



Bring Opera to Your School with HOT OPERA EXPRESS

The Barber of Seville is the 2007/2008 touring production for HOT Opera Express. One of the most famous operas ever written, *The Barber of Seville* is the story of how Figaro helps his friend Count Almaviva win the hand of the beautiful Rosina. Always up to the challenge, Figaro uses his quick wit and creative mind to outsmart the old Dr. Bartolo and bring Almaviva and Rosina together.

When creating its touring shows, the HOT education staff devises some student roles and typically includes some music in the show that the entire audience can sing. CDs

of the student music are sent to the schools in advance of the show so that teachers can prepare their students.

HOT's touring operas come to your school or other location to perform and include a study guide and music for audience participation sections of the show. Touring dates for Oahu are October 22 to November 2 AND April 14 to 25; Kauai – November 26 to 30; Big Island – May 12 to 16; Maui – May 19 to 23.

For booking and more information please contact Kristin Stone at 596-7372 x18 or k_stone@hawaiiopera.org.

Opera Education Forum Date Announced

The annual Opera Education Forum will be held on Monday, November 12 from 9am until noon. HOT's education staff will be on hand to present the 2008 opera season, distribute resource materials on these operas, discuss curricular ties with other educators and more.

Those in attendance may turn in their ticket orders at this event and be given priority seating for Opera For Everyone. The event will be held in the HOT Rehearsal Hall at 987 Waimanu St. Please contact Kristin at 596-7372 x18 to RSVP.



Bring *The Barber of Seville* to your school in 2008

Opera and Kids

More Alike Than You Would Think

Of the many things that kids like today you would suspect opera would be at the bottom of the list. Oddly enough, Hawaii Opera Theatre reaches over 20,000 kids annually and many of them come away loving it. Opera fits well into the multimedia world our children live in combining music with costumes, lights, drama and other elements they often encounter in their electronic world. The stories typically come from history, literature or plays – some of which have assisted in changing society (*The Barber of Seville* for instance). These performances can carry us away to another world, give us new insights to our own world and/or just entertain us.

Curriculum tie-ins to opera are usually not very hard to make as all operas have their base in literature – opera composers are always on the alert for a good story. The topics of the operas usually fit well into social science and can often be tied into science, math, health and other areas. Need to address some GLOs or arts standards? Our programs lend themselves very well to those also.

Did You Know?

The Phillipines are named after King Phillip of Spain, one of the lead characters in the opera **Don Carlo**.

What Kids are Saying About Our Opera Express Program

“Thank you for the wonderful performance. I totally enjoyed it. I wish that I could sing like all of you. I really hope that you will come back soon.”

“Thank you for coming to our school and performing that wonderful opera. I had never seen an opera before this. It was really good.”

Grand Opera Dress Rehearsal Program

Hawaii Opera Theatre's **Opera For Everyone** program reserves the final dress rehearsal of all HOT grand opera productions for students. K to 12 educators can bring their students to any or all of these productions for a \$6 Jr. membership fee per show. The students experience the full show with lavish sets and costumes, theatrical lighting and effects, and music performed by a live orchestra and singers from around the globe. All performances include projected English translations. The Opera For Everyone audiences are always the favorite of the performers because of the wonderful response from students. At the end of the night it's always a chicken skin moment!

The operas being presented in 2008 are:

DON CARLO by Giuseppe Verdi

OFE Evening: Wednesday, January 30, 7pm
Sung in Italian



Verdi tells the story of the royal family of Spain in the 1500s. The French princess Elizabetta has been promised to the Spanish prince, Don Carlo. In an unforeseen political move, the princess is instead promised to King Phillip, Don Carlo's father. Jealousy, intrigue and deceit carry this story to an unexpected ending. This story is loosely based on historical characters from the Spanish court.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE by Gaetano Donizetti

OFE Evening: Wednesday, February 13, 7pm
Sung in Italian



That jack-of-all-trades Figaro finds himself in the employ of a rich count trying to win the hand of the woman of his dreams. Unfortunately she is imprisoned by her elderly guardian who also hopes to marry her. Figaro's endless scheming and pranks eventually bring the two young lovers together after some of operas most favorite comic moments. When it was first written, government censors would not allow this story, which shows the nobility being outsmarted by a commoner, to be performed. You will recognize the famous aria **Largo al factotum** since it is used in many cartoons, movies and commercials (Mrs. Doubtfire, The Rabbit of Seville, etc.).

ROMEO ET JULIETTE by Charles Gounod

OFE Evening: Wednesday, February 27, 7pm
Sung in French



One of the most popular stories of William Shakespeare is brought to life by famed French composer Charles Gounod. Two star-crossed teens discover great good and humanity in each other but get caught in the crossfire between their feuding families. You've read the play, you've seen the movie and you've seen it used in sitcoms. Come and see the opera – it's like no other version. Did you know the musical **West Side Story** by Leonard Bernstein is based on Romeo and Juliet?

Elementary School Kids Around Oahu Perform Opera

One School Even Writes Their Own

Last year opera was heard at a number of elementary schools around Oahu. The professionals at Hawaii Opera Theatre worked with five Oahu DOE schools that participated in the company's HOT Opera residency program. At its most basic, the program turns a population identified by the school into a mini opera company. The residency works a bit differently at each school



Top: Aina Haina students in full costume for their production of *The Mikado*



Left: Richard Stead teaches kids about wigs and makeup during their original opera, *Save the Habitats*

but the end result is always the performing of an opera in which the children in the program are featured. Imperial Commissioner. Adult artists from Hawaii Opera Theatre assisted in the productions portraying the parts of Cio Cio San and Pinkerton.

At Aina Haina Elementary School the producing of opera, operetta and musicals has become part of the school's fabric. Working with HOT the school has produced a work each year for the past six years. The school initially worked with HOT in its typical residency model of having two or three adult leads to help support the production. As the students have honed their musical and theatrical skills over the years special adaptations of shows have been created for performance just by the students with no on-stage help from the adults. This year's graduating class had exposure to opera from kindergarten and participated in a stirring production of *The Mikado*.

Waikele Elementary's third grade team participated in an experimental project in which the goal was to make a very close tie into the grade's curriculum. The teachers chose to integrate science and language arts which resulted in a project in which the students wrote the lyrics and dialogue to *Save the Habitats*. The student's words were set to famous opera tunes by the education staff at Hawaii Opera Theatre and the work was produced in HOT's residency format and featured nine student soloists.

In the 2007/2008 school year HOT expects to be working with five schools on residency projects. We are now accepting requests for schools interested in opera residencies in the 2008/2009 school year.

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Three schools, Jefferson, Hau'ula and Momilani Elementary, worked on an adaptation of

the opera *Madama Butterfly*. The work was altered to include more opportunities for the students and included student soloists in the parts of Suzuki, Goro, Sharpless and the

Honolulu Symphony Education Programs

In opera the symphony orchestra plays an integral role in not just accompanying the singers but also in describing the action and setting the mood by the combination of instruments used, tonality, key, dynamics and more. The music is a partnership between singer and orchestra that the conductor melds together.

The Honolulu Symphony has a number of education programs available for elementary through high school students including youth concerts, ensembles that can visit your school and resource teachers for band and orchestra.



For more information contact Jon Magnussen at 524-0815 ext 238 or visit the symphony website at www.honolululymp.com.

Intern Program

In conjunction with Opera For Everyone there are a limited number of intern positions available for high school students interested in getting a taste of opera from behind the curtain. For more information call 596-7372 x18.

Did You Know?

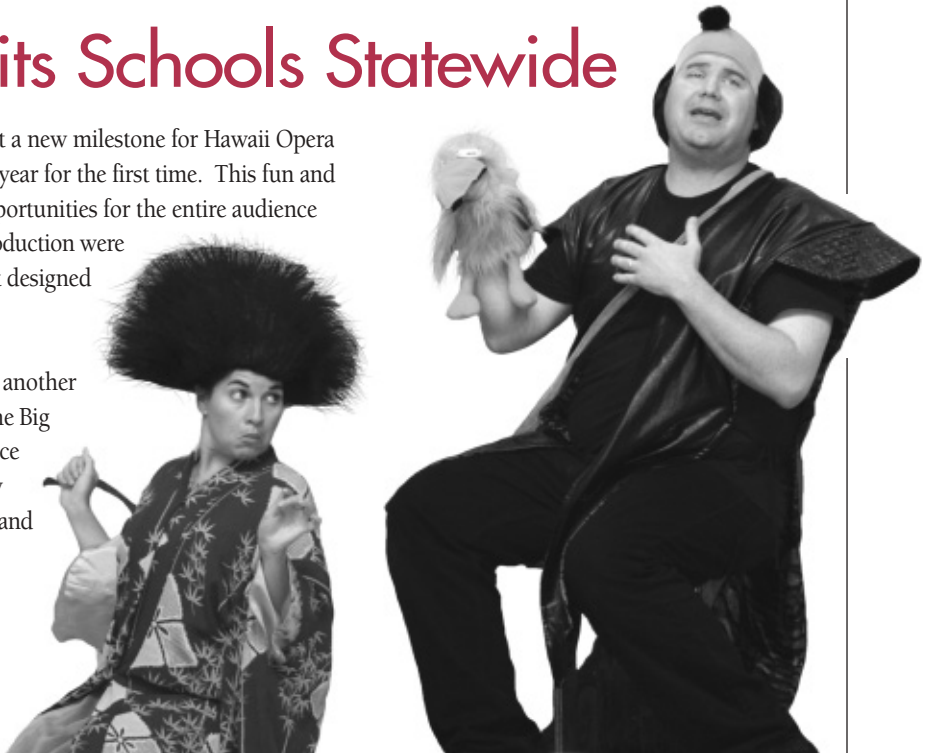
Charles Gounod, the composer of the opera *Romeo and Juliette*, wrote the national anthem for the Vatican City State.

Legend has it that composer Rossini wrote *The Barber of Seville* in thirteen days.

The Mikado Visits Schools Statewide

HOT's 2007 touring production of *The Mikado* set a new milestone for Hawaii Opera Theatre by visiting all the main islands in a single year for the first time. This fun and fast moving production featured 3 singers and opportunities for the entire audience to sing and be part of the action. Enhancing the production were costumes, wigs and a custom designed touring set designed by HOT's Technical Director Gordon Svec.

The cast gave over 40 performances on Oahu and another 10 performances per island on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island for a total of over 70 performances. Audience response to the show was very positive with many comments on the audience participation, fun story and great wigs, costumes and set.



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HOT

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