

Des Moines Metro
OPERA 



OPERA

iowa

**2014
SCHOOL INFOPAC**

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OPERA Iowa is an educational program of Des Moines Metro Opera.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

**THE BRIGHT
FOUNDATION**

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



Dear OPERA Iowa Host:

Des Moines Metro Opera is pleased to bring back a much-loved tale set to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Davies' *The Three Little Pigs*! Your contract is enclosed. We ask that you please sign it and return one complete copy with the requested deposit by the date shown.

A TEACHERPAC will be sent to you 6-8 weeks prior to your scheduled date. Newspapers will be sent approximately 4 weeks before OPERA Iowa is scheduled to arrive (note: If you are one of the early schools on the tour, these materials may arrive closer to your date due to printing constraints.) In the TEACHERPAC, you will find information for classroom activities that complement the workshops as well as other pre- and post-residency activities.

Keep this Infopac and refer to it as the performance date approaches. You will find that it answers most, if not all, of your questions. If you find you need any assistance, please feel free to give me a call at (515) 961-6221 or email me at dmmo@dmmo.org.

What an exciting year this will be for your school and OPERA Iowa, and it will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,



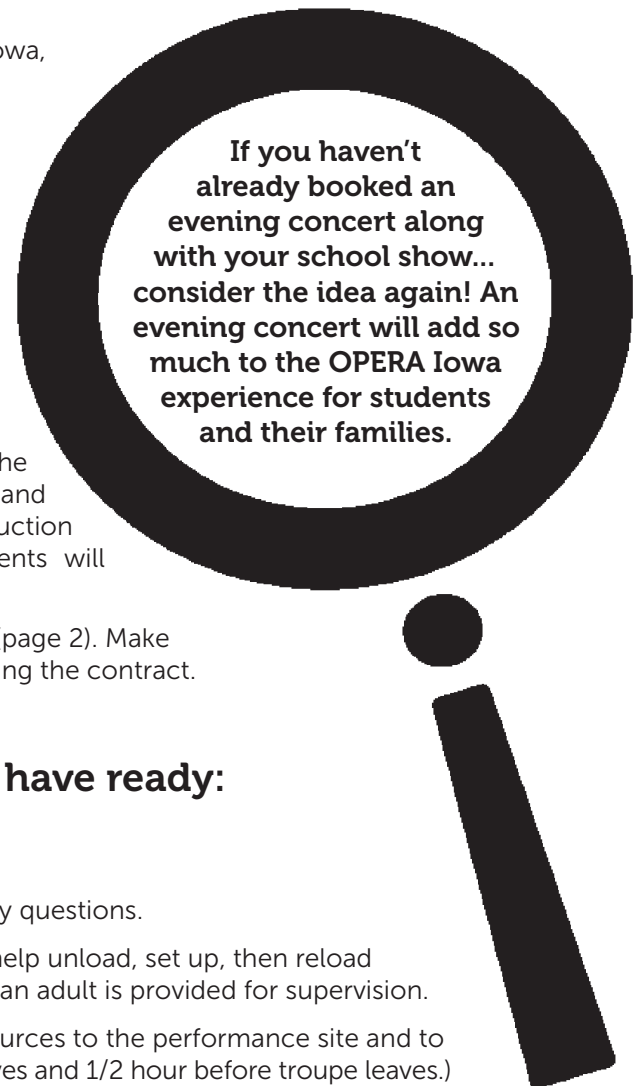
Michael Egel, General and Artistic Director

To arrange your day with OPERA Iowa:

- Read the enclosed materials carefully. Choose 1-3 workshops for OPERA Iowa to present. Decide workshop locations, the number and the grade level of the students who will participate and note any special needs for each workshop. There is an introduction immediately preceding the show in which ALL the students will participate. (See the schedule on page 3 for clarification.)
- Fill out and return the enclosed School Information Sheet (page 2). Make a copy for yourself and return it to us within 14 days of receiving the contract.

On the day of OPERA Iowa's visit, please have ready:

- A tuned piano for the performance.
- An On-Site Coordinator (this is probably you) to answer any questions.
- A minimum of 4 adults capable of lifting at least 50 lbs to help unload, set up, then reload scenery. 5 or 6 responsible high school students may assist if an adult is provided for supervision.
- The building custodian for questions concerning power sources to the performance site and to help unload/load and set up scenery. (1 hour when troupe arrives and 1/2 hour before troupe leaves.)
- If you are the morning school, you are asked to provide lunch for the 7 troupe members. Anything other than school lunch is deeply appreciated by these young professionals—in fact, it's a great day to plan a teachers' potluck!



School Information Sheet

Three Little Pigs:

Please complete, photocopy and return this sheet to Chari Kruse ASAP!
Mail: Des Moines Metro Opera, 106 W. Boston Ave., Indianola, IA 50125-1836
Fax: 515-961-8175 **Email:** dmmo@dmmo.org

*Contact Person _____ *Work _____
 *Name of School _____ Cell _____
 *E-mail _____ *Fax _____
 *Address _____
 *City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____
 *Name of Custodian _____

Publicity: Des Moines Metro Opera will send publicity information to the media you request. For best results, please contact them yourselves as well.

*Local newspaper _____
 *Contact Name _____ *E-mail _____
 *Address, City, State, Zip _____
 *Local radio station _____
 *Contact Name _____ *E-mail _____
 *Address, City, State, Zip _____

Performance:

*Required information

*Date(s) _____ *Time(s) _____ Location (stage, gym, etc.)? _____

(circle one)

- Y N** Are the dimensions of the performing area at least 25' wide x 15' deep x 12' high?
- Y N** Is this space easily accessible for set pieces?
- Y N** Are there stairs? If yes, how many? _____
- Y N** Do you have four 20 AMP circuits available in this space? (OPERA Iowa's lighting equipment cannot be plugged into the same circuit.) What lighting equipment do you have? _____
- Y N** Do you have stage curtains?

Special instructions? _____

Please give directions, including landmarks, to your school from the main roads into town (use a separate sheet if necessary).

WORKSHOP INFORMATION/LOCATION (Please fill in the blanks)						
AM	PM	✓	WORKSHOP	LOCATION	GRADE	# STUDENTS
8:45	12:45		Let's Make an Opera			
to	to		Decide, Design, Direct!			
9:15	1:15		Singers and Vocal Styles			
9:45	1:45	✓	Intro to the Production	same as performance	all	all

Each student will receive a newspaper. Please indicate the total number of students attending the performance.

____ 1st ____ 4th
 ____ 2nd ____ 5th
 ____ 3rd
 ____ TOTAL

A Sample Schedule of Events

To help you schedule your time with OPERA Iowa, a sample itinerary is listed below. Times are approximate and may be varied slightly to accommodate your school schedule. Please notify us if you require any changes.

MORNING Sample schedule:

- 8:15 - 8:30:** Arrival at school (met by On-Site Coordinator and Custodian)
- 8:15 - 9:45:** Technical Director/adult volunteers set up scenery
- 8:45 - 9:15:** Workshops with troupe members (See Workshop Details sheet)
- 9:15 - 9:45:** Singers prepare for performance
- 9:45 - 10:00:** *Intro to the Production* pre-performance workshop for audience
- 10:00 - 10:45:** Performance
- 10:45 - 10:55:** Question and Answer session (if time allows)
- 10:55 - 11:30:** Technical Director/adult volunteers reload scenery

REMINDER:

The morning school is asked to provide lunch for the seven members of the troupe!

AFTERNOON Sample schedule:

- 12:15 - 12:30:** Arrival at school (met by On-Site Coordinator and Custodian)
- 12:15 - 1:45:** Technical Director/adult volunteers set up scenery
- 12:45 - 1:15:** Workshops with troupe members (See Workshop Details sheet)
- 1:15 - 1:45:** Singers prepare for performance
- 1:45 - 2:00:** *Intro to the Production* pre-performance workshop for audience
- 2:00 - 2:45:** Performance
- 2:45 - 2:55:** Question and Answer session (if time allows)
- 2:55 - 3:30:** Technical Director/adult volunteers reload scenery

Each of the following workshops will be presented for thirty (30) minutes between 8:45-9:15 in the morning or 12:45-1:15 in the afternoon. Below, you will read about the three workshops that will be offered by OPERA Iowa in conjunction with our performances. You may elect to have each of the three workshops presented, but because these workshops happen simultaneously, you must have three (3) separate locations where those workshops can be conducted. At least one space must have a piano, though two would be preferable. OPERA Iowa requests that at least one supervising teacher remain in each room during the workshop. After reviewing this information, please decide which workshop(s) you would like to present, which students will attend and where the workshops will be located. Then fill out the Elementary School Information Sheet on page 2.

● **Let's Make an Opera** (For up to 50 students)

This workshop meets NSAE in Music Standard 7: Evaluating music and music performance.

Operatic forms are introduced and terms such as overture, chorus, aria, duet, trio and recitative are discussed. Students will explore the ways in which composers use their music to tell a story and will experience how all of the elements of music and theatre work in cooperation to create the performance we see on stage! Characters, plot lines and conflicts are pulled from the story, then students will create their own resolutions.

OBJECTIVES: To provide a framework of information that will enhance students' understanding and appreciation of opera by:

- Exploring musical forms and the composition of an opera.
- Introducing, identifying and evaluating music and its elements.
- Engaging the students in a verbal review of the forms used in the creation of that scene.
- Demonstrating that opera can be a lively and accessible art form.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Piano, room for movement, supervising teacher

● **Decide, Design, Direct!** (For up to 50 students)

This workshop meets NSAE Standard 9: Understanding Music Performance in relation to the other arts, history and culture.

What makes an opera? Areas such as costuming, make-up, set design, properties and casting are explored. In this workshop, students will learn on the job! Opera uses many different elements that, when combined, create the performance you see on the stage. Creating an opera requires making many choices—each choice affects the final production. After the elements of opera are presented, student designers will create the “look” of their own production!

OBJECTIVES: To show how each element of theatre works together to create a final product by:

- Discussing what thought processes go into each element of production.
- Demonstrating the basic stage materials used.
- Discussing the importance of how costume and makeup transform an actor into a character.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Blackboard/whiteboard, supervising teacher

● Singers and Vocal Styles (For up to 35 students)

This workshop meets NSAE Standard 6: Students should listen to, analyze and describe opera, gospel, rock and jazz music styles.

Name that musical style! Of course the difference between rock and opera is obvious, but why do they sound the way they do? What cultures do they represent? And how do the singers make those particular sounds? This workshop will help students learn to hear and describe the difference between their favorite kinds of music. Join OPERA Iowa singers on a whirlwind tour of styles from jazz to country, to grand opera, to gospel, to rock-n-roll.

OBJECTIVES: To assist students in their abilities to describe, analyze and develop precise thoughts about varying styles of music by:

- Identifying different musical and vocal styles.
- Exploring how cultures influence musical and vocal styles.
- Developing active listening skills.
- Developing analytical skills inspired from what is heard.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Piano or keyboard, outlet for CD Player, blackboard/whiteboard, supervising teacher

● Introduction to the Performance (For all audience members)

This workshop will be presented in the performance area fifteen minutes before your opera performance is scheduled to begin. All students who will see the opera must be in their places 20 minutes before performance time.

OBJECTIVES: This workshop prepares students to be active listeners in the audience by:

- Discussing different musical themes.
- Identifying characters and story line.
- Exploring how the music illustrates characters and actions.
- Rehearsing chorus music.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Piano (held at performance site)

STOP!

DO YOU HAVE:

1. Your workshop(s) selected?
2. Your location(s) selected?
3. Your students selected?

Then fill out the bottom of the School Information Sheet on page 2!

The Three Little Pigs:

About the Production:

Music..... WolfgangAmadeus Mozart
(as arranged by John Davies)
Libretto John Davies
Music Director.....Scott Arens

Stage Director Andrew Ryker
Technical Director..... TBA
Scenery.....Ken Dusheck
Costume CoordinatorChari Kruse

About the Characters:

Despina Pig, sister pig Mezzo-Soprano
Cherubino Pig, brother pig Tenor
Don Giovanni Pig, brother pig..... Baritone

Wolfgang Bigbad, a wolf..... Bass-Baritone
Mrs. Dibbs Soprano

About the Story:

It's time for a sister and her two brother pigs to go out into the world, seek their fortunes and make homes of their own. Despina Pig is far wiser than either Don Giovanni Pig or Cherubino Pig. She goes to the library to learn all about sturdy house construction. Her brothers, however, are too busy playing games and inviting danger from the local wolf, Wolfgang Big Bad. The moment of truth comes as the pigs are chased from straw house to stick house to Despina Pig's solid brick house. Wolfgang suffers a hard fall through the chimney, but is well enough to join the pigs in a final song which praises the value of libraries for everyone!

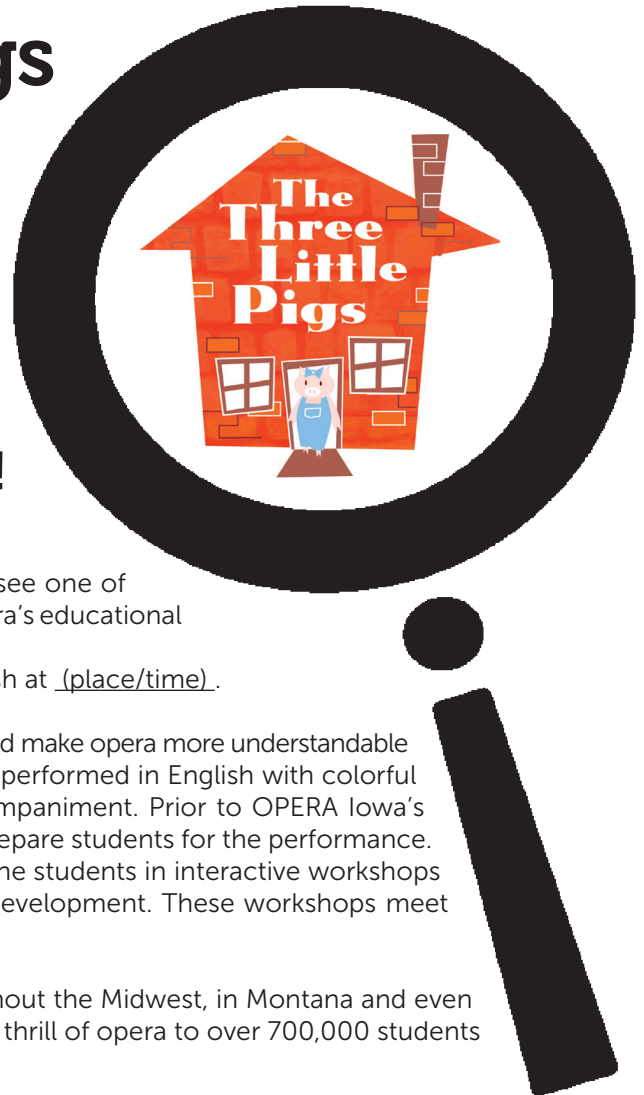
About the Opera:

John Davies adapted this classic fairy tale to the music of Mozart during his term as Education Director of Syracuse Opera. In addition to *The Three Little Pigs*, Davies has written several other works for K-6 and high school students. He is an active artist on the regional opera circuit and enjoys renown as an excellent singing actor.

Publicity Made Simple: A Sample Press Release for Schools

The Three Little Pigs

Date _____
 Organization _____
 Contact _____
 Phone _____



Experience Award-Winning OPERA Without Leaving Town!

Students from (your school) will have the chance to see one of Iowa's premier arts organizations when Des Moines Metro Opera's educational touring troupe arrives on (date) . OPERA Iowa will present Davies' *The Three Little Pigs* in English at (place/time) .

OPERA Iowa's exciting workshops entertain while they educate and make opera more understandable and more accessible to students and families. The operas are performed in English with colorful scenery and costumes, theatrical lighting, and musical accompaniment. Prior to OPERA Iowa's arrival, (your school) received teacher packets to help prepare students for the performance. Once OPERA Iowa arrives, the troupe will work directly with the students in interactive workshops that may include improvisation, musical styles or character development. These workshops meet National Standards for Art Education guidelines.

The OPERA Iowa troupe has performed in nine states throughout the Midwest, in Montana and even in Japan and China since it began in 1986, and has spread the thrill of opera to over 700,000 students and adults.

OPERA Iowa is an Education Division program of Des Moines Metro Opera, which is located in Indianola, Iowa, just south of Des Moines. This year's 42nd Festival Season will feature Verdi's *La Traviata* in Italian, Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* in English (MATURE AUDIENCES), Rossini's *Le Conte Ory* in Italian, and Brook's *The Tragedy of Carmen* as part of its Second Stages Series. The season will run from June 27 through July 20, 2014. All festival operas are performed with English supertitles in the newly renovated Blank Performing Arts Center on the picturesque campus of Simpson College in Indianola, and free opera previews are presented 45 minutes prior to each performance. The Second Stages Series performances will be held this year at the Des Moines Social Club in Downtown Des Moines. For more information on Des Moines Metro Opera's upcoming productions, call (515) 961-6221.

For more information on the OPERA Iowa performance, contact:

_____ (your contact person)
 _____ (name of your organization)
 _____ (phone)

The OPERA Iowa troupe is available for interviews and photos while at schools and concerts. For a complete tour schedule, please call (515) 961-6221 or visit desmoinesmetroopera.org/opera_iowa.

The Elixir of Love

Date _____
 Organization _____
 Contact _____
 Phone _____



Experience Award-Winning OPERA Without Leaving Town!

Area residents of _____(name of your town, state)_____ will have the chance to see one of Iowa’s premier arts organizations when Des Moines Metro Opera’s educational touring troupe arrives on _____(date)_____. OPERA Iowa will present a two-hour version of Donizetti’s *The Elixir of Love* in English at _____(place/time)_____.

OPERA Iowa complements the evening performances with exciting school-day performances and classroom workshops that entertain while they educate in an effort to make opera more understandable and more accessible to students and families. The operas are performed in English with colorful scenery and costumes, theatrical lighting, and musical accompaniment.

The OPERA Iowa troupe has performed in nine states throughout the Midwest, in Montana and even in Japan and China to spread the thrill of opera to over 700,000 students and adults. The concert is sponsored by _____(name of organization)_____. To purchase tickets (Insert information here on where to purchase tickets, prices, etc. if this is applicable. Be sure to mention if the concert is free to the public.) For more information, contact _____(name/phone)_____.

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The Elixir of Love

*Contact Person _____ *Work _____
 *E-mail _____ Cell _____
 *Name of Concert Facility _____ *Fax _____
 *Address _____ *Seating Capacity of Facility _____
 *City _____ * State _____ *Zip _____ *Anticipated Attendance _____
 *Concert Sponsor _____
 *Admission/Ticket Information _____
 *Where to Purchase Tickets _____

Publicity: Des Moines Metro Opera will send publicity information to the media you request. For best results, please contact them yourselves as well.

*Local newspaper _____
 *Contact Name _____ *E-mail _____
 *Address, City, State, Zip _____
 *Local radio station _____
 *Contact Name _____ *E-mail _____
 *Address, City, State, Zip _____

*Required information

Performance:

*Date(s) _____ *Time(s) _____
 Where will the performance take place (stage, gym, etc.)? _____
 (circle one)
 Y N Are the dimensions of the performing area at least 25' wide x 15' deep x 12' high?
 Y N Is this space easily accessible for set pieces?
 Y N Are there stairs? If yes, how many? _____
 Y N Do you have four 20 AMP circuits available in this space? (OPERA Iowa's lighting equipment cannot be plugged into the same circuit.) What lighting equipment do you have? _____
 Y N Do you have stage curtains?
 Any special instructions? _____

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Mail: Des Moines Metro Opera, 106 West Boston Ave., Indianola, IA 50125-1836
Fax: 515-961-8175
Email: dmmono@dmmono.org