

# FLORIDA GRAND Opera

## **Florida Grand Opera Education and Community Engagement**

*Fostering a New Generation of Opera Lovers*

At a time when budgets for music education programming in public schools are being reduced, Florida Grand Opera understands the importance of fostering new audiences and expanding the horizons of thousands of children through music. We reach out to students and the community in a variety of ways:

### **Student Dress Rehearsals**

Each season up to 5,000 middle and high school students from more than 100 South Florida schools attend final dress rehearsals of the five productions of the season. Students and teachers learn the plot, musical themes, and cultural context of the operas, as well as concert-going etiquette.

### **High School Opera Tour**

For over 30 years, FGO, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, has taken a short opera production, complete with lighting, props and costumes, into many of the county's high schools. The production is also taken into schools in Broward County. Loaded in and set up with the help of the high school students, it is performed by FGO's Educational Outreach Team. The in-school opera ensures that high school graduates are exposed to the art form, and enables them to interact with the artists and crew to learn about career opportunities in the performing arts. To support teachers as they prepare their students, FGO offers a variety of materials including study guides, lesson plans and interactive DVDs.

### **Middle School Programs**

FGO offers two Middle School Presentations: Voice Informance and Technical Informance. Voice Informance entails bringing Young Artists and a pianist into schools to introduce students to musical terms and forms. The Young Artists demonstrate and discuss diverse vocal genres including: opera, operetta, musical theatre, and concert song. The Technical Informance includes presentations by FGO's Assistant Technical Director that demonstrate some of the technical components of theatrical performance, the many careers available behind the stage and the skills necessary for this vital part of opera. As part of both Informances, students participate in an extended question and answer period.

### **North Twin Lakes Elementary School**

Florida Grand Opera is a proud partner of North Twin Lakes Elementary School in Hialeah. Under the leadership of Principal Louise Harms, North Twin Lakes Elementary School has used opera and other fine arts to raise the school's grade under the No Child Left Behind guidelines from an F to an A+ in three short years. The school has been the recipient of the Commissioner's Five Star School of Excellence Award for nine consecutive years.

### **YPO Elementary Student Education Programs**

From January through March, the Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO), a Company support group, produces an age-appropriate, fully-staged and costumed children's opera that tours to area elementary schools. In addition to seeing the performance, children are introduced to individual operas through complimentary *Opera Funtime* books distributed to Miami-Dade County music teachers. Each of the more than twenty titles introduces an

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opera's plot, musical ideas, and opera terminology, and reinforces the lessons with games, puzzles, and coloring pages. Over 500 Girl Scouts each year earn an "opera patch" by participating in a YPO workshop.

## **Teacher Training Workshops**

In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and YPO, Florida Grand Opera sponsors an accredited workshop in which teachers learn to bring opera into the classroom. Non-credit teacher workshops stressing cross-curriculum use of classical vocal music are available for individual schools upon request.

## **OperaScholars**

FGO also offers a scholarship/mentoring program for high school seniors with exceptional artistic potential whose goal is a career in the performing arts, as part of a collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Division of Life Skills and Special Projects. The OperaScholars observe rehearsals, receive supporting educational materials, meet with the creative team behind each production, and complete an assignment at the end of their tenure with the Company. At the completion of the academic year, the OperaScholars receive a scholarship of \$300 to be applied to their further education.

## **About Opera Lectures**

Maestro Stewart Robertson, FGO's Music Director, along with other distinguished guests present in-depth musical lectures on the productions featured each season. These entertaining lectures provide insight into the musical, historic and literary references of each score, as well as each composer's unique compositional process.

## **Opera in the Community**

Main-stage artists and members of the Young Artist Studio actively perform at various community events. These can range from singing the national anthem with local sports teams like the Florida Marlins, Florida Panthers, or Miami Heat, to performing at houses of worship.

## **Projected Titles**

Florida Grand Opera offers projected translations in both English and Spanish to help members of the audience follow along while they watch our performances. The supertitles make opera easy to understand and more accessible than ever!

*Florida Grand Opera offers special lectures, audiovisual presentations and programs with Young Artists at libraries, museums, community centers, and houses of worship. For further information regarding community engagements, please contact Cecelia Schieve, Director of the Young Artist Studio and Education Program, at 305-854-1643.*