

# THE PEAK PROGRAM — Description

San Francisco Opera's High School program, **PEAK** (**Practicing Everyday Arts Knowledge**) integrates opera's multi-disciplinary characteristics into a cross-subject curriculum, utilizing a specific opera as a prism to explore the connection of a number of subjects to a single artwork. The study of an opera can occur in multiple classrooms in the school through multiple academic disciplines and a centralized theme (e.g. conflict, retaliation, jealousy). In addition to connecting opera to expected subjects (English/Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts and Foreign Languages), more diverse curriculum connections will also be developed (Mathematics, Science, Career Technical Education, Physical Education, and Health Education). The PEAK program includes:

- 1) an **in-school partnership** between educators and an Opera teaching artist of 4 to 12 in-class visits;
- 2) two three-hour professional development (PD) sessions (which include planning);
- 3) planning meetings between the educators and teaching artist during each school visit; and
- 4) access to one **opera** plus one **opera resource** of the Educator's choice (see choices below).

Grades: 8-12

Requirements: 1) A minimum of 1 dedicated educator; a minimum of two classes

2) Educator(s) participate in professional development and planning meetings

Public School Fee: \$250 fee per classroom

Working together with a San Francisco Opera (SFO) Teaching Artist (TA), participating educators develop individual strategies for opera integration through a multi-step **in-school partnership**.

- Teaching artists will co-lead opera instruction in the classroom with the teacher and participate in ongoing planning meetings.
- Teaching artists will act as an ongoing guide for the teachers in classroom integration and fulfilling the selected opera resource.
- Teaching artists have expertise in opera and more than one of these arts: poetry and scriptwriting, composing, directing, visual art design, singing and stage presentation.

Participation in two three-hour **professional development/meeting** (PD) sessions is a part of the program. One PD is focused on the study of the specific opera of your choice. This session includes an introduction to the opera, curriculum connections and a brainstorm session about what to teach your students. Educator materials are provided. The second PD is focused on experiencing and studying the opera resource of your choice.

### THE PEAK PROGRAM - Opera Choices

*The Secret Garden* Dress Rehearsal (grade 3 and up), Wednesday, February 27, 12:30pm, Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved classic of children's literature comes alive in a new opera created for the entire family. A pampered young girl born to privilege finds herself alone in a bleak and unfamiliar land, until she discovers the hidden wonder of an abandoned secret garden.

*Tales of Hoffmann* Dress Rehearsal (grade 4 and up), Sunday, June 2, 2pm, War Memorial Opera House, SF A sensitive poet searches for love and repeatedly finds it lies just beyond his reach in this marvelously melodic masterpiece.

Così Fan Tutte Dress Rehearsal (grade 4 and up), Thursday, June 6, 2:30pm, WMOH

Two young soldiers disguise their identities to test their lovers' fidelity in this Mozart masterpiece, a sublime and sometimes startling mix of hilarious farce and poignant drama.

#### Opera in an Hour Movies

Bring the Opera House into your classroom! "Opera in an Hour" movies are abridged versions of fully staged San Francisco Opera productions filmed live in the War Memorial Opera House. The DVDs come with a wealth of special features to engage your students with the opera, including interviews with the creative staff and performers. Corresponding educational materials connect the opera to your curriculum. Choices include:

- Mozart's *The Magic Flute* from SFO's Fall 2007 production (in English)
- **Donizetti's** *The Elixir of Love* from SFO's Fall 2008 production (in English)
- Puccini's The Girl of the Golden West from SFO's Summer 2010 production (in Italian)
- **Bizet's** *Carmen* from SFO's Fall 2011 production (in English)—to be released Spring 2013

#### THE PEAK PROGRAM—Opera Resources

**Adler Fellows In-School Visit,** February 5-7, 19-20, March 4-5, 18-19 & 21 (apply by Friday, January 18 for a February visit or by Friday, February 15 for a March visit)

SFO's young artists-in-training perform arias and/or duets in a classroom or auditorium. The repertoire can be from the opera the students are studying. They also conduct a discussion with your students on topics ranging from their careers, to how they train their voice, to how they prepare for roles. A tuned piano is required to utilize this resource.

**Costume Design In-School Visit,** March 11, 26, April 15, May 6 & 13 (for grades 4 and up; apply 6 weeks prior to preferred visit date)

A professional costume designer from SFO's Costume Shop displays costumes worn onstage at the Opera House and talks with students about how designing clothes for the opera requires special skills and techniques. The designer can also share tricks of the trade and details about their own careers.

**Scene Shop Tour,** March 11-22 (apply by Friday, February 8)

Personnel from San Francisco Opera's Production Department offer a tour of SFO's Scene Shop, where props and sets are constructed and stored, including a demo of common production techniques.

## SFO Production Staff In-School Visit, April 15-26 (apply by Friday, March 1)

Staff with expertise in visual design from SFO's Scene Shop and Costume Shop talk with students about the visual elements of opera and the special skills and techniques required. The costume designer displays costumes worn onstage at the Opera House and can share tricks of the trade and details about their own careers. Scene Shop staff will advise on the creation and building of sets and props for classroom mini-operas.

#### Other resources to connect opera to your classroom?

You tell us. If you think of another resource that matches your area of study better than the list above, please request it and we will see what we can do (i.e. visit from a Stage Director, visit from members of the SF Opera Chorus, visit from members of the SF Opera Orchestra, visit to the SFO Media Suite, lecturer on the History of Opera, interview with a SFO Marketing staff member).



# THE PEAK PROGRAM - Application

Basic Information:	
SCHOOL:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	
NEIGHBORHOOD:	DISTRICT:
SCHOOL PHONE:	SCHOOL FAX:
PRINCIPAL:	
PEAK CONTACT:  Please choose one person to be the liaison between SFC	and the participating teachers.
CONTACT PHONE:	CONTACT EMAIL:
Application Questions:	
1. Please indicate your choice of opera that your c	class(es)/school will study and see:
The Secret Garden Dress Rehearsal, Wednesday	y, Feb. 27, 12:30pm, Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Tales of Hoffmann Dress Rehearsal, Sunday, Jun	ne 2, 2pm, WMOH
Così Fan Tutte Dress Rehearsal, Thursday, Jun	e 6, 2:30pm, WMOH
Opera in an Hour Movie (apply four weeks pr Indicate opera choice:	
2. Why are your class(es)/school interested in partneri benefit your class(es)/school and fit in with its educ	ing with San Francisco Opera? How could the program ational goals?

institutions in the past? If so, describe what made these partnerships successful, or not.		
4. Please list the teachers who are interes Teacher Name, Grade(s) and Subject, I	1 0	1
a. Name:	Grade(s)/Subject:	No. Students:
Contact phone number:	Contact email address	:
Which opera resource do you select for	r your class?	
b. Name:	Grade(s)/Subject:	No. Students:
Contact phone number:	Contact email address	:
Which opera resource do you select for	your class?	
c. Name:	Grade(s)/Subject:	No. Students:
Contact phone number:	Contact email address	:
Which opera resource do you select for	r your class?	
d. Name:	Grade(s)/Subject:	No. Students:
Contact phone number:	Contact email address	:
Which opera resource do you select for your class?		
Additional teachers can be added onto anoth	er page. Be sure to include all of the	information requested.
5. Please select the number of teaching ar	tist in-class partnership visits (4-1	12):
6. Which possible days of the week are al typically occur on one day a week for up to 5		
7. Our school would like to apply for a scholarship for the Opera ARIA PEAK program:		