

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Opera Education

Programs, Events and Learning Opportunities for All Ages

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera strives to enrich Pittsburgh and the tri-state area by producing opera at the highest standards of artistic excellence and making opera accessible to a diverse audience. Pittsburgh Opera offers several programs for students, educators, adults and families that translate the multi-disciplinary art form of opera into relevant, engaging and enriching experiences. The Opera also strives to make opera financially accessible to school groups, educators and families.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

In the [2009-2010 season](#), Pittsburgh Opera will continue its [education efforts](#) with several programs, events and learning opportunities for all ages in all financial categories.

For Educators, Students and Schools

Workshops for Educators

Pittsburgh Opera [Workshops for Educators](#) train teachers of all grade levels to integrate art into their curriculums. These workshops are unique professional development opportunities that address Pennsylvania Academic Standards in all content areas. Teachers can earn Act 48 hours while exploring the historical, cultural and societal circumstances of an opera's creation.

The fee for each workshop is \$100 per educator and includes activities, books, CDs, lesson ideas, live performances, meals, PowerPoint presentations and resource materials. Workshops are held on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM throughout the season.

2009-2010 Workshops for Educators:

Eugene Onegin – September 10 and 12, 2009

Falstaff – October 8 and 10, 2009

The Rape of Lucretia – January 16, 2010

Carmen – March 4 and 6, 2010

The Marriage of Figaro – April 8 and 10, 2010

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For additional information or to register for a workshop, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Academy

Pittsburgh Opera's [Opera Academy](#) is a year-long professional development experience designed to immerse educators in the world of opera. Teachers from all grade levels and content areas develop lessons to connect the arts to other academic areas and prepare students to attend an opera performance. Educators document the use of opera in their classrooms by preparing a portfolio of the lessons and activities they use.

Opera Academy members receive a full-season subscription, four full-day workshops and tickets for students to attend a student matinee.

For additional information or to register for the academy, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

Student Matinee – *The Marriage of Figaro*

This season's [Student Matinee](#) will be the production of Mozart's classic opera *The Marriage of Figaro* presented on the main stage of the Benedum Center on Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 10:00 AM - 1:15 PM. The Student Matinee performance is a wonderful opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to enjoy a world-class production of this famous opera featuring Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists. Tickets are \$10 each. At least one teacher from each school must attend the prerequisite Workshop for Educators.

For additional information or to register for the prerequisite workshop, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

High School Apprentice Program

Pittsburgh Opera's [High School Apprentice Program](#) is a unique opportunity for students considering a career in the performing arts to learn more about the opera industry. During four half-day sessions, apprentices learn about each of Pittsburgh Opera's departments, observe and participate in discussions and coaching sessions with Pittsburgh Opera's expert staff and explore an academic project. Students may also choose to attend evening rehearsals and other education events. The program requires a \$50 enrollment fee per student.

For additional information or to request an application packet, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

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High School Vocal Mock Auditions

Pittsburgh Opera's [High School Vocal Mock Auditions](#) provide college-bound high school vocalists with a valuable opportunity to hone their audition skills. Participants will experience a simulated college audition, complete with feedback, to help assess their musical capabilities and prepare for an actual college audition.

The mock auditions consist of five 10-minute audition segments:

- a vocal audition
- a music theory assessment
- a sight-singing assessment
- a keyboard assessment
- an interview with a music administrator

Participants will learn secrets from the pros about auditioning successfully and will attend a concert featuring the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists. The program requires a \$55 enrollment fee per student.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

For additional information or to register for an audition, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Trunks

Pittsburgh Opera's [Opera Trunks](#) are large, colorful steamer trunks on wheels filled with books, CDs, costumes and lesson activities for educators to use to present opera in the classroom. Trunk packages are \$300 and include transportation, one month trunk residency and a presentation by a teaching artist in the school. An additional back-to-back presentation can be scheduled for an additional \$100 fee.

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

For additional information or to rent an Opera Trunk, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Opportunity Series - Tickets for Grades 7-12

Pittsburgh Opera's [Opera Opportunity Series](#) provides students and teachers from eligible schools with reduced-price tickets to Pittsburgh Opera's mainstage performances. Additionally, some schools may also qualify for reimbursement of transportation expenses.

Ticket prices range from \$3 to \$10 per seat and bus reimbursement ranges from \$100 to

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\$135, depending upon the percentage of free/reduced lunch of the school and the availability of funding for the series.

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications accepted no later than one week before the prerequisite Workshop for Educators. At least one teacher from each school must attend the prerequisite Workshop for Educators.

For additional information or to register for the prerequisite workshop, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Connections

The [Opera Connections Program](#) provides opportunities for parents and children from select Pittsburgh neighborhoods to attend opera performances together as a family, free of charge. Families are also encouraged to attend pre-performance workshops and events to help prepare them for the opera experience.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

2009-2010 Opera Connections:

Falstaff – Friday, October 30, 2009

Carmen – Friday, March 26, 2010

The Marriage of Figaro – Friday, April 30, 2010

For additional information, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

For Families and Adults

Opera Up Close

[Opera Up Close](#) is an exciting and informative program offered five times per season, on the Sunday before the opening of each production at 2:00 PM. Held in Pittsburgh Opera's new headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue, in the Strip District, this free event offers an insider's look into the upcoming opera, with the artists that make it happen.

2009-2010 Opera Up Close:

Eugene Onegin – Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 PM

Falstaff – Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 PM

The Rape of Lucretia – Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 PM

Carmen – Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 PM

The Marriage of Figaro – Sunday, April 18 at 2:00 PM

(more)



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Opera Up Close is free and open to the public. For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Audio Commentary

Pittsburgh Opera offers [audio commentary](#) 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.

Tickets are only \$10.50 for patrons with visual impairments and a companion. Additional consideration may be given in case of financial hardship. Braille and large-print programs are also available at each performance.

2009-2010 Performances with Audio Commentary:

Eugene Onegin – Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Falstaff – Tuesday, October 27, 2009

The Rape of Lucretia – Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Carmen – Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The Marriage of Figaro – Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

For additional information or to reserve a seat in advance, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to a Pre-Opera Talk one hour before each performance curtain in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Learn about the composer, the story and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

2009-2010 Pre-Opera Talks:

Eugene Onegin – September 26, 29, October 2, 4, 2009

Falstaff – October 24, 27, 30, November 1, 2009

The Rape of Lucretia – January 30, February 2, 5, 7, 2010

Carmen – March 20, 23, 26, 28, 2010

The Marriage of Figaro – April 24, 27, 30, May 2, 2010

For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

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Backstage Tours of the Benedum Center

Ever wonder what goes on behind the curtain of the Benedum Center? Pittsburgh Opera is proud to offer a glimpse into the backstage world of opera with Benedum Center Backstage Tours, available before each Pittsburgh Opera performance. Tours are provided by Benedum Backstage Docents one and one half hours prior to curtain. Tours are free and open to the public and must be scheduled at least one week in advance.

For additional information or to schedule a tour, contact Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D. at (412) 281-0912 ext 242 or megan@pittsburghopera.org.

Brown Bag Concerts

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to host another season of its popular Brown Bag Concerts. The concerts feature Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists as well as our arts partners. Beginning at 12:00 PM on the second Saturday of each month, September 2009 – April 2010, these one-hour concerts are free and open to the public.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

Brown Bag Concerts are a wonderful opportunity for opera newcomers to get to know some of opera's most popular selections as well as give families an opportunity to incorporate a little culture into a fun Saturday in the Strip. Opera aficionados will also enjoy the opportunity to spend an afternoon lunch hour with some of their favorite opera classics.

2009-2010 Brown Bag Concert Dates:

Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 10
Saturday, November 14
Saturday, December 12
Saturday, January 9
Saturday, February 13
Saturday, March 13
Saturday, April 10

Hosted in the Opera's new home in the historic George Westinghouse Air Brake Factory located at 2425 Liberty Avenue, in the Strip District, guests are encouraged to bring a lunch or pre-order a gourmet boxed lunch from Right By Nature Natural Foods Market, Pittsburgh Opera's Local and Sustainable Food and Beverage Sponsor, and come enjoy the rich sounds of opera – with the occasional mix of Broadway, dance and other surprises.

To pre-order a boxed lunch, call Right By Nature at (412) 454-6200. Gourmet lunches start at \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Ingredients are local, organic and sustainable.

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Additional information about each Brown Bag Concert's theme will be available in the calendar section of Pittsburgh Opera's website, www.pittsburghopera.org.

Master Classes with the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists

Internationally-renowned artists teach Master Classes with Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists several times during the season.

Free and open to the public, Master Classes at Pittsburgh Opera provide observers an opportunity to enjoy expert instruction of the Resident Artists, with musical and dramatic critiques of their singing from the unique perspective of each artist.

Recent distinguished Master Class teachers include Maestro Antony Walker, soprano Pamela Armstrong and mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Blythe and Vivica Genaux.

For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday performance are invited to join Pittsburgh Opera in the Lower Lobby of the Benedum Center immediately following the performance for light refreshments and interviews with General Director Christopher Hahn and the stars of the production. This event is free to all Tuesday performance ticketholders.

For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Pittsburgh Opera Previews on WQED-FM 89.3

Hosted by WQED's Steven Baum, these previews run the week before each production opens, giving listeners in-depth introductions to the singers, music and production of each of the season's operas.

***Eugene Onegin* Preview**

Saturday September 19 at 1:30 PM and Friday September 25 at 7:00 PM

***Falstaff* Preview**

Saturday, October 17 at 1:30 PM and Friday, October 23 at 7:00 PM

***The Rape of Lucretia* Preview**

Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 1:30 PM and Friday, January 29, 2010 at 7:00 PM

***Carmen* Preview**

Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 1:30 PM and Friday, March 19, 2010 at 7:00 PM

***The Marriage of Figaro* Preview**

Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 1:30 PM and Friday, April 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM

For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

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Pittsburgh Opera Performance Re-Broadcasts on WOED-FM 89.3

Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with WOED-FM 89.3, will re-broadcast the 2008-2009 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again.

***Samson & Dalila* Re-Broadcast**

Saturday, September 12 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

***The Grapes of Wrath* Re-Broadcast**

Saturday, September 19 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

***Don Pasquale* Re-Broadcast**

Saturday, September 26 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

***La bohème* Re-Broadcast**

Saturday, October 3 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

***The Italian Girl in Algiers* Re-Broadcast**

Saturday, October 10 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Group Tickets

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

Pittsburgh Opera is committed to making opera accessible to all groups in the Pittsburgh area by providing great discounts and special services to group ticketholders. Unlike the large number of people required by many other organizations, a group at Pittsburgh Opera can be as few as 6 people!

For more information about [group ticket services and discounts](#), contact Randy Adams at (412) 281-0912 ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) celebrates its 71st season in 2009-10 with Eugene Onegin, Falstaff, The Rape of Lucretia, Carmen and The Marriage of Figaro. In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally-renowned Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program is among the country's top training centers for rising opera stars, and the company's newly-designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert and recitals by world-class opera singers.

2009-2010 Season

[Eugene Onegin](#) September 26, 29; October 2, 4, 2009

[Falstaff](#) October 24, 27, 30, November 1, 2009

[The Rape of Lucretia](#) January 30; February 2, 5, 7, 2010

[Carmen](#) March 20, 23, 26, 28, 2010

[The Marriage of Figaro](#) April 24, 27, 30; May 2, 2010

Beginning August 24, 2009, single tickets for as little as \$10

2009-2010 season subscriptions now for as little as \$21

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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