



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences  
Arts for Learning network



# Introduction to Opera

## Educator Guide

*Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education*

### About the Program



Opera is fun! Did you know that opera singers are the only professional singers that don't use microphones to amplify their voice? Opera singer **Lara Troyer** will introduce your students to opera through this interactive and entertaining workshop that covers opera history, the different voice types of the opera stage, different National styles of opera, and the difference between recitative and arias. Through listening examples (both

recorded and live) the students will be lead through an engaging journey of what opera is.

### Objectives

1. **Listen** to live opera singing and recordings of famous operas from the Baroque period to the present.
2. **Learn** about the many different elements of opera: voice types, recitative, aria, voice production, acoustics, healthy singing.
3. **Create** their own recitative at the end of the hour and have the opportunity to perform it.

### Content Standards

#### English Language Arts

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.

#### Music

Compare and contrast ways that the subject matter in musical selections relates to other disciplines.

Expand the use of technology and the media arts through music research, composition and performance.

Apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills to music listening and performing by adapting music to fit the context, story, setting and medium.

## Before the Program

Discuss anything the students know about operas. Have they seen an opera, live or recorded?

Discuss what their preconceived ideas are about opera, the people who listen to opera, the people who sing opera. Listen to opera singing on Youtube. Can you tell what they are singing about even though it may be in a different language?

## After the Program

Is there any live opera in a 25 mile radius of your home?

How is rap similar to recitative?

Have you ever seen an opera or heard opera music on TV? Commercials/movies?

Is opera a necessary art form?

## Vocabulary

**Aria:** Italian word for “song”; a song in an opera

**Characterization:** How an artist/actor inhabits the role they are performing

**Composer/Librettist:** A composer is the person who writes the music; a librettist is the person who writes the text or story of an opera

**Conductor:** Person who is in charge of leading the orchestra, chorus, and singers in the opera

**Recitative:** Speech-like, language-driven, conversation-like portion of the opera

## About Lara Troyer

Described as singing with an engaging, robust tone (clevelandclassical.com), **Lara Troyer** is a versatile soprano, at home on the opera stage as well as concert and recital stage. Most recently she performed the Ohio premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Nightingale Opera. This season has also included solo engagements with Heights Chamber Orchestra and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. **Lara Troyer** has toured with the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra as their soprano soloist throughout the Midwest and Southeastern United States. She also spent four years as an Associate Artist with Cleveland Opera. She performs regularly under the auspices of the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and Children’s Concert Society. She has performed the children’s opera, *Green Eggs and Ham* hundreds of times throughout the Midwest.

## Resources

Compose Your Own Music

[www.classicsforkids.com/games/compose/compose.html](http://www.classicsforkids.com/games/compose/compose.html)

Opera for Children

[jimmie.squidoo.com/opera-for-children](http://jimmie.squidoo.com/opera-for-children)

Pavarotti: Nessun Dorma

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VATmqtmR5o4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VATmqtmR5o4)



## About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

*Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.*

