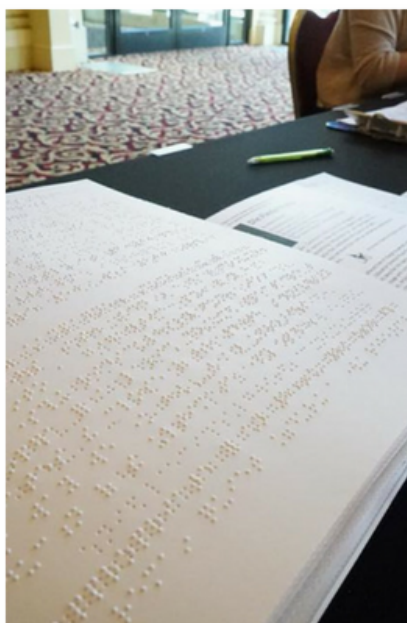


# Blind and Visually Impaired Night at the Opera

Die Fledermaus - May 9, 2018



# Blind and Visually Impaired Night 2018

## Die Fledermaus

In collaboration with the Moran Eye Center and the Utah Council for the Blind, Utah Opera's Education Department hosted its 22nd annual Night at the Opera for blind and visually impaired members of our community at the May 9 dress rehearsal for Utah Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*. Events started at 6:00 pm with a presentation by Utah Opera education director Paula Fowler. Audience members were given an opportunity to handle and feel many of the props and costume materials from the production, including the pocket watch, masks, a fascinator, (a lady's headpiece), and fabric samples. They were given an oral description of the intricate costumes and set pieces.

In addition to our blind and visual impaired patrons, 4 puppies and their trainers from Guide Dogs for the Blind - Salt Pups were allowed to attend the dress rehearsal to experience socialization in a new space as they train to be guide dogs.

Then audience members were able to experience the dress rehearsal while Christine McDonough, former Utah Opera chorus member, gave an audio description to which audience members could listen through head phones. Braille supertitles were provided by the Library for the Blind. Utah Opera also printed large-print plot synopses, as it does for every performance at the Capitol Theatre.

86 people attended as well as the 4 guide dogs in training with their owners. Here are a few of the comments that audience members shared in our post-event survey:

This was a wonderful opportunity to attend and we really appreciate your efforts in making this possible. Thank you!

The fabric samples and props passed around helped me envision the opera.

Thank you so much for the great socialization opportunity you gave my pup. He handled the different surfaces, the slight incline that the flooring had where we were seated, changing lighting, clapping, the lovely singing, and the audience so amazingly, and it was his first experience with much of that. Your generosity truly is a gift to Pearson who grows in fluency in all the ways Guide Dogs for the Blind is hoping for. I thoroughly enjoyed the fun opera 'Die Fledermaus', too.