



# Student Dress Rehearsals

**2018-2019 PROGRAM GUIDE**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM	
Student Dress Rehearsals at Opera Omaha	3
What is a working dress rehearsal?	3
About the Operas	4
REPRESENTATIVE EXPECTATIONS	4
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	5
Materials Distribution Timeline	
Attendance Policy	
VISITING OPERA OMAHA	
Timing	6
Arrival	6
What to wear	7
During the Rehearsal	7
Food	8
Departure	8
Cancellations/special requests	8
Registration	8
OPERA OMAHA STAFF CONTACT	8

## 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. An opera audience observes certain conventions, and we hope this guide will help you prepare so you and your group feel right at home.

### ABOUT THE OPERAS

For the 2018-2019 Season, Opera Omaha is offering Student Dress Rehearsals for *Pagliacci* on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 and *The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)* on Wednesday, February 13, 2019.

*Pagliacci* is a quintessential Italian verismo opera featuring one of the most famous tenor arias of all times. Passion, jealousy, and rage collide for Nedda and her husband Canio, leaders of a troupe of traveling street performers. The love triangle they enact on stage is, for them, all too real and all too deadly. *Pagliacci* is recommended for high school and college students since some material may be inappropriate for middle school students.

*The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)* is Donizetti's most popular glittering bel canto operas. Hapless and hopelessly in love, Nemorino idolizes the beautiful and popular Adina. To win her heart he spends everything he has to buy a "love potion" from the dubious Dulcamara. Director Rosetta Cucchi's production updates this light-hearted romantic comedy to an American High School circa 1980. *The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)* is recommended for all ages.

### WHAT IS A WORKING DRESS REHEARSAL?

Whether an opera is a new production or a revival, each Opera Omaha production must be adjusted 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. When you attend a dress rehearsal you will see some of the artistic, production and administrative staff stationed behind computers and other equipment in the seats in front of the orchestra. Occasionally they may stop the performance to give notes to the singers, coordinate with the orchestra conductor, or address a staging or technical concern.

Another characteristic of a working dress rehearsal is that the singers sometimes “mark” portions of their vocal parts. This means the singer may not sing out completely through the entire rehearsal. This could be because he or she wants to preserve his/her voice for opening night. In most cases, however, if the dress rehearsal is open to the public, the singers treat the occasion as a performance for the audience present.

## 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:

- 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.
- 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.

# 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 500 individuals who will be attending Opera Omaha's dress rehearsal. A study guide will be provided, and policies and procedures are in place to ensure a meaningful experience for all involved.

## MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION TIMELINE

- **Monday, September 5, 2018:** Registration Opens
- **One Month Prior to Dress Rehearsal-** Study Guide Sent to Teachers
- **Wednesday, October 3, 2018-** *Pagliacci* Registration Closes
- **Wednesday, October 17, 2018-** *Pagliacci* Dress Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, January 30, 2019-** *The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)* Registration Closes
- **Wednesday, February 13, 2019-** *The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)* Dress Rehearsal

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Opera Omaha Staff must be notified of any scheduling conflicts or cancellations at least 48 hours in advance of their scheduled rehearsal attendance. It is imperative that all student, teachers, administrators, parents, and other members of the school community are familiar with the Orpheum Theater's House Rules and Responsibilities (listed under "Visiting Opera Omaha" on page 6) prior to visiting the theater.

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.

## VISITING OPERA OMAHA

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

#### *Pagliacci*

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

7:00 – 8:15 pm

Approximate 75 minutes

(no intermission)

#### *The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)*

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

7:00 – 9:40 pm

Approximate 2 hours and 20 min

(20 min intermission)

### ARRIVING

- Groups are expected to arrive in the lobby area of the Orpheum Theater **no later than one hour** prior to the start of the rehearsal. This will give you enough time to park and walk to the theater and get settled in your seats. Dress rehearsals are in the evening, typically starting at 7:00pm, time will be confirmed by Opera Omaha staff.
- **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.
- **Traveling by Car** – If travelling by car, there is metered parking available around the theater. Alternatively, you may park at 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 after intermission.**

- Large groups should wait outside the Orpheum Theater (weather permitting) until congestion in the lobby is relieved.
- All tickets for the Student Dress Rehearsal at Opera Omaha will be seated 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 and on the correct side, 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.
- A 20 minute Prelude Talk will begin in the balcony approximately 30 minutes before the dress rehearsal begins and offer insights into the opera including the story, history, music and more.

## WHAT TO WEAR

- You can dress up or down, but make sure you wear something that makes YOU feel comfortable. Most opera-goers you'll see will be wearing business attire. Think of your "Sunday best" or perhaps something you would wear when visiting your relatives for a holiday.

## DURING THE REHEARSAL

- 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 to re-enter until intermission.

## FOOD

- Unfortunately, we are unable to provide food for our guests at this time. 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.

## CANCELLATIONS/SPECIAL REQUESTS

- Any changes in a school's attendance status should be communicated to Opera Omaha immediately, and no less than 48 hours before your scheduled attendance.
- We will make special seating arrangements for those with physical challenges. Contact Opera Omaha Engagement Programs Manager Lauren Medici at 402-346-7372 or [lmedici@operaomaha.org](mailto:lmedici@operaomaha.org) for assistance.

## REGISTRATION

- Register your students online: <https://goo.gl/forms/sIKlpJJfjCdyhoMa2>

## OPERA OMAHA STAFF CONTACT

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.

Rebecca Ihnen | [rihnen@operaomaha.org](mailto:rihnen@operaomaha.org) | (402) 346-7372