



presents:

THE PLAYGROUND OPERA SERIES

LET'S PLAY OPERA!

ABOUT:

The Playground Opera Series is a school day program that immerses students in the creation, production and performance of an opera. With the guidance of professionals working in the field today, students explore the operatic experience from the first moment of an opera's creation to the exciting culmination of its performance. The stage? Their own schoolyard playground.

ACT 1: OPERA CAMP!

It's time to explore. With the help of our professional-calibre teacher-performers, students will explore every facet of the operatic art form through the focused lens of one famous opera. Over the course of the camp, the class will be transformed into the opera production & creative team, diving into costume and prop creation, libretto-writing, marketing, music composition and performance.

ACT 2: THE GRAND PERFORMANCE!

Opera Camp concludes with a professional performance of the opera the students have been exploring, co-creating and co-producing on their own stomping grounds- **the school playground**. The opera will be performed by professional opera singers with chamber ensemble.



Photo courtesy of The Rush Philanthropic Foundation. Image from an Opera on Tap and Rush collaboration on a children's production of Carmen.

THE 2015 PLAYGROUND OPERA: THE MAGIC FLUTE BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

MUSIC: JEFF HUDGINS

STAGE DIRECTION: JENNY LEE MITCHELL

LIBRETTO: STUDENTS

OPERA CAMP SESSIONS

SESSION 1: FORMING THE CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Teacher-performers and students get to know each other and explore the basic concepts behind the creation and performance of an opera. Students will be introduced to the story and music of the opera they're about to help us produce- The Magic Flute. A choral example from The Magic Flute is taught to the class. Opera on Tap will provide CDs, helpful handouts, and a keyboard to support this session. Students will be engaged as part of the community of people who will create the Playground Opera performance.

SESSIONS 2-3: WRITE IT!

Our new team dives in to plot-writing and character exploration. Their mission? To tell the story of this very famous opera in their own words for their peers. At the end of session 3 there will be a student-led reading of the 'libretto' the students have written.

SESSION 4: BUILD IT!

In session 4 our team focuses on costumes and prop creation. Opera is not just about singing after all! Our team is visited by our professional costume designer Ramona Ponce. With Ramona's help and the help of our teacher-performers, the team goes to work building props and costume pieces for the Playground Opera performance at the end of opera camp.



Photo courtesy of The Rush Philanthropic Foundation. Image from an Opera on Tap and Rush collaboration on a children's production of The Magic Flute.

THE PLAYGROUND OPERA SERIES HELPS STUDENTS:

BOOST THEIR CONFIDENCE

BUILD STRONGER FRIENDSHIPS

DISCOVER THEIR INNATE MUSICALITY

BUILD LISTENING AND READING COMPREHENSION

DEVELOP CLEAR IDEAS

PROBLEM-SOLVE CREATIVELY

THINK IMAGINATIVELY

OPERA CAMP SESSIONS

SESSIONS 5: SING A SONG

Our team is introduced to the concept of voice types. Our teacher-performers guide them through the different categories of classical voice through both singing and audio samples. The class will rehearse the choral piece they were taught in Session 1. As our team explores the singing process they will be introduced to the classic musical structure of opera (Aria, Recitative, and Ensemble). In addition, they will be introduced to the concept of emotional singing- singing for theater.

SESSION 6: FEEL IT!

Our team continues to explore performance practices in opera. Teacher-performers lead them through physical and mental exercises to help build character and expressive singing in performance.

SESSIONS 7: SELL IT!

Opera is a business as well as an artform! Someone has to sell the tickets. In this session, our team creates promotional materials for the Playground Opera performance, guided by our teacher-professionals and with the help of a guest arts marketing professional.

OPTIONAL SESSIONS!

There are so many facets of opera. In addition to the core sessions we offer, here are a couple optional sessions we can add on:

In-depth Rehearsal- Staging and Managing the Performance

Choreography in Opera- Let's dance!



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THE PLAYGROUND OPERA SERIES HELPS STUDENTS:

FOLLOW DIRECTION

DEVELOP PERFORMANCE SKILLS

PERFORM IN AN ENSEMBLE

MAINTAIN FOCUS

BUILD PHYSICAL STAMINA

EXPLORE NEW LANGUAGES

INCREASE VOCABULARY

ARTISTIC STAFF FOR 2015

JENNY LEE MITCHELL (stage director) is a director, singer, actor and musician. She was born in New York City and received her theater training at The Experimental Theater Wing of New York University, studying with various teachers including Anne Bogart and Elizabeth Swados. During her time there, she also played improvised piano music for various movement classes at ETW. To further her vocal studies Jenny moved to Germany to study voice with the Greek soprano Anna Kapinati. She remained in Europe for 15 years performing in musical theater, opera and operetta, working with directors including Roman Polanski and opera guru Harry Kupfer. Productions include: DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES, MOZART!, LUDWIG II, FAME, FALSETTOS, JEKYLL AND HYDE, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, THE ELEPHANT MAN and ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD.



JEFF HUDGINS (music arranger and director) writes music and plays saxophones and clarinets, and co-leads Brooklyn's own Bombay Rickey along with singer/composer Kamala Sankaram and guitarist/composer Drew Fleming. In addition, Jeff has been working with the collective Anti-Social Music, songwriter Matt Bauer, composer Daniel Goode, the band Bowery Boy Blue, and has in the past worked with John Zorn, Alarm Will Sound, amongst countless others. Jeff is also a founding member of Collide Quartet, a saxophone quartet for people who don't like saxophones. Some recent distinctions of note include Collide's US premiere of Tim Berne's Quicksand with the composer (Philadelphia 2009) and being part of the cast of Sankaram's award-winning Miranda, which had its debut at New York's HERE Arts Center in January 2012.



RAMONA PONCE (costume designer/props) started her costume career at the Ridiculous Theatrical Company. Since then, she has established long-standing relationships with a number of theater and film companies around town, including T. W.E.E.D. Theatre Group, The Hotel Savant, Opera On Tap, Theater The and Making Light. Theatrical productions are mainly new works in musical theater, comedies, drama and dance. She also costumes and accessorizes individual performance artists such as The Fabulous LuLu LoLo, Poor Baby Bree, Lypsinka and Varla Jean Merman.



ABOUT OPERA ON TAP

HISTORY:

Opera on Tap (OOT) was born in 2005 at Freddy's Bar and Backroom in Brooklyn and incorporated in 2007 to promote opera as a viable, living and progressive art form and to support the developing artists who continue to keep the art form alive. What began as a small monthly gathering of ambitious, classically trained singers looking for more performance opportunities, has grown into a producing organization that has gained a loyal audience base and national recognition as an innovative force on the classical music scene. Through its Chapter program, which now has sixteen vibrant national chapters, OOT has created a large network of performers, creators, and supporters. **www.operaontap.org**



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HISTORY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING:

Opera on Tap has been working with and performing for children since 2007 through its strong partnerships with such venerable institutions and organizations as the JCC/Manhattan, The Old Stone House in Park Slope, Brooklyn and the Rush Philanthropic Foundation.

MISSION:

Opera on Tap is a not for profit corporation with 501(c)3 status. Our mission is to:

- Expose new audiences to opera and classical music by taking opera and classical music out of the concert hall and performing it in alternative venues
- To aid young performers in their development by giving them the opportunity to perform and to promote and support them through our organization
- To help promote new classical works of contemporary classical and operatic composers

CONTACT US

To learn more about how you can be involved in the success story of the Playground Opera Series, contact **General Director Anne Hiatt**:

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