

THE
SANTA FE
OPERA



Powerful Engagement: Performing Arts in NM
Presentation to the LESC
9/20/23

BACKGROUND ON THE SANTA FE OPERA

Since its founding in 1957 by the late John Crosby, opera lovers have flocked to the magnificent northern New Mexico mountains every July and August to enjoy live performances in the Santa Fe Opera's dramatic and intimate, 2,200-seat open air, adobe amphitheater, which blends harmoniously with the high desert landscape and makes an indelible impression on all who come. Today, the company is the nation's foremost opera festival. Each season, an audience of up to 85,000 comes to Santa Fe from every state in the nation and more than 35 foreign countries to experience "the Rolls-Royce of American summer opera festivals" as proclaimed by the *Wall Street Journal*. The Santa Fe Opera generates \$250 million in economic activity for the economy of northern New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Opera is widely praised for its innovative repertory and high standards of excellence and its orchestra is recognized internationally for the quality of its playing in a wide-ranging and demanding repertory. Over 64 seasons, Santa Fe has presented 2,000+ performances of 179 different works by 91 composers spanning five centuries of opera, creating a legacy of 45 American premieres and 18 world premieres. In 2016, the Santa Fe Opera won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere for Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*, which premiered here in 2015. The live recording received two GRAMMY nominations. In 2017, Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* premiered here and the live recording received the GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording in 2019. Also in 2019, the Classical Post Awards named Santa Fe the Most Innovative Presenter: Opera. In 2022, the Santa Fe Opera was recognized as Festival of the Year at the International Opera Awards, widely considered the opera field's answer to the Oscars.

Santa Fe was the first American opera company to establish an apprentice training program, first for singers (1957), and then technicians (1965). Over 5,800 Apprentices have benefited from the support of our internationally renowned staff and visiting artists at a critical moment in their technical development. The program has launched many distinguished careers, including singers Larry Brownlee, Joyce DiDonato, Michael Fabiano, Nathan Gunn, and James Morris, and directors Richard Jones, Kevin Newbury, and Laurent Pelly.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Since the Santa Fe Opera's first season in 1957, education has been an integral part of the company's mission. Today, the opera has one of the most distinguished and award-winning education and community engagement programs of any American opera company, bringing enriching arts education opportunities to many underserved and economically disadvantaged New Mexican populations, including public school children, ESL students, seniors and Indigenous populations. Each year, SFO serves up to an additional 55,000 children and adults across the entire State of New Mexico through 26 free or low-cost programs that provide insight into the magical world of opera.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Young participants at the 2019 Opera Makes Sense which was held at the New Mexico Governor's Mansion.

OPERA MAKES SENSE

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGES 3-5

The Santa Fe Opera created Opera Makes Sense for children ages 3 to 5 to explore the world of opera through a variety of activities and games addressing the different developmental needs of toddlers. Children accompanied by a parent or caregiver move from one station to another based upon their personal interest level. Through poetry, songs, music, and dance, with costumes and arts activities related to scenery and props, opera is experienced through the senses.

Typically, Opera Makes Sense takes place at partners organizations across Santa Fe, such as the Santa Fe Children's Museum, the Santa Fe Public Library, and even the New Mexico Governor's Mansion. When state-mandated COVID-restrictions went into place in 2020 coupled with the continued inability of small children to receive vaccinations, the opera moved the program online. Through this virtual counterpart, Opera Makes Sense: Stories that Sing!, the Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera sang arias, read stories, and shared their original artwork for an audience of preschoolers. Videos of the programs from the past several years may be found at the following link:

<https://www.santafeopera.org/community/opera-makes-sense/>

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In 2023, the Opera Makes Sense program remained live-and-in-person in partnership with the Santa Fe Public Library. In outdoor library spaces, the Young Voices read books, shared poems or illustrations and presented a related short performance before closing the program with a sing-along. The 2024 schedule is currently in development and includes the addition of new partners, Placitas Library and the Placitas Artist Series. Performances are scheduled with nap times in mind and designed to suit the attention span of the young children in attendance.

ACTIVE LEARNING THROUGH OPERA (ALTO) - Student Produced Opera FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR TEACHERS



Students from Eagle Ridge Middle School in the Rio Rancho Public Schools district present their original ALTO opera entitled "The Girl in the Mirror" in January 2020.

Creative work involving a range of artistic modalities (creative writing, theater, music, dance, visual arts) is fundamental to the healthy development of the whole child. Since 1993, the Santa Fe Opera's Active Learning Through Opera (ALTO) program has worked directly with educators and students across New Mexico to support the healthy development of the whole child through the arts.

ALTO began as a student-produced opera program, sending teaching artists (TA's) to collaborate with teachers and students across the state to create, rehearse and perform original operas. Students engage with an evolving spiral of challenges fueled by the delight of crafting an original story and share that story with families and students from other schools.

Today, this foundational model remains an integral component of ALTO. To date, ALTO has worked with 2,500+ students on 180+ student-produced opera projects across New Mexico. During the pandemic, ALTO worked remotely with students at 10 schools in Rio Rancho and Albuquerque, writing, rehearsing, and recording original pieces. The work movingly expressed the anxieties and resilience of these young artists.

ACTIVE LEARNING THROUGH OPERA (ALTO) - Arts Integration
FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS



With new research in neurobiology and education informing changes to best practice, ALTO continues to evolve. In 2012, ALTO entered a formal alliance with public school districts in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Rio Rancho to foster arts integrated teaching in all three districts. Through arts integration, ALTO draws on the power of the arts to create meaningful connections with academic content areas. Residencies are co-created with classroom teachers. Since 2012, ALTO has sponsored nearly 200 arts integration residencies in 30 different schools across 5 New Mexico school districts.

Beginning in March of 2020, the ALTO program transitioned to connect online with the teachers and students we support. In addition to leading online arts integration residencies for students throughout the Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS), in January of 2021, ALTO initiated an ambitious expeditionary learning project at EJ Martinez Elementary School in Santa Fe, a school where we are increasingly focusing our resources. Given the tumult of the time, the expedition, which was co-created by ALTO teaching artists and the highly engaged teachers at EJ Martinez, focused on healing, with a specific interest in Curanderismo (or folk healing) in New Mexico. Our intensive work at this school has leveraged new financial support from the SFPS and we plan to continue the work in the 2023-24 school year.





NEW MEXICO ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIVE TEACHING (NMArt) - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOPS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

While whole child development remains our focus, to maximize impact, ALTO now leads professional learning in best practices for

educators. Through ALTO, administrators and teachers from APS, SFPS, RRPS, Taos, Los Alamos, Pojoaque and Pecos have engaged in a range of professional development workshops to help them utilize arts-integrated progressions in the classroom: everything from dancing the water cycle to learning about resonance and sound frequencies while building musical instruments from recycled materials.

Growing and supporting teachers with best practices in whole child development takes more than a 'drive-by arts' experience. ALTO is committed to sustained professional development and staying responsive to the needs of teachers and students. So ALTO expanded residency and professional learning content to include social emotional learning and culturally responsive teaching. Teachers from around the state attend our free summer professional learning conference called PLUNGE. They choose from workshops on arts integration and topics such as "I See a Feeling: Examining SEL Through Illustrations," "Stand Up! Lyric Writing to Build Resilience and Community" and "Conversations and Strategies to Support Culturally Responsive Teaching."

Cristina Gonzalez, Arts Education Coordinator of the Santa Fe Public Schools writes, "The ALTO program is the only district-supported PD program for arts integration that is open to all K-12 teachers across SFPS. With the backdrop of an ever-changing and always-challenging educational landscape, the ALTO program closes teaching and learning gaps in Santa Fe. Teachers and students leave inspired and connected to learning."

Over the course of the last year, ALTO provided 17 online professional development workshops focused on arts integration (with elements of opera), social emotional learning and culturally responsive teaching. These workshops were led by local and national teaching artists and were widely lauded by the teachers who attended. This summer, our PLUNGE professional learning conference for educators will again be hosted in person in late June at the offices of the Rio Rancho Public Schools District. PLUNGE typically draws more than 150 teachers from throughout the state, and we hope this year sees increased attendance as teachers refresh and recharge after a remarkably challenging year.

OPERA STORYTELLERS SUMMER CAMP
FOR CHILDREN ENTERING 3RD THROUGH 8TH GRADES



Teaching artist Rebecca Holmes rehearses a scene with campers from their original opera A Global Warning in 2019.

Opera Storytellers is a musical theater storytelling camp for children entering grades 3 through 6 in the 2023-24 school year. Campers develop an original work using their voices, bodies and imaginations while expanding their individual potential through creative exploration and discovery.

The program went virtual in 2020, but we took a hiatus in the summer of 2021 after we learned that both parents and students felt the need for a break from continuous online engagement. In 2022, the Opera Storytellers Summer Camp returned in person in partnership with the UNM Music Prep School. In 2023, once again in partnership with the UNM Music Prep School, two summer camps were offered. The first took place on the campus of the Santa Fe Opera from June 5-9, 2023. The second was held at the UNM Center for the Arts (Popejoy Hall) in Albuquerque from June 26-30, 2023. The camp fee is \$325 per child. A limited number of scholarships are available thanks to funding from the Hankins Foundation and Music in Corrales.

On April 6, 2022, KOB 4 Eyewitness News ran a spot on the Opera Storytellers Summer Camp. The full video can still be viewed at the following link:

YOUTH NIGHTS AT THE OPERA

FOR YOUTH GROUPS



Youth Night attendees acting out Act Two of Puccini's La bohème at the June 24, 2019 presentation of "3, 2, 1... Opera!"

Since 1959, youth groups have attended final dress rehearsals of age-appropriate mainstage productions each season. Since its inception, Youth Nights have introduced more than 100,000 children to opera.

Organized in coordination with the five Guilds of the Santa Fe Opera, more than 75 volunteers organize coach buses to transport attendees from their communities to the event, and then chaperone and serve as hosts at the opera during the performances, assisting with pre-performance educational activities, distributing flyers, offering refreshments and monitoring the theatre.

Prior to each performance, youth attend interactive educational presentations called "3, 2, 1... Opera!" led by the amusing and engaging music educator Oliver Prezant, where they act out key story elements using costumes and props and, through singing, learn key musical moments.

In the 2023 Season, two operas were offered through Youth Nights:

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Dvořák's Rusalka

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Monteverdi's Orfeo

The program is offered entirely free-of-charge and often includes transportation.

YOUNG VOICES

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9–12



Members of the Young Voices with New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham at The Governor's Mansion where they performed for the Opera Makes Sense program held on June 29, 2019.

An audition-based mastery program for students in high school grades 9-12 who are at least 14 years of age, the Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera program provides singing lessons, music and diction coaching, master classes and public performance opportunities for young aspiring singers. Participants attend concerts, dress rehearsals and programs that foster an understanding and appreciation of operatic singing. Instruction is provided free-of-charge by Santa Fe Opera artists and music staff. Lessons and coaching sessions are held in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and students receive career counseling, college application assistance and college scholarship opportunities.

Over its 16-year history, 100% of the participating students obtained grade promotions, and 100% of former Young Voices have graduated high school. This graduation rate is an extraordinary achievement in New Mexico, which has the lowest graduation rate of any state in the nation (73.9%), according to the *2021 Building a Grad Nation Report*. Even more remarkably, all former Young Voices elected to further their education with a college degree, with an overwhelming majority choosing to pursue a degree in the fine arts (music, theatre, film and/or creative writing) and more than half choosing to major in music. Six students (6%) have been the first in their families to attend college.

In 2020, the program became virtual in nature, with instruction provided over Zoom and in the case of one student without access to a computer or smartphone, over the telephone. In 2022, for the first time in two years, the Young Voices once again began to move out into the community and continues to do so this past year.

This summer, the Young Voices attended final dress rehearsals of all five operas in the Santa Fe Opera's 2023 Season, and orientation was held on the evening of the first Apprentice Scenes. Lydia Grindatto, 2023 Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Singer and former Young Voice, was the guest of honor. This fall Amy Owens steps fully into the role as Director. Amy is a former Apprentice Singer and sang the title role in the Opera for All Voices production of *Sweet Potato Kicks the Sun*. In the coming year we will build on the successes of working with faculty of the University of New Mexico's Departments of Music and Theatre & Dance and faculty and students from Florida International University with whom Young Voices performed before a standing-room only audience this past spring.

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Caroling

Young Voices caroled at the Governor's mansion on December 16, 2022 and they all shook hands with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. On December 17, they sang a private performance for residents of El Castillo Retirement Community and publicly at Iconik Coffee Roasters to a standing-room-only audience.

FIU Residency

We hosted a residency with students from the vocal and string departments of Florida International University, which resulted in a rich community and cultural exchange. The residency culminated in a concert at St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art on March 4, 2023, which was well-attended and warmly received by the community. We plan to do it again next year.

Santa Fe Opera Guild Events

- The Los Alamos and Española Valley Opera Guilds presented four members of the Young Voices in concert at Fuller Lodge on March 19, 2023;
- The Albuquerque Guild will host Italian Night on April 18, 2023 at the Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown. Italian Night was originally conceived in 2008 with Kathleen Clawson, and they plan to acknowledge her and the growth of the event this year. The James E. Hesse scholarship will be awarded by the Guild to graduating senior Gabriel Boston-Friedman, who has been in the program for 4 years and will be studying vocal performance in college.

Final Concert

The Young Voices held their final concert at St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art on April 30, 2023, bringing together the combined forces of the Young Technicians and Young Voices as they collaborated on a scenes program involving props and costume pieces from the Santa Fe Opera production department. The program takes inspiration from the company's much loved Apprentice Showcase Scenes program.

YOUNG TECHNICIANS

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9–12

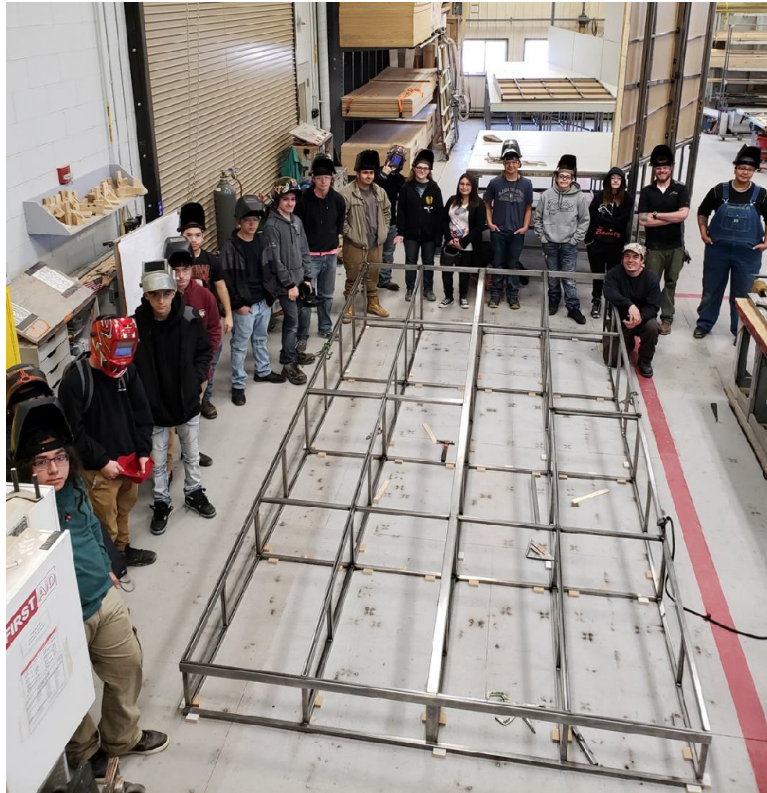
Now in its eighth year, the Young Technicians program serves as a counterpoint to the Young Voices program. It is designed to acquaint high school students with the many aspects of technical theatre employed in opera productions and the process used by creative teams to take a score/libretto from the page to the stage. Areas addressed include scenic construction and painting, lighting and projections, properties, costuming and stage management, along with understanding the aesthetic issues in performance planning, design, preparation, realization and management of the production. The hands-on studio and production program consists of after-school workshops, weekend intensives and summer opportunities taught by opera staff, visiting technical professionals, instructors and mentors.

The program ground to halt in Spring 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic closed schools and led to the cancellation of the Santa Fe Opera's 2020 Summer Festival Season. With summer opportunities cancelled and the production studios closed to non-staff, in the 2020-21 school year, the program could only offer online seminars in stage management and lighting presented by Los Angeles Opera's Tech Academy and a meeting with national members of Opera America's Teen Council.

Although there was hope in-person sessions for Young Technicians could resume in the fall of 2021, the Delta and Omicron variants changed that plan, and instead, a new series of afterschool workshops were

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presented via Zoom. These included a props craft workshop, an introduction to costume design, drawing



Students from the Early College Opportunities High School in Santa Fe built a portion of the raked deck for our 2019 Season production of Janáček's Jenůfa.

and rendering for theater and an introduction to the audio studio, covering the sound board and how audio technicians work.

The Young Technicians program returned to in-person classes in the opera's production studios in the 2022-23 school year. Workshops in areas that were impossible to provide via online classes such as an Intro to the Scene Shop were prioritized to kick off the schedule. Twenty youth from seven area high schools, an Oxford Distance Learning Program and a homeschooled student attended the sessions.

Other innovations in programming were introduced. A collaboration between the Young Technicians Program and the Lensic Performing Arts Center's Technical Internship Program was established in February 2023. Students from both programs were invited to attend workshop sessions scheduled by either program thus expanding the learning opportunities. The opera program offered more hands-on making sessions in areas like props, scenic painting, and costuming while the Lensic, as a roadhouse, provided skill-building in setting lights, working with sound and projection equipment, areas of technical theater work not available to the opera's Young Technicians during the school year. The program also added classes on Creating Projections using *Orfeo*, an opera in the 2023 season, as the theme for the imagery developed. Students from both programs will be able to attend the Youth Nights presentation of this opera to see how the professional design teams approached the visuals.

The Community Engagement staff proposed the Young Technicians find a way to work with the opera's Young Voices vocal training program. A collaboration resulted providing training for a select Young Techs stage crew to oversee the use of props and costume elements for the Young Voices Final Concert, adding

to the visual effects of the performance while providing additional training experiences for the Young Techs.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

OPERA FOR ALL VOICES: STORIES OF OUR TIME

FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES

Initially created through a consortium of seven American opera companies led by the Santa Fe Opera, the Opera for All Voices: Stories of Our Time (OFAV) initiative commissions and produces new American operatic works that are flexible in scope and scale, with the potential to be performed in smaller venues and off the main stage, while striving for rich storytelling, artistic integrity and social impact. OFAV is committed to representing diverse voices through its stories, creators, artists and audiences.

To date, Opera for All Voices has commissioned four new works that embody the spirit of the initiative. The first work was *Sweet Potato Kicks the Sun* by Augusta Read Thomas which premiered in Santa Fe at the Lensic Center for the Performing Arts on October 26, 2019. The sold-out performance received critical and audience acclaim. The second commission, *Hometown to the World*, composed by Laura Kaminsky to a libretto by Kimberly Reed premiered at the Lensic in December 2021. *Broadway World* wrote, "*Hometown to the World* is a critical piece of contemporary opera that seeks to create greater awareness thoughtful dialogue and insightful responses as the many issues surrounding immigration, economic viability and cultural cohesion are at the center of national discourse." In October 2022, composer Chandler Carter and librettist Diana Solomon-Glover's *This Little Light of Mine* enjoyed its world premiere in Santa Fe at the Lensic Center for the Performing Arts on October 28, 2022. The one-act opera dramatizes the story of Fannie Lou Hamer, a former sharecropper who rose to national prominence at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Next up will be composer David Hanlon and librettist Stephanie Fleischmann's *The Pigeon Keeper*, which will premiere in Santa Fe in the fall of 2024, pending funding. A fable for now, this magic-realist tale explores the myriad ways we respond to "the other" in the face of today's mass migrations—and celebrates the kindness of strangers, the power of human connection, and the unexpected places we find home—and family. In March of 2024 the University of Michigan School of Theatre, Music, and Dance will present an orchestral workshop of the piece.

FAMILY NIGHTS

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Through our Family Nights program, introduced in 2011, the Santa Fe Opera encourages families with children to attend our mainstage performances through the provision of specially priced tickets, ensuring that cost does not serve as a barrier to attending the opera with children. Attendees receive a custom program and other enhancements to enrich understanding and enjoyment of the opera. Tickets for youth (ages 6-22) are \$15 and tickets for the first two adults are \$30 apiece. Any additional adult tickets are \$50 each.

Family Nights for the 2023 Season were offered on the following evenings:

Wednesday, July 13, 2022	Rossini's <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
Friday, July 22, 2022	Bizet's <i>Carmen</i>
Tuesday, August 16, 2022	Verdi's <i>Falstaff</i>
Friday, August 19, 2022	Wagner's <i>Tristan und Isolde</i>
Wednesday, August 24, 2022	Huang Ruo's <i>M. Butterfly</i>

In the 2022 Season, a total of 413 adults and 368 youth took advantage of our Family Nights program.

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Which performance evenings will be a part of the Family Nights program in the 2024 Season is currently under discussion. Typically, at least one performance of each production is designated a Family Night.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

PUEBLO OPERA PROGRAM

FOR NEW MEXICO'S FIRST PEOPLES



Youth from Sandia Pueblo at the July 9, 2019 POP dinner held prior to the Youth Night performance of Mozart's Cosi fan tutte.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2023, the Pueblo Opera Program forges strong connections between the opera and New Mexico's 23 Indigenous Nations. The program's hallmark is an exchange of culture: opera is a specific culture with distinct traditions and the pueblos and reservations have a very rich and deep tradition of storytelling and music, providing a common language and place to begin. An advisory council comprised of past participants and elders from participating pueblos and reservations guides the program, and each nation has its own volunteer coordinator. The pueblos attend all Youth Nights, and prior to the performance, they are served a healthy and nutritious meal in the Cantina from program sponsor Omaha Steaks. Given some nations are two to three hours away, the opera provides free round-trip transportation via coach. The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities recognized POP as an exemplary arts & humanities program for at-risk children and youth in its 1996 publication, *Coming Up Taller*. Since its inception, the program has benefited over 120,000 children and their families.

SPRING TOUR

FOR GROUPS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN (LARGELY K-5) AND GENERAL AUDIENCES

For more than a quarter century, the Santa Fe Opera's Spring Tour has travelled to rural and urban communities across New Mexico, Colorado and West Texas, presenting some of the opera's finest young Apprentice Singers in fully staged and costumed one-act operas and concert programs. Busloads of public schoolchildren attend daytime performances and general audiences attend evening and weekend performances at local professional theaters. Unfortunately, the Spring Tour had to be cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, we were thrilled to bring back a truncated version of our Spring Tour, travelling to the communities of Truth or Consequences and Roswell. The program featured the following:

"One Device" from *THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS*

Mason Bates

THE TELEPHONE

Gian Carlo Menotti

Sung in English

Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm

Ralph Edwards Civic Center

400 W 4th St, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901

Saturday, April 15 at 4 pm

Anderson Museum

409 E College Blvd, Roswell, NM 88201

Amy Owens, soprano

Theo Hoffman, baritone

Nathan Salazar, pianist

Zoe Lesser, Stage Director

Sarah Greenlee, Tour Manager

These events were completely free of charge and no tickets or reservations were required.

Synopsis of Menotti's *THE TELEPHONE*

Two lovers, Ben and Lucy, squeeze in some supposed quality time together before Ben catches a train. He expresses how much he cares about her—preparing to ask for her hand in marriage—when each time he gets close, he's interrupted by the ringing telephone. Lucy answers and eagerly listens to the mundane details of the caller's life, demonstrating more investment in conversation over the phone than in one right before her. When she hangs up Ben re-gathers the courage to propose to her, only to be interrupted again by the phone ringing. The delightful irony of the opera lies in its ending—how Ben

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leaves and calls Lucy on a pay phone and only then, can he hold her attention long enough to ask her to marry him.

OPERA IN THE PARK

FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES

In the 2021 Season, when we anticipated seating capacity of 25% in our theatre due to state-mandated social-distancing requirements, the opera invested in technology to simulcast all performances into the lower parking lot onto two state-of-the-art LED video walls. Our parking lot is a destination with magnificent sweeping views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and tailgating is a uniquely Santa Fe Opera experience, with many patrons delighting in picnic dinners prior to performances. Thus, enjoying a simulcast in our parking lot was a natural evolution of a beloved tradition that allowed our patrons to experience live opera from the safety of their cars while still feeling connected to each other and the beautiful outdoor setting that makes our theater so special.

In addition to serving our local community, the simulcast allowed us to invite children and young people, including members of our Pueblo Opera Program, to attend simulcast dress rehearsals safely and free of charge. Additionally, the investment in technology provided the opera with a long-term benefit: the tools to develop online content and the beginnings of a video library that we can share online with our international audiences well into the future.

Also, the technology and recordings allowed the Santa Fe Opera to create a new Opera in the Park initiative, providing free screenings of filmed productions from our 2021 and 2022 Seasons in both Santa Fe and Albuquerque as part of our ongoing commitment to bring the joy of opera to communities across New Mexico.

Festivities kick off with performances by local youth talent, which have included the Maa-Tuu Dance Group, the Erik Fender Dance Group from San Ildefonso Pueblo, Theo Kutsko, the Choral Arts Society of St. Michael's High School, and students from the University of New Mexico Opera Studio. The productions are shown on 300-square-foot LED walls, thus providing attendees with a state-of-the-art viewing experience, with sound broadcast via outdoor speakers.



Opera in the Park's free screening of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin at Villa Linda Park in Santa Fe on August 2, 2021.

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In the summer of 2023, the Santa Fe Opera is pleased to continue its Opera in the Park series with a presentation of the new production of *Rusalka* on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at Railyard Park in Santa Fe. We are pleased to be working with Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation for the first time and, again, with the City of Santa Fe. In future years, with adequate advance funding, we hope to expand the program to other communities, including Los Alamos, Española and Taos.

OPERA TOURS

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



The Santa Fe Opera is proud to share its expansive facilities with the public through comprehensive behind-the-scenes tours of our production facilities, front-of-house areas and expansive grounds.

Backstage Tours

In 2023, Backstage Tours return! They will take place Monday through Saturday at 9:00 AM during June, July and August. Tours are \$10 for adults and free-of-charge to youth (ages 6-22) and provide an exciting behind-the-scenes tour of how productions are built and staged at the Santa Fe Opera.

Virtual Tour

Due to COVID safe practices and the closure of our campus to the public in both 2020 and 2021, the opera was unable to share its expansive facilities. So, in late 2020, the company produced a virtual behind-the-scenes tour of the campus, backstage and front-of-house areas. The virtual tour enables viewers from around the world to experience a behind-the-scenes look at the Santa Fe Opera and its

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beautiful setting, providing access to parts of the campus not typically seen by visitors. Three segments have been released to date, including an introduction to the company and its history narrated by Robert Redford; a tour of the Costume Shop narrated by Taos Pueblo native and former Santa Fe Opera technical apprentice Patricia Michaels (best known for her time on *Project Runway*); and an introduction to our theatre and stage by Chief Artistic Officer David Lomelí, who performed on our stage during his singing career. The tour is available on the opera's website, YouTube, and social channels. We are planning two additional segments on our Apprentice Program for Singers and our Apprentice Program for Technicians.

ADULT LEARNING

PRELUDE TALKS

During the 2023 Season the opera continued to offer pre-performance Prelude Talks given by our engaging and knowledgeable guest lecturers. Prelude Talks, which are free-of-charge to all ticket holders, provide a metaphorical road map to the evening's performance, exploring each work's origins, plot and thematic elements, musical motifs and the creative vision of our talented directors and designers who bring the opera to life. Two thirty-minute talks are given pre-performance in Stieren Orchestra Hall. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Prelude Talks are not offered on opening night of the season or prior to the two Apprentice Scenes evenings held in mid-August.

OPERA LIVE!

This new series led by Oliver Prezant at venues in Albuquerque and Santa Fe contextualizes and broadens understanding of each opera of the 2023 festival season. Since 2012, Prezant's fun and informative presentations have historically explored different operatic conventions, examined through the lens of each of the current season's five operas. OPERA LIVE! will be back for the 2024 season.

OPERA INSIGHT

Opera Insight is a digital series that embraces universal themes that speak to each of us as audience members, from the opera curious to seasoned opera enthusiasts. These presentations offer a psychological exploration of some of opera's greatest masterworks and celebrate the joy the operatic artform can bring to all of us.

REPERTORY-RELATED PRESENTATIONS & PERFORMANCES

Each season, in conjunction with our summer festival season, the Santa Fe Opera Community Engagement team undertakes a myriad of activities related to the composers and productions in our summer festival season. These range from book clubs to chamber concerts, from stand-alone exhibitions and film series to individual lectures, panel discussions and symposia related to the operas and productions in each season. For instance, in conjunction with the 2017 world premiere of Mason Bates's *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* and the 2018 company premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*, the opera launched a two-year "Tech and the West" multi-element, multi-partner initiative that explored the themes of these two contemporary American operas. Last summer, the Santa Fe Opera presented two chamber concerts in partnership with Chatter: Music Worth Talking About that featured the music of Huang Ruo, whose opera *M. Butterfly* enjoyed its world premiere in our 2022 Season.

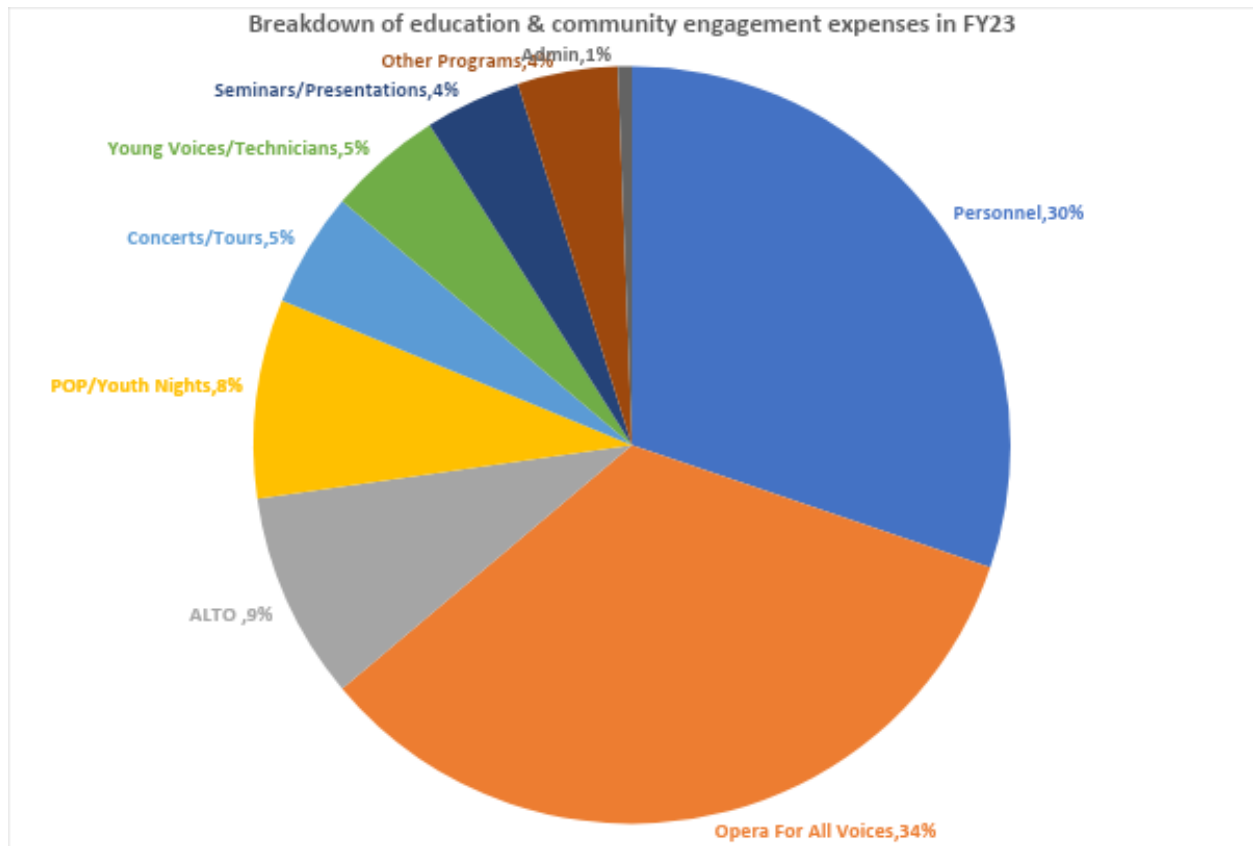
In the 2023 Season, our repertory-related programming will feature the Del Sol Sting Quartet performing the chamber music of composer Nico Muhly, one of today's most sought-after composers whose re-orchestration of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* will enjoy its world premiere in the 2023 Season. One of the

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featured works will be *Stranger* for tenor and string quartet. *Opera News* called the piece “an insightful, thought-provoking exploration of otherness, identity and humanity.” Additionally, considering last season’s company premiere of *Tristan und Isolde* and this season’s new production of *The Flying Dutchman*, the Santa Fe Opera invited Maestro Thomas Guggeis in conversation with Jennifer Rhodes for what resulted in an intellectually rigorous and engaging presentation. Both events were held at SITE Santa Fe.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPENSES

In Fiscal Year 2023, education and community engagement expenses exceed \$1.5 million, broken down as follows:



For more information on Community Engagement with the Santa Fe Opera, please contact Charles Gamble, SFO Director of School Programs. cgamble@santafeopera.org