



# Student Dress Rehearsals

**2019-2020 PROGRAM GUIDE**

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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Going beyond the ordinary field trip experience, Student Dress Rehearsals at Opera Omaha offer students a deep, meaningful encounter with many of the elements that bring the productions to the stage and a chance to see how a show is fine-tuned while watching many of the professional artists, technicians and managers in action. People attending the dress rehearsal performance are there by special invitation. Some are coming for the first time and some are serious opera connoisseurs. We are privileged to be able to offer our students and chaperones this amazing opportunity for free. We hope this guide will help you prepare so you and your group feel right at home.

## ABOUT THE OPERAS

For the 2019-2020 Season, Opera Omaha is offering Student Dress Rehearsals for ***Madama Butterfly***, ***The Abduction from the Seraglio***, and ***The Capulets and the Montagues***.

***Madama Butterfly*** is one of the most beloved opera in the repertoire. Local visual artist Jun Kaneko's world-famous and critically acclaimed production of Puccini's opera returns to Opera Omaha.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 | *Sung in Italian with English supertitles* | Revival

***The Abduction from the Seraglio*** is filled with glorious melodies and spectacular musical fireworks that only Mozart could write. This new production gives the exotic setting of this opera a Twentieth Century twist.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 | *Sung in German with English supertitles* | New Production

***The Capulets and the Montagues*** is a captivating Italian opera by Bellini. Beautiful melodies embody the heart-breaking drama of the same early fable that inspired Shakespeare's most famous play, *Romeo & Juliet*.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | *Sung in Italian with English supertitles* | New Production

## WHAT IS A WORKING DRESS REHEARSAL?

Whether an opera is a new production or a revival, each of these Opera Omaha productions is created and customized for the stage of the Orpheum Theater. While each department works independently to learn and produce their aspect of the show, it takes tremendous coordination to run through the show with everyone involved.

The final working dress rehearsal is the last time all elements of the production are brought together before the opening night performance, and the final opportunity for the staff and cast to make adjustments to the on-stage performances, orchestration, sets, costumes, lighting and other technical aspects of the opera. Dress rehearsals are a great opportunity for students to experience an opera performance and see artisans at work before the show opens to the public.

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## REPRESENTATIVE EXPECTATIONS

Each participating school must designate a teacher representative to serve as a liaison to Opera Omaha. The Opera Omaha staff will work directly with this individual to coordinate and communicate all aspects of program participation. Representatives are expected to do the following:

- Maintain communication with Opera Omaha staff regarding the Student Dress Rehearsal program.
- Notify the Opera Omaha staff of any changes in school or representative status.
- Attend the dress rehearsal, sitting with and supervising students.
- Be responsible for the behavior and welfare of students at all times while inside the Orpheum Theater.
- Select capable parent/teacher chaperones and clearly communicate program expectations to them. One adult chaperone per every 10 students in attendance is required, regardless of the age/grade of students.
- Complete and submit the post-dress rehearsal reflection form, to be distributed by the Opera Omaha Staff following the event.

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## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As participants in the Student Dress Rehearsal program, students, teachers, administrators, parents and other members of the school community are part of a group of up to 500 individuals who will be attending Opera Omaha's dress rehearsal. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure a meaningful experience for all involved.

### REGISTRATION

Reservations must be made by teachers or program staff who will be accompanying students. Teachers should register students online: <https://forms.gle/CSkkVw8iwzgQ9Kf37>. Registration will be confirmed by an email from Opera Omaha.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Registration for all Student Dress Rehearsals opens May 2019.

Registration closes 2 weeks prior to each dress rehearsal date. *Madama Butterfly* registration closes on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, *The Abduction from the Seraglio* registration closes on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, and *The Capulets and the Montagues* registration closes on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY & CANCELLATIONS

Opera Omaha Staff must be notified of any scheduling conflicts or cancellations at least 48 hours in advance of their scheduled rehearsal attendance.

Additionally, please be realistic about the number of tickets you request. If significantly more tickets are requested than used, you may not be invited to apply for other Student Dress Rehearsals at Opera Omaha. While Opera Omaha is not in the practice of terminating partnerships with schools, failure to comply with the outlined rules and responsibilities may result in a limiting of future participation.

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## RESOURCES

### STUDY GUIDE

Opera Omaha prepares a study guide for each Student Dress Rehearsal, which includes information about attending an opera and the production, discussion questions, and a list of additional resources. The study guide is sent to teachers approximately one month in advance of the Student Dress Rehearsal.

### ARTIST VISITS

Opera Omaha will offer artist visits in advance of the *Madama Butterfly* Student Dress Rehearsal during the week of October 1-5, 2019. If you are interested in an artist from the production visiting with your students, indicate that on your reservation and you will be contacted by a member of the Opera Omaha staff. *Spaces are limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.*

### PRELUDE TALKS

Prior to each Student Dress Rehearsal there is a Prelude talk in the balcony. These 20-minute talks give student audiences extra insight into the opera they are about to experience with information about the story, music, history and more.

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## VISITING OPERA OMAHA AT THE ORPHEUM

Below you will find details about your upcoming visit to Opera Omaha at the Orpheum Theater. Please read them carefully as we address many of the concerns or special circumstances you may have. It is important to also review and follow the Representative Expectations (listed on page 4).

### TIMING

#### ***Madama Butterfly***

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Arrival 6pm

Performance 7 – 9:15pm

#### ***The Abduction from the Seraglio***

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Arrival 6pm

Performance 7 – 9:10pm

#### ***The Capulets and the Montagues***

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Arrival 6pm

Performance 7 – 9:30pm

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## ARRIVING

- Groups are expected to arrive in the lobby area of the Orpheum Theater **at 6pm.**
- **Travelling by Bus** – Buses will unload on South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the Orpheum Theater. Bus parking is available on South 15<sup>th</sup> Street in the back of the theater. This parking is based on first come, first serve. Ultimately, your driver may have to drop off and return for pickup. Buses picking up at the end of the opera should return 30-minutes before the opera concludes to allow enough time to safely park the bus and prepare to load. Buses will not be allowed to park on South 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Travelling by Car** – If travelling by car, there is metered parking available around the theater. Alternatively, you may park in the Omaha-Park Two parking garage on Harney Street, between S. 13<sup>th</sup> and S. 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. There is a \$2.00 hourly rate per vehicle for parking.
- When you arrive at the Orpheum Theater, please send a representative to check-in at the Education table in the lobby area. An Opera Omaha representative will confirm your group's attendance before you proceed into the main area of the house. **Latecomers will not be allowed inside the auditorium until intermission.**
- Large groups should wait outside the Orpheum Theater (weather permitting) until congestion in the lobby is relieved.
- Security requires the check of all bags upon entering the theater. To speed up this process we recommend students leave bags on the bus.
- All tickets for the Student Dress Rehearsal at Opera Omaha will be in the balcony section of the theater. Upon check-in, an Opera Omaha Staff member will notify you which side of the theater you are seated. Once you arrive at the balcony level, an usher will be there to direct you to your seating area.
- One adult chaperone per every 10 students in attendance is required, regardless of the age/grade of students. Please be sure that chaperone seats are evenly dispersed amongst students.

## WHAT TO WEAR

- You can dress up or down, but make sure what you're wearing makes YOU feel comfortable. Going to the opera can be a fun occasion to dress up. Think of your "Sunday best", or perhaps something you would wear when visiting your relatives for a holiday, or a special occasion.

## DURING THE REHEARSAL

- 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 to re-enter until intermission.

## FOOD

- Unfortunately, we are unable to provide food at the Orpheum. Food is also not allowed in the main theater space.

## DEPARTING

- In scheduling transportation back to your school, allow at least 30 minutes leeway in the length of the performance. As these are 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 Opera Omaha staff prior to the rehearsal.

## SPECIAL REQUESTS

- Please let us know if you have any requests to make the experience more accessible for your students including special seating arrangements for those with physical challenges.
- Contact Opera Omaha Director of Engagement Programs Lauren Medici at 402-346-7372 or [lmedici@operaomaha.org](mailto:lmedici@operaomaha.org) for assistance.

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## OPERA OMAHA STAFF CONTACT

Opera Omaha's Community Programs offer a wide variety of opportunities that go beyond the main stage productions. Whether diving deeper into the opera, opening a door to view opera from a new perspective, or introducing opera to new audiences, our engagement programs strive to make opera accessible to everyone.

Opera Omaha is dedicated to empowering school communities to provide arts learning opportunities for all students. The Student Dress Rehearsals at Opera Omaha serve as a resource for supporting your efforts to include opera as a valuable component of ongoing teaching and learning.

If you have questions or suggestions about how we could make the Student Dress Rehearsals or opera more engaging for your students, please let us know!

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