearl Fishers</i>	October 27 and 29, 2011
<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	January 21, 2012
<i>Tosca</i>	March 1 and 3, 2012
<i>The Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	April 12 and 14, 2012

Opera Academy

A stimulating and intensive program, Opera Academy is a year-long professional development experience designed to immerse educators into the world of opera. Teachers from all grades and content areas develop lessons to connect the arts to other academic areas and prepare students to attend an opera performance. Opera Academy members receive a full season subscription, four full-day workshops, and tickets for students to attend a student matinee. In return, Opera Academy members prepare a portfolio to document how they use opera in their classrooms.

Programs for Students

Student Matinee for Grades 3-12:

The Pearl Fishers

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 10:30 am–1:00 pm*
Sung in French with English texts projected above the stage.

Marvel at the grand choral passages and exotic dance sequences in this lyrical gem. Be awed by the colorful spectacle designed by Zandra Rhodes. The opera's famous duet "La fond au temple saint" underscores the bond at the heart of the conflict between the pearl fishers—both are in love with the priestess Leïla.

**The Student Matinee takes place at the Benedum Center. At least one teacher from each school must attend the prerequisite Workshop for Educators before tickets are issued.*

High School Apprentices

Students who are considering a career in the performing arts acquire information to inform their decisions through discussions and coaching sessions. Students may attend other events to learn more about opera from behind the scenes.



Learn how to intersect the opera with classroom curricula in all content areas.



Students from a wide geographical region develop new friendships during the High School Apprentice Program.

High School Vocal Mock Auditions Saturday, November 5, 2011

All singers must audition numerous times. This program provides opportunities for students to experience an abbreviated, college-type audition process, complete with professional feedback, to help them assess their musical capabilities and prepare them for an actual college audition.

Programs for Schools

Opera Trunks

Opera Trunks are large, colorful steamer trunks on wheels filled with books, CDs, costumes, and lesson activities—all the materials needed to introduce opera in the classroom. Trunk package includes transportation, one month trunk residency, and a presentation by teaching artists in the school.

- **Madama Butterfly Trunk** features the Japanese culture and Puccini's music.
- **Opera Improv Trunk** features well-loved operas and engages students in creating an "Opera Improv".
- **Carmen Trunk** features the Roma culture and Bizet's music.

Opera Opportunity Tickets for Grades 7-12

Students and teachers from eligible schools may purchase reduced price opera tickets for Benedum Center performances and receive reimbursement of transportation expenses (limited availability). Ticket prices range from \$3 to \$10, and are based on a sliding scale according to a school's percentage of free/reduced price lunch.



Thomas Jefferson HS Opera Club



Programs for Families

Opera Connections

Connecting the opera to the community, this program provides opportunities for parents and children from select Pittsburgh neighborhoods to attend opera performances together—to experience art as a family. At Pittsburgh Opera, we believe in reaching out to our friends who might not normally be able to attend arts performances, and we believe in preparing them to attend through pre-performance workshops. What better way to experience the magic of opera than to attend with a family member!

Programs for Adults

Audio Commentary

Pittsburgh Opera offers this service for patrons with visual impairments during Tuesday performances at the Benedum Center. Hear the Supertitles read, as well as descriptions of the set, characters, and costumes, through Infrared Hearing Devices. Braille and Large-Print programs are available at each performance.



Volunteer Opportunities

Because opera includes all the arts, it provides rich opportunities to experience and observe artists of all kinds. Volunteers who give their time and expertise at Pittsburgh Opera learn, while "working in the wings", the amazing amount of effort and skill it takes to produce opera. Opportunities are available in Clerical, Costume shop, Education, Library, Marketing, Music, Production, and Reception.