

The Met
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Opera
Guild



ACCESS OPERA 2021-2022 PROGRAM GUIDE





Please carefully review all sections of the 2021-2022 *Access Opera* Program Guide and involve participating colleagues in organizing your school's rehearsal experience.

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ABOUT ACCESS OPERA

Going beyond the ordinary field trip experience, *Access Opera* introduces students to live performances and provides teachers with resources for drawing connections across literature, social studies, foreign language, and the arts.

As a part of their participation in the program, each school receives the opportunity to attend a final dress rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera. A final dress rehearsal is the final run-through rehearsal before opening night. Additionally, each *Access Opera* teacher representative is encouraged to attend one of the professional development options provided by the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Each representative must also complete the program end-of-year reflection form.



REPRESENTATIVE EXPECTATIONS

Each *Access Opera* school must designate a teacher or administrator representative to serve as a liaison to the Metropolitan Opera Guild. The Guild will work directly with this individual to coordinate and communicate all aspects of program participation. Representatives are expected to do the following:

- Select an opera suitable for their students' age, experience, and curriculum. Guild staff is happy to offer assistance with selecting an appropriate opera for your student group.
- Attend final dress rehearsal(s), sitting with and supervising students.
- Be responsible for the behavior and welfare of students at all times while inside the opera house.
- Select capable parent/teacher chaperones and clearly communicate all program expectations to them.
- Ensure that at least one teacher responsible for student instruction related to the opera experience attends one or more professional development opportunities offered by the Metropolitan Opera Guild.
- Complete and submit the end-of-year reflection form, to be distributed by Guild staff in June 2022.
- Maintain communication with Guild staff regarding the *Access Opera* program
- Facilitate the timely processing and payment of any *Access Opera*-related invoices.
- Notify the Guild of any changes in school or representative status.



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

As participants in the Access Opera program, students, teachers, administrators, parents, and other members of the school community are part of a group of over 15,000 individuals who attend Metropolitan Opera dress rehearsals. A variety of materials and resources are provided, and policies and procedures are in place to ensure a meaningful experience for all involved.

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS THIS SEASON

Our top priority is the safety of the Met audiences, artists, orchestra, chorus, and staff. In consultation with medical and public health experts, the Met will be implementing a mandatory vaccination policy for audiences, who will be asked to show proof of vaccination upon arrival at the Met. All artists, orchestra, chorus, and staff will have to do the same. In compliance with the CDC guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals, the audience will be at full capacity. Audiences will be required to maintain appropriate face coverings in accordance with current CDC guidelines when attending performances.

- All audience members must be fully vaccinated. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after you have received a second dose in a two-dose vaccine series or two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine.
- The Met will need to see proof of vaccination against Covid-19 with a vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- All audience members must provide in-person verification of vaccination. Prior to entering the Met, you will be asked to provide proof of vaccination through the CLEAR app (if available to you), the Excelsior Pass (for New York State residents), the NYC COVID Safe app (for New York City residents), or an original physical vaccination card or photograph of it. If using Excelsior Pass, NYC COVID Safe app, or a vaccination card, you must present photo ID along with your vaccine proof. Trained individuals will review your proof of vaccination as you arrive at the Met.
- All audiences will be asked to sign a Covid-19 waiver when purchasing tickets. If you do not complete this prior to arrival, you will be asked to complete it on arrival to the event.
- At this time, all audience members will be required to maintain a proper face covering for the duration of their time in the opera house. Failure to comply may result in dismissal from the premises and/or the Access Opera program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Guild is proud to serve over 15,000 students and teachers across six states. It is our goal to provide opportunities to diverse communities from varying geographic and socio-economic areas. We believe it is important for all participating schools to recognize the breadth of reach for the Access Opera program.

That being said, it is imperative that all students, teachers, administrators, parents, and other members of the school community are familiar with the Metropolitan Opera House Rules and Responsibilities prior to visiting. While the Guild is not in the practice of terminating partnerships with schools, failure to comply with the outlined rules and responsibilities may result in limiting future participation.

VISITING THE MET

Please carefully review each item and contact Guild staff (listed on page 9) with any questions/concerns.



- Groups are expected to arrive in the lobby area of the opera house no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal. Please plan accordingly for the additional Covid-19 vaccination screening listed on page 4.
- When arriving inside the opera house, please send a representative to check in with a Guild representative at the Education table on the far left side of the lobby area, before proceeding into the main area of the house. **Latecomers will not be allowed inside the auditorium until after intermission.** If available, late groups may be seated in List Hall (where subtitles are not available).
- Large groups should wait outside the opera house (weather permitting) until congestion in the lobby is relieved.
- For an orderly and efficient entrance, all students should receive their individual tickets prior to entering the opera house lobby. *Every attendee must have their own ticket to gain admittance.*
- Metropolitan Opera ushers will assist schools with seating inside the opera house auditorium.
- **One adult chaperone per every ten students is required**, regardless of age/grade of students. Please be sure that chaperone seats are dispersed amongst students.
- Proper clapping etiquette should be addressed prior to the rehearsal. Clapping should occur only after the orchestra has stopped playing. Students should be reminded that talking and noise-making is a distraction to their fellow audience members and the performers.
- Students must be accompanied by a teacher or adult chaperone at all times, including during intermissions. Those who leave the auditorium during a performance will **not** be permitted re-entry until a scene change or intermission.
- In scheduling transportation back to your school, allow at least 30 minutes' leeway in the length of the performance. As these are working rehearsals, the conductor and/or stage manager may pause or stop to make adjustments during or after the performance. Should your group need to leave early, please notify Guild staff prior to the rehearsal.
- Any changes in a school's attendance should be communicated to the Guild immediately, and no less than six weeks before the scheduled attendance. Please see the cancellation policy on page 6 for more information.
- Unfortunately, at this time, the opera house will not allow eating within the building, so we are currently unable to offer space for lunch during intermission. We are hopeful that this will change by 2022. However, we do ask that schools prepare for this potential scenario. Groups are welcome to exit the building and eat lunch on the plaza during intermission, or must plan to eat before or after the rehearsal. We apologize for this inconvenience, but are hopeful that it will only be temporary.
- **Remember: preparation goes a long way.** Many students will be attending their first opera, and may be confused or intimidated. We encourage teachers to prepare students by introducing opera content, as well as what to expect from their visit as a whole.



REGISTRATION & REHEARSAL REQUESTS

The registration and rehearsal request process will again be conducted via online form. The link to the 2021-2022 Access Opera Registration Request Form is:

<http://www.metguilddeducation.org/AccessOperaReg>

Also included on this webpage are links to the synopsis of each opera offering, for assistance in selecting an appropriate choice for your school group. Please follow the directions below to register for the 2021-22 season and make your rehearsal request(s). Be sure to read all instructions thoroughly, and complete all sections to the best of your ability.

- Access the online form at <http://www.metguilddeducation.org/AccessOperaReg>
- Input your school and representative information, as prompted. To ensure that we have correct information on file, we ask that you complete all fields as requested.
- Thoroughly review and accept the 2021-22 Covid-19 protocols included on the form.
- Indicate whether you'd like to attend more than one opera this season. You will then select your first, second, and third choices for EACH of your final dress rehearsal attendances this season, as well as the number of tickets you would like for each.
- Calculate your total number of tickets for the season, and the membership and individual ticket totals. Please verify this information is correct before proceeding to the payment section. Remember: you are allotted 35 tickets per class membership, which should include chaperones.
- Input your school's payment method as prompted. Be sure to indicate the name and address to which the invoice should be sent, if different than your own. *We highly recommend requesting exclusively digital invoices this season.*
- Thoroughly review and accept the Final Dress Rehearsal and Membership Cancellation Policy and type your name next to "Signature," which will serve as your agreement to the policy terms.
- Indicate anything else you'd like us to know in the "Notes" section.
- Click "Submit" at the bottom of the page. If you do not click this button, we will not receive your form. Upon receipt, you will receive an email confirmation email that will include a copy of your registration and rehearsal request form. ***Please contact us if you do not receive this email, as it may mean your request has not been received.***

CANCELLATION POLICY

The Metropolitan Guild must be notified of any scheduling conflicts or cancellations at least six weeks in advance of a scheduled rehearsal attendance date. Cancellations that occur less than six weeks prior to the rehearsal WILL NOT be rescheduled, and the membership fee will not be reversed. Upon cancellation, all tickets must be returned to the Guild within five business days. Failure to do so may result in a fine equal to the combined list prices of these tickets and/or restriction on further participation in the Access Opera program.

Should any matter or condition beyond the reasonable control of either party prevent delivery of Access Opera services, such as emergency weather conditions, school closings, school emergencies, and Metropolitan Opera cancellations, this policy may be terminated or suspended.



BEYOND THE STAGE

REPERTOIRE EXPLORATION

This series of five in-class workshops provides students with an introduction to the operatic art form by immersing them in the text, music, and artistic interpretation of the opera they will be attending. Led by a Guild Artist, these interactive sessions are tailored to curriculum goals in collaboration with participating teachers. Students are encouraged to draw connections across subject areas, including literature, social studies, foreign language, and the arts.

Duration: **FIVE 45-MINUTE SESSIONS PER CLASSROOM**
Appropriate for: **GRADE 3 TO COLLEGE**
*Fee: **\$500-600 PER CLASSROOM*** (up to 35 students per classroom)
Minimum 4 classrooms per school. Subsidies may be available for qualifying schools.

**Not including final dress rehearsal ticket cost*

IN-SCHOOL OR ON-SITE WORKSHOPS

The Guild is happy to offer schools participating in the Access Opera program the opportunity to deepen their opera experience through a one-time workshop for students and teachers. These interactive workshops will be led by Guild Artists and/or Staff, and are fully customizable for the age level and opera(s) to be attended. Subjects such as production design, composition, opera history, and voice types are examples of focus points for these workshops. Guild workshop space at Lincoln Center can accommodate up to 50 participants.

Duration: **3-4 HOURS**
Appropriate for: **GRADE 3 TO COLLEGE**
*Fee: **\$400-600 PER WORKSHOP*** (dependent upon location and material)

**Not including final dress rehearsal ticket cost*

BACKSTAGE TOURS

Go behind the scenes for an exclusive look at what it takes to make operatic magic at the Met! Tours offer a fascinating backstage look at one of the world's premiere performing arts organizations, including areas such as the scenic and carpentry shops, rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms, and stage area. Tours are extremely limited this season, and will begin in January 2022. We recommend contacting the Guild as soon as possible for availability. *NO TOURS are available on days of final dress rehearsals. Please call (212) 769-7028 to schedule a group tour or for more information.

Duration: **75 MINUTES**
Appropriate for: **GRADE 3 TO ADULT**
*Fee: **\$25 PER PARTICIPANT (STUDENT GROUP RATE)**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Each year, the Guild offers complimentary professional development courses for Access Opera teachers as part of their school's participation in the program. The Guild is an approved sponsor of CTLE credit hours, and any NYS teacher looking to take advantage of this will be able to do so during all offered PD sessions. Additionally, we are proud to offer courses in conjunction with the NYC DOE's After School Professional Development Program. Discounted rates are available for Access Opera partner teachers who wish to receive P-credits through ASPDP.

To register please visit www.metguildducation.org/AccessOperaReg and complete the form listed under "Professional Development Registration."

COMPLIMENTARY WORKSHOPS

OPERATIC MAGIC AT THE MET

Witnessing the spectacle of grand opera at the Met is truly an incredible experience, but it is only part of the story. Learn all about the various steps in the days, weeks, months and YEARS ahead of a performance that lead to an operatic production taking the stage. In addition to learning about the inner workings of the largest performing arts organization in the world, participants will engage in hands-on activities to familiarize themselves with set and costume design techniques and tools used in opera.

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 2:30pm - 5:30pm

Optional Performance: *La Bohème* (7:00pm)

INTRO TO CONTEMPORARY OPERA: HOW TO LISTEN WITH A MODERN EAR

This season brings a number of premieres and modern works to the Met Opera stage. While many opera-goers feel comfortable taking in Mozart, Puccini, and Bizet, they may be intimidated by the more contemporary music found in the operas of the last century. In this session, Guild Teaching Artist Jessica Santiago will take participants through a brief tour of modern opera, and provide her tips for keeping an open mind (and ears) to new music. Techniques for introducing students to operas such as *Elektra*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Akhnaten* will be explored.

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Optional Performance: *Ariadne auf Naxos* (8:00pm)

DISCOUNTED ASPDP WORKSHOPS

UNLOCKING CURRICULUM WITH CLASSROOM SONGWRITING

In this special 2-part course, we will explore multiple ways to engage student learners in their classroom curriculum through the use of group song composition. Arts-integration tools and techniques will be discussed at length, with a special focus on composing with non-traditional notation and approaches for participants outside the musical disciplines. Day 1 of this workshop, facilitated by special guest Andrea Palma, will focus on creating a musical melody from an existing text. Day 2 will delve into improvisation and musical form, led by Guild Teaching Artist Lauren Scales. Participants will have a chance to create alongside their peers, as well as test out methods for lesson planning and classroom activation. Participants are eligible to receive one P-credit through ASPDP for an additional fee.

Dates: Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:00am - 5:30pm

Saturday, March 26, 2022, 9:00am - 5:30pm

Guild Fee: \$75 for Access Opera partners

ASPDP Fee: \$45 (1 p-credit)

OPERA LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Guild hosts a 5-day intensive workshop each August for participants in all areas of education. For information on participating, please contact Guild staff.

Dates: Monday, August 8, 2022—Friday August 12, 2022

9:00am - 4:00pm

Guild Fee: \$125 for Access Opera partners

ASPDP Fee: \$90 (2 p-credits)

ACCESS OPERA RESOURCES

The Metropolitan Opera Guild is committed to providing quality resources to aid teachers in connecting the opera experience with ongoing classroom instruction. The following are provided as part of Access Opera participation:

A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS & ONLINE RESOURCES

These materials are repertoire-specific, offer valuable background and context, and are intended to help teachers develop their own applications to classroom learning. All digital materials will be made available to participating schools, including a streaming album of each opera, video and libretto materials, as well as other online resources through our new Opera-Based Learning at Home website. Spanish-language materials will be included when available.

OPERA NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

Each Access Opera school is eligible to receive a complimentary digital subscription to OPERA NEWS magazine, a monthly publication that presents interviews, commentary, and the latest news on opera from around the world.

EVENING PERFORMANCE TICKETS

Access Opera schools have the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets through the Metropolitan Opera Guild to select evening performances. This offer is available for student and teacher groups only, and students must be accompanied by adult school representatives. A list of available performances and directions for placing an evening ticket request will be distributed via email in Fall 2022. The cost per ticket is \$42.50 for all performances, and seating is generally in the Orchestra section.

GUILD LECTURE SERIES

Teachers involved in Metropolitan Opera Guild programming have access to special offers for the Guild's lecture series. Lectures are offered in conjunction with the Met Opera season, but also include opportunities during the summer months. Special offers will be emailed to Access Opera participants. For more info about Guild lectures, visit www.metguild.org



The Metropolitan Opera Guild is dedicated to empowering school communities to provide arts learning opportunities for all students. The School Programs staff serves as a resource for supporting your efforts to include opera as a valuable component of ongoing teaching and learning.

Stefanie Izzo, Sr. Mgr. of Education Partnerships
sizzo@operaed.org | (212) 769-7022

Joseph Hudson, Asst. Dir. of School Programs
jhudson@operaed.org | (212) 769-7027

Stuart Holt, Dir. Of School Programs
sholt@operaed.org | (212) 769-7023

Emily McCabe, School Programs Senior Associate
emccabe@operaed.org | (212) 769-7026

Access Opera Rehearsals 2022

The Metropolitan Opera Guild

DATE / TIME	OPERA	RUN TIME	LANGUAGE	GENRE	GOOD FOR OPERA NEWCOMERS?	NEW MET PRODUCTION	AGE LEVEL
Thu, Jan 6 at 10:30AM	MOZART Le Nozze di Figaro	3 hrs, 25 mins	ITALIAN	Social Comedy	✓		ALL AGES
Tue, Mar 15 at 10:30AM	PUCCINI Madama Butterfly	3 hrs, 15 mins	ITALIAN	Romantic Tragedy	✓		MIDDLE SCHOOL +
Tue, Mar 22 at 10:30AM	TCHAIKOVSKY Eugene Onegin	3 hrs, 45 mins	RUSSIAN	Romantic Drama	✓		MIDDLE SCHOOL +
Tue, Mar 29 at 10:30AM	STRAUSS Elektra [#]	1 hr, 45 mins	GERMAN	Mythical Tragedy			HIGH SCHOOL +
Wed, Apr 20 at 10:30AM	DONIZETTI Lucia di Lammermoor	3 hrs, 30 mins	ITALIAN	Romantic Tragedy	✓	✓	MIDDLE SCHOOL +
Mon, May 16 at 10:30AM	PHILIP GLASS Akhnaten	3 hrs, 30 mins	VARIOUS	Mythical History	✓		MIDDLE SCHOOL +
Fri, May 27 at 10:30AM	STRAVINSKY The Rake's Progress [†]	3 hr, 15 mins	ENGLISH	Morality Play			HIGH SCHOOL +

Access Opera: Open Rehearsals for Students is made possible by a generous gift from **Robert and Jane Toll**.

Major sponsorship is provided by **Bank of America**.

Access Opera is produced in cooperation with the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

[†]Contains adult themes and content. Recommended for ages 17+

[#]No intermission

REHEARSAL OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Guild staff is more than happy to recommend operas based on your students' age, experience with opera, and subject areas. Please contact Stefanie Izzo at (212) 769-7022 or sizzo@operaed.org for assistance. Additional detailed info about each opera can be found on our online resource website (see page 9)

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO



Story & Setting: A perennial favorite of opera houses, *Le Nozze di Figaro* follows the household drama, schemes, and romantic entanglements of nobles and servants in a Seville manor estate. The complex plot and interconnected storylines are presented through some of Mozart's most beautiful vocal writing. Sir Richard Eyre's production updates the setting to the 1930s, which creates lovely visual and dramatic parallels for fans of *Downton Abbey*.

Opera Notes: *Le Nozze di Figaro* is based off of Pierre Beaumarchais' farcical trilogy that served as a commentary on 18th Century society. Deemed extremely scandalous in its time, the piece would inspire two of the most famous operas: Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. The latter was the first of three comic opera collaborations between Mozart and librettist Lorenzo da Ponte.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY



Story & Setting: Set in Nagasaki at the turn of the century, *Butterfly* follows the devotion and ultimate demise of the title geisha as she clings to her marriage to an American naval officer. The story is a beautifully tragic commentary on cultural norms and Western imperialism. Anthony Minghella's visually stunning production enhances this opera staple through bright colors and puppetry.

Opera Notes: Puccini's music features lush and colorful harmonies, interspersed with snippets of American themes, but the heroine remains the single driving force of the opera. Her heart-breaking aria, "Un bel dì" makes up just a small part of the role's vocal tour de force. The Italian libretto is based off of John Luther Long's short story and the David Belasco play of the same name.



EUGENE ONEGIN

Story & Setting: Based on the classic Russian novel by Alexander Pushkin, the story follows the unrequited love of naïve young Tatyana for the disillusioned and cynical title character, with tragic consequences. Deborah Warner's Met production pushes the action from Pushkin's 1820s into the late 19th century, around the time of the opera's premiere.

Opera Notes: The thrilling, lyrical music of *Eugene Onegin* proves an excellent showcase for the emotional turmoil of this Russian Romantic-era literary cornerstone. Around the time Tchaikovsky began feverish working on *Onegin*, he received a love letter from a long-forgotten student named Antonia Milyukova, not unlike that sent by Tatyana to Onegin. This served as a major influence when he was composing the opera.

REHEARSAL OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS (continued)



ELEKTRA

Story & Setting: Tales of the Trojan War have inspired composers throughout operatic history, and the tragic story of the mythic House of Atreus appears many times in the Western canon. Strauss' one-act opera derives mainly from the Greek tragedy by Sophocles. The unhinged title character's descent is showcased amid a dark and depression-ridden set design in Patrice Chéreau's 2016 staging.

Opera Notes: Strauss' score, set to an adapted libretto by frequent collaborator Hugo von Hofmannsthal, mixes beautifully lush harmonies with striking dissonances and violent outbursts. The musical language serves to underscore the dual nature of the tempestuous Elektra, and uses a variety of leitmotifs to represent alternating emotions of joy, vengeance, and trauma.



LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

Story & Setting: *Lucia di Lammermoor*, the timeless tragedy of a young woman teetering between love and madness, is based on Sir Walter Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor* and has inspired numerous literary heroines since. Lucia's story unfolds in Victorian Scotland, seen by many on the Continent as the frontier of Europe, at the precipice between old class structures and a new social order.

Opera Notes: Donizetti's story of passion, vengeance, and familial loyalty blends heartbreaking drama with breathtaking vocal acrobatics. The leading soprano's powerhouse role, including the famous mad scene, has made this opera a staple of theatres across the world, and remains a key role for many singers' careers.



AKHNATEN

Story & Setting: Ancient Egypt is brought to brilliantly colored life in Phelim McDermott's modern take on revolutionary pharaoh Akhnaten and his queen Nefertiti. This production creates a mythical, dreamlike version of the tale, with a mixture of ancient imagery with modern spectacle, including a magnificent troupe of jugglers.

Opera Notes: With most information about Akhnaten lost to time, Philip Glass' music is set to a variety of inspirational texts and artifacts in a series of vignettes. Glass' minimalist style, which is known for tiny cells of repeated music, is interspersed with more conventional operatic forms, including a love duet for the ruling pair. The libretto includes text in sung in Ancient Egyptian, Akkadian, Hebrew, and English.



THE RAKE'S PROGRESS

Story & Setting: A series of 18th century paintings served as the inspiration for Stravinsky's opera. After a literal deal with the devil, the title "rake," or man whose life has devolved into debauchery, suffers the consequences of his actions, and his soul is saved only by the true love of his fiancée.

Opera Notes: Dubbed the final opera in Stravinsky's neoclassical period, this work includes form and style influences of Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti, but with far more adventurous harmonies and at times atonal melodies. Stravinsky himself is quoted as saying "Can a composer reuse the past and, at the same time, forge ahead?"