

Utah Opera Annual Education Report



2020-2021 | Total Services Provided to Utah Students and Teachers

Total # of Districts	Total # of Charters	Total # of Schools	Home-School Students	Total # of Instructional Hours	Total # of Teachers	Total # of Students
39	58	417	12	1174.58	1,332	37,320

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"Thank you for exposing my little 7th graders to a slice of the professional music world. It really expanded many of their ideas for what their own future could hold.

It was a conversation-starting, thought-provoking, world-view-aligning presentation!

I wish you could have seen our reactions and heard our applause!

Absolutely marvelous! Thank you again!"

-Choir Teacher, Tonaquint Intermediate, (Washington County SD)

OPERA IN THE SCHOOLS

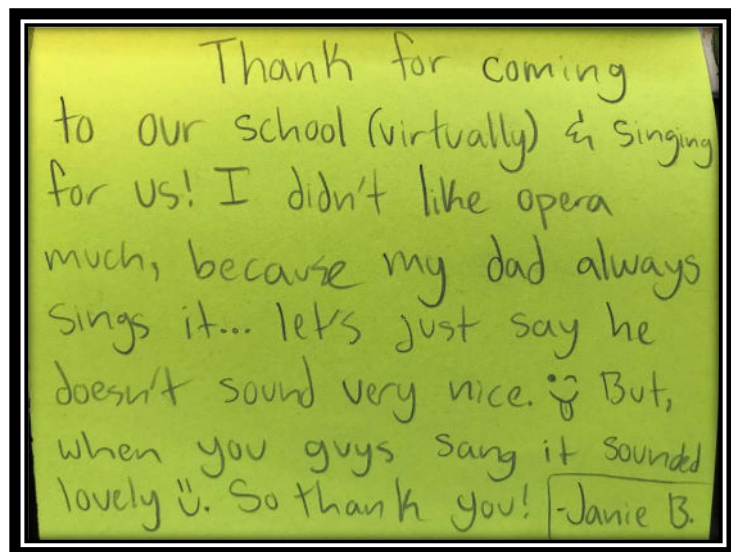
Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
39	29	336	991.08	1,091	34,029

In the spring of 2020, Utah Opera Education programs - like all programs for schools - shifted to online offerings. We reacted creatively, sharing archival videos of in-school programs in a "School from Home" collection, and filming our 5 Resident Artists in videos about singing skills students could practice at home on their own. We offered online contact with our artists, and posted videos of short commissioned operas from the previous year.

The fall and the 2020-21 school year offered different opportunities, as most students across the state returned, albeit masked, to classroom learning. Whether students were still learning from home or meeting in person, our offerings focused on what could be meaningful in a classroom engaging with us safely online or through videos. We began a new web presence with our "Connecting to Classrooms" resources. We realized we could create higher-quality video products, and also include elements we couldn't share in live performance: access behind the scenes of both the Capitol Theatre and our Utah Opera Production Studios. We recorded audio of our artists in a studio, and kept them safe with gloves and distancing in the staging that we filmed in fun places.

We collaborated with Local Education Agencies and with school principals to share the news of our elementary school videos and of our hybrid programs for secondary school choirs. We also

emailed classroom teachers individually, and used our artists also to make personal calls and send follow-up email messages with elementary school music specialists and secondary school choir teachers.



Teachers at all levels were invited to view our openly available narrated PowerPoint Introduction to Opera; the webpage for this product was viewed 991 times during the year, with 874 unique page views. At the end of each week, we emailed the teachers whose classes had participated in our programs during the week and invited them to fill out a survey about their students' experience, and many of the respondents indicated that they had also used the narrated PowerPoint as a preparatory experience for their students.

Around the state:

Providing our programs through digital media this year meant that classrooms across the entire state were able to participate in our current programming. In a typical year of traveling programs, Utah Opera provides services in approximately 26 school districts. This season we served schools in 39!

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTINUING THIS PROGRAM. WE'RE IN SOUTHERN UTAH, AND I APPRECIATE HOW THIS PROGRAM EXPOSES MY STUDENTS TO CAREER POSSIBILITIES, AS WELL AS AN INCREASED APPRECIATION FOR THE ARTS. YOU HAVE MY MOST SINCERE THANKS!"

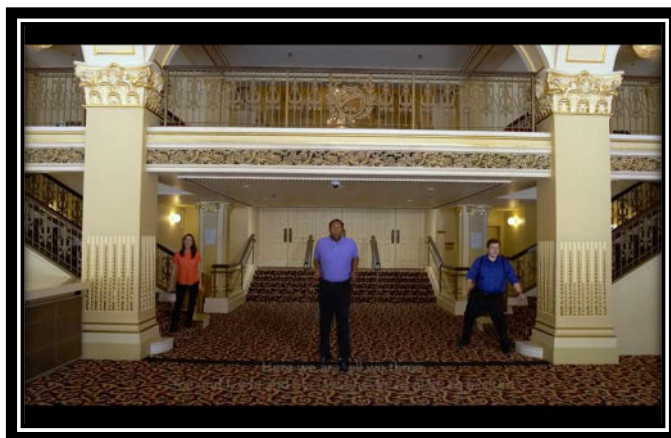
-SECOND GRADE TEACHER, CORAL CANYON ELEMENTARY (WASHINGTON COUNTY SD)

Program for Elementary Schools: All About Opera: Classroom Edition

All About Opera: Classroom Edition is a video introduction to opera designed for elementary school audiences. Covering similar materials to our traditional in-person "Who Wants to be an Opera Star?" assembly, but also including bonus elements designed for filming and classroom viewing on a large classroom screen, the program featured our 5 professional Opera Resident Artists in scenes and narrative filmed in locations around the Capitol Theatre and the Opera Production Studios. The program not only introduced classrooms to the art form of opera, it was also a behind-the-scenes tour.

Teachers registered online and then received a response email with a link to the videos and the password to access them. They were offered the opportunity to send feedback in a survey sent within 5 days of their intended viewing date.

1,002 classrooms engaged with our elementary school video program during the 2020-21 school year.



"I love being in a theater, auditorium or performance hall to watch performers, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised! This was amazing! The performers taught vocabulary effectively that the students have been learning in class. It was great to see the dressing rooms, the pit, and how many work behind the scenes to make the productions successful. The performers were incredible, and I loved the humor [...] The students really enjoyed it, and some have proclaimed that they want to be an opera singer now."

-Fourth grade teacher, Riverside Elementary (Jordan SD)

"It was nice to have this quality virtual presentation. Instead of having a whole school assembly I was able to use this local presentation in the individual 45-minute classes I teach to every class in the school which allowed for more in-depth questions and learning. The students liked seeing the hobbies of the artists in the PowerPoint introduction and seeing the production studios and the Capital Theater in the video presentation.

My students both lower and upper grades were engaged for the whole presentation!! I showed the presentations for three days and I loved it and I hear the beautiful music singing in my head. Thank you!!"

-Music teacher, Boulton Elementary (Davis SD)

"I loved the guided tour of the stage and pit inside the Capitol Theater. My students thought it was beautiful. This was an added benefit that we don't get with in-person assemblies."

-First grade teacher, Aspen Elementary (Alpine SD)



Student Learning Activities/ Core Implementation:

Students and teachers actively participate when they learn a dance, a rhythm and/or melody in their program, and interpret emotions in the music. Students learn music and theatre vocabulary, and also identify important elements in singing and performing. Teachers had the options of using our narrated PowerPoint Introduction to Opera, and also signing up for a Zoom Q&A session with one of the artists as a follow-through activity. Utah Opera offered two versions of the *All About Opera* video, with different musical selections for grades K-3 and 4-6.

"I am so glad that you had this available this year. I know that it is a different year, but because of these videos, I still can show the arts to my students! Thank you for doing this video. My students were thoroughly attentive to the whole video and it was so neat to hear the Opera Singers sing in different languages and also have the subtitles available."

-Fifth grade teacher, Blackridge Elementary (Jordan SD)

Program for Secondary School Choirs: Opera Up Close

For secondary schools, Utah Opera typically offers *Opera 101* or *Freeze Frame: The Elixir of Love*. This year, however, we purchased an excellent system for making live online presentations, and revised our classroom presentation *Opera Up Close* for hybrid presentation. We acquired an excellent projector and screen, microphone and amplifier; and we dedicated a studio to our choir class presentations. We set up something like a TV studio set, and kept our artists safe by assigning seating areas when they were not performing or presenting.



During the hybrid presentation, our classically-trained artists performed solos of various kinds, and had interactive sessions including a "genre game" and Q&A with the student groups on the other end of the transmission. They shared information about the history of opera, explored the genres of operas, demonstrated an opera audition, contrasted opera and musical theatre singing, performed art songs, and identified the many art forms and job opportunities in opera. During the presentations, they also screen-shared video products we created with



"Thank you from West Lake STEM! It was your voices that surprised them the most. They were trying to find the words to describe what it felt [like] when your voices spoke to them, gave them chills or just made them like you automatically. It is amazing what one beautiful sound can do, and what music can do. I cannot tell you how thrilled I was to have my students receive such incredible attention and instruction from each of you."

Watching you was a breath of fresh air for me during a very difficult year and gave me great ideas for topics I can teach after our concert. Thank you for giving back to our community. I would love to be on your yearly list and do this again!"

-Choir teacher, West Lake STEM Jr. High (Granite SD)



them in the fall. We had filmed several scenes in the fall in full costume to share in this program, as well as a 17-minute short opera which we had commissioned last year on a Utah theme: *The Better Man*, about Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon's run for the 1896 Utah State Senate against her own husband. Since not all class periods were long enough to allow screen-sharing of this short opera, it was also available on our "Connecting to Classrooms" website resource page. This year's group of artists presented this program 102 times in Utah high schools.

"We would like to say a big thank you to you and your crew who did a wonderful presentation on introducing the OPERA to our students. My students were all concentrated and enjoyed the zoom meeting. What a great experience like this. Thanks for reaching out."

-Instrumental music teacher, Beaver High School, Beaver (SD)

"Thank you so much for including us in this. Your singers were fantastic and so good with our kids. The presentation was interesting, informative and well-put together. The music was world class. Thank you again for letting us be a part of your world today."

-Choir director, South Sevier High School (Sevier SD)

Program for Schools: A new short opera, *The Better Man*



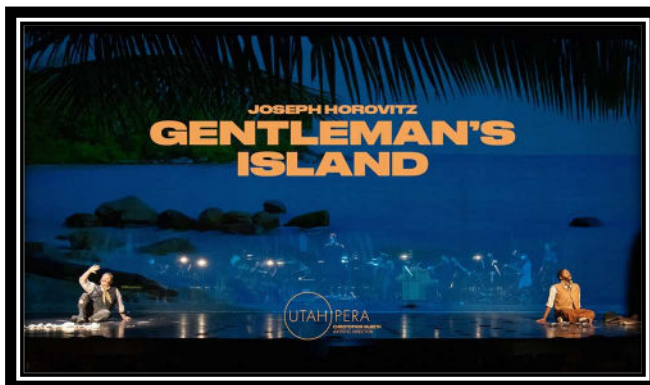
In collaboration with local organizations paying attention to 2020 as the 100th anniversary of the national 19th amendment as well as the 150th anniversary of the first woman's vote in Utah, Utah Opera commissioned local librettist Kathleen Cahill and composer Margot Murdock to create a 17-minute opera. They selected the story of Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon's successful campaign for public office, when she ran for Utah State Senate in 1896, against her own husband. We performed the opera live during 2020, and filmed it in fall 2020 (on location at a Victorian home in the SLC Avenues) for classroom use and beyond. Because we wanted to make this opera easily available on our website, we didn't require sign-up, and therefore don't have additional calculated numbers about its use by schools. We do have records that the webpage for *The Better Man* film was visited 307 times during the school year. We are thrilled to have it as an ongoing resource in our educational programs and on our website into the future.

Program for Schools: Four short operas on local themes

In 2019, Utah Opera commissioned 4 short operas on themes related to the Golden Spike and the transcontinental railroad anniversary. We filmed them as part of our contract with the composers, and then were able to re-purpose them this year for use as a classroom resource. One music specialist this year shared it with 200 students and reported to us officially. The webpage for these operas showed 316 unique page views.

Program for Schools: Recording of *Gentleman's Island* in the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre

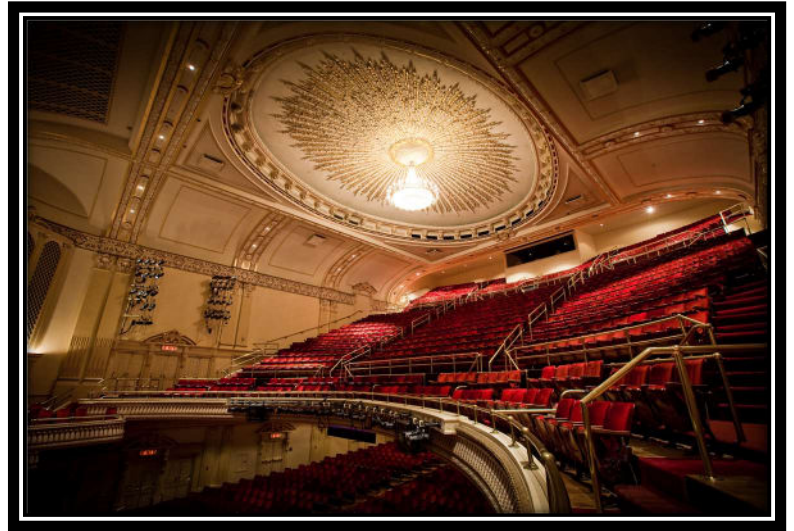
Because of the pandemic, we could not invite student audiences to the final dress rehearsals of Utah Opera's October production of *The Human Voice* and *Gentleman's Island*. To share a current performance with students, we invested in filming *Gentleman's Island*, a 25-minute opera featuring a tenor and a baritone, and 14 musicians of the Utah Symphony. This comic opera portrays the story of two proper Englishmen trying to interact according to well-learned social decorum when they have been shipwrecked together. The video of this production was viewed by some classes, some individuals, in 37 unique page visits.



OPERA AT THE CAPITOL THEATRE

Opera-tunities Nights

While we could not invite large school groups to the October of May Opera productions, we felt it was safe enough to invite teachers. Typically, this opportunity has only been open to teachers who accompany a group of students and to a handful of teachers who have participated in our Music! Words! Opera! program; however, in publicizing this adult opportunity, we invited music specialists and secondary school music teachers. It was a wonderful experience for us and for them, and we will continue to reserve a portion of future dress rehearsal tickets for music teachers. We want to invest in their experience and love of the art form, which we hope they will pass on to their students.



The statistics for teacher involvement in this enrichment program are included in our Teacher Professional Development section of this report.

"The opera is something I have always looked forward to. The Tunies nights allow me to experience a variety of amazing performances that I would be unable to attend otherwise. I particularly loved "A Gentlemen's Island" this season. [...] I'm grateful for this unique opportunity to participate in the arts in the midst of the pandemic."

-Special Education Teacher, West Kearns Elementary, (Granite SD)

Access to Music

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
14	16	72	41.5	0	164

Our beloved annual concert for children with special needs and their families also went digital this year. We shared one of our password-protected digital programs with them as a musical experience they could enjoy together at home. We're already looking forward to seeing all these students and families in the Janet Quinney Larsen Capitol Theatre next year!



ORIGINAL CLASSROOM OPERAS

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
3	0	4	100	11	222



Teachers trained in Utah Opera's *Music! Words! Opera!* workshops (see Teacher Development section) became project managers for year-long cross-curricular projects with their students. Students selected/wrote a story; created a libretto; composed melodies assisted by a composer; designed sets, make-up and costumes; and rehearsed & performed their creation.

Utah Opera provided composers to assist with the music, as well as a stipend to assist in production costs of 4 student-made operas during the 2020-21 school year.



Connecting with their composers virtually, teachers produced innovative performances. Several teachers arranged for live, COVID-safe student performances with audience viewing from home.

Others recorded a performance at school and shared it on YouTube. One inventive teacher had his class record the opera's audio and draw artwork to depict each scene. The resultant film premiered online with students and parents watching and chatting, with a Q&A after the viewing.



An extra benefit of creating and producing a class opera is the opportunity for students to improve in life skills: they have many opportunities to practice collaboration, listening, critical thinking and evaluating as well as

creating. Original productions were undertaken this year in the following schools and in the Madeleine Choir School summer opera camp (private):

- Thunder Ridge Elementary (3 operas, Alpine SD)
- Antelope Canyon Elementary (3 classes in 1 opera, Jordan SD)
- Herriman Elementary (Jordan SD)
- Highland Park Elementary (SLC SD)

"I liked the music and the cute little pictures and everything. It was adorable!!"

-1st grade audience member,
Highland Park Elementary (SLC SD)

"It was a lot of work and I put a lot of effort into it. We worked like half of the school year on it and it was challenging to do. I really enjoyed watching all of my classmates' hard work. It really paid off! I was happy to be in the opera!"

-2nd grade student,
Highland Park Elementary (SLC SD)

"I always look forward to Mr. Lingen's operas each year! It is a wonderful opportunity for the kids (who look forward to 4th grade just to participate in the Opera). Once again, I loved this year's opera! I was so impressed with the talent, team work, commitment, and enthusiasm of all the young artists. What a wonderful way to introduce this musical art form and inspire so many students to perform and express themselves!"

-Faculty Member, Highland Park Elementary (SLC SD)

“My students LOVED doing the opera! They wanted to perform it again and again. A few students commented that they never wanted it to end. I also had one student who had pretty bad anxiety. We told her to do what she wanted - she could come on stage and perform when she wanted, or she could exit at any moment and sit off to the side. Many rehearsals she sat off to the side. BUT.....she ended up doing the entire show! It was awesome. Also, my stage crew boys were SO CUTE! They were so efficient setting up the props and microphones and they were so proud of themselves and loved their job. The students ALL had a very positive experience. It was worth the effort and hard work to pull it off. “

-Dance Teacher, Herriman Elementary, (Jordan SD)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
15	11	54	4	85	0

Opera-tunities Nights

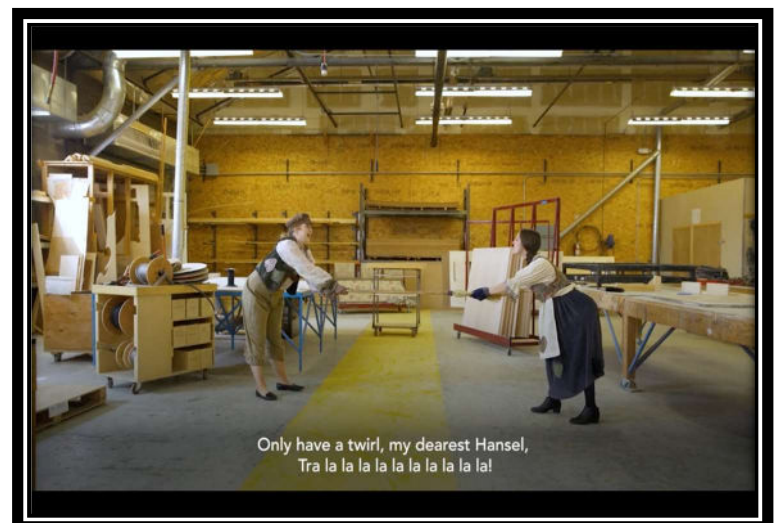
Since we couldn't safely invite students to our final dress rehearsals in the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre, we invited music teachers to claim a pair of free tickets for these events. We invested in their continued learning in the arts by inviting them to review online learning materials about the productions and then coming to enjoy a night in the theatre.

Music! Words! Opera!

Because of the pandemic, no summer workshop was offered for teachers in 2020.

Teachers in the House

Utah Symphony | Utah Opera offers its Teachers in the House program, through which teachers invest in pre-performance learning and then a performance for re-licensure points. We made this available at every opera performance and symphony masterworks concert during the months that our venues were open to the public this year. This program expands our network of contacts in the music education community and provides rich experience in the arts for teachers. (For our statistics, we count only the time teachers spend in the preparation class, which this year consisted in online learning materials visited in advance of the performance).



BEHIND THE SCENES

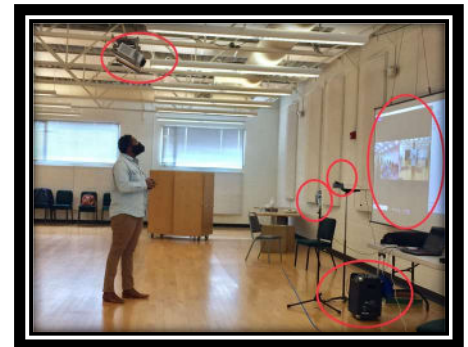
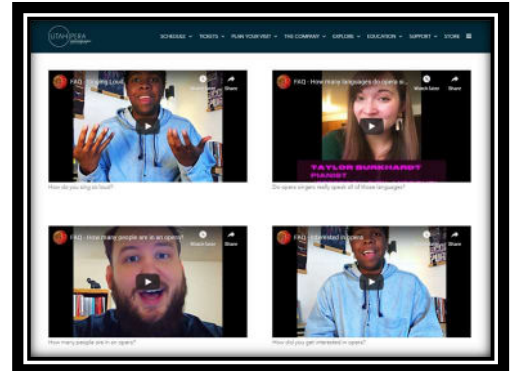
All About Opera Q&A

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
16	6	51	35	104	2331

I've never loved opera, but when you showed me what opera was really like I started to love it!! Now I watch opera all the time!!
-Student, East Lake Elementary (Jordan SD)

In remaking all of our programs to work within the safety parameters throughout the year, we wanted to do as much live (though virtually) as we could, since our dedication is to sharing great live performances. We reconfigured a live interactive program (*Opera Up Close*) for secondary school choir classes, and for elementary schools, we offered teachers the opportunity to sign up for a live Q&A over a digital platform (Google Classroom, Zoom) after their classes had viewed the *All About Opera: Classroom Edition* video. It was an exciting

experience for students to personally meet a singer they had just witnessed in our film, and to have the chance to ask them questions about singing and careers in opera. Our opera artists loved the experience too.



"WOW that was FUN!! Brandon you are awesome! I love your energy, your love for opera, your amazing voice and hearing your stories. THANK YOU!! That zoom got the kids even more excited to perform and work on this entire production."

-Dance teacher, Herriman Elementary (Jordan SD)

"I loved that my students were able to ask any question and that they were able to get their questions answered – even the silly or odd questions. It was wonderful that he was even willing to sing for us during the Zoom meeting. It would have been great to do the Q&A in person, but maybe next year!"

-Second grade teacher, Magna Elementary School (Granite SD)

"We did a Q&A with Julia. It was great. My students were able to ask the questions that they had that I couldn't answer. It was also really helpful to talk to a real person so that my students could connect to it better. It was a really incredible experience!"

-First grade teacher, Riverside Elementary School (Jordan SD)

Adopt-a-School: West High School Performing Arts

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
1	0	1	3	2	28

During the 2019-20 school year, the staff of Utah Opera adopted the performing arts departments (theatre and choral music) of West High School. The outbreak of the pandemic and shutdown of all operations in March 2020 left our adoption project incomplete. We were able to provide two online presentations by our Senior Technical Director for West High Tech and Crew classes, as a deposit for a full year of adoption activities that we look forward to in 2021-22. The drama teacher and three students have already committed to taking up their supernumerary roles in our October 2021 production of *The Barber of Seville*, which was cancelled just before its opening performances in March 2020.



OTHER NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
16	11	56	67	46	81

Throughout this unique season, digital performances that audiences could enjoy from their homes were the safest product to offer. Utah Symphony | Utah Opera created concerts through the year for inexpensive “On Demand” viewings. During a portion of the run of each performance, teachers and students could view these professional performances at no cost. Forty-six teachers and eighty-one students took advantage of this program.



We decided to make many of the resources we created for music learners openly available on our website for easy access. The only metric we have for use of these is the number of times the webpages were visited during the school year; we did promote them in our hybrid programs and know they were used by teachers, but did not include these visits in our reported numbers.

1. “Collection of Opera Scenes” - All of the scenes we recorded for *All About Opera* and *Opera Up Close* could be viewed individually in this collection. The scenes were filmed all around the Capitol Theatre, the Opera Production Studios, and even the International Peace Gardens in SLC. The site was visited 172 times.
2. “Five Singing Skills” video - Students could actively warm up and practice their own singing with this short video by our Resident Artists. The site was visited 174 times.
3. “The World of Professional Singing” and “Opera Voice Types” were Zoom discussions for classes at the Madeleine Choir School that we recorded and made available for other student groups. These video webpages were visited 306 times.
4. “Parade of Opera Costumes” webpage was visited 28 times.
5. “Vocal Techniques for Young Singers” includes videos created by our Resident Artists to help students practice breath and warm-up techniques, and even learn an entire art song in Italian. These pages were visited 292 times this school year.
6. “Ask a Singer or Pianist” page was visited 128 times. Among the questions sent by students throughout the year, we know of one class of drama students at a school for students on the Autism spectrum who used this resource. The teacher printed the questions and posted them on a board; as the answers from our artists arrived, they were posted for public viewing also.

"Thank you so much for doing the virtual opera for us! You made me love opera so much! Your voices are the greatest voices I have ever heard! You are amazing! Thank you so much again for working so so hard just so you can make kids happy! You are awesome!!"

-Fifth grade student, Eastlake Elementary (Jordan SD)

DOCUMENTATION OF THREE-YEAR ROTATION TO ALL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER REPRESENTATIVES

Districts

Number of Schools Served in Each District				
DISTRICT	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Projected 2021-2022
Alpine	26	29	45	X
Beaver			1	X
Box Elder	1	1	9	X
Cache	7	4	16	X
Canyons	26	16	31	X
Carbon	6	2	5	X
Daggett			2	
Davis	43	38	55	X
Duchesne	6		4	
Emery	2	1	2	X
Garfield			1	X
Grand			1	
Granite	49	41	50	X
Iron			4	X
Jordan	30	22	33	X
Juab			4	X
Kane	1		1	X
Logan	2	3	3	X
Millard			1	
Morgan	1	1	4	
Murray	3	5	7	X
Nebo	18	3	7	X
N. Sanpete	4	1	4	
N. Summit				X
Ogden	4	6	6	X
Park City	4	6	2	X
Piute			1	X
Provo	6	6	13	
Rich			1	
SLC	19	14	15	X
San Juan				
Sevier	5	1	6	
S. Sanpete	1	5	2	
S. Summit			1	X
Tintic			1	X
Tooele		97	13	X
Uintah		8	5	
Wasatch			3	X
Washington	9	8	16	X
Wayne			1	X
Weber	5	9	24	X
Total # of Schools Visited	290	278	417	
Total # of Districts Visited	27	25	39	

Charters

Record of Charter Schools Served				
Charter Schools	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Projected 2021-2022
Academy for Math Engineering & Science				X

Advantage Arts Academy				X
American Academy of Innovation	X			
American Leadership Academy				X
American Preparatory Academy	X	X	X	
American Preparatory Academy Accelerated School				X
American Preparatory Academy Draper #1				X
American Preparatory Academy - Draper #2			X	
American Preparatory Academy - Draper #3			X	
American Preparatory Academy - Salem	X		X	
American Preparatory Academy - The School for New Americans				X
Ascent Academies of Utah		X		
Ascent Academies of Utah - West Valley				X
Ascent Academies of Utah Farmington			X	
Ascent Academies of Utah Lehi				X
Ascent Academies of Utah West Jordan	X		X	
Athenian Academy				X
Athlos Academy of Utah	X		X	
Bear River Charter School	X			
Beehive Science & Technology Academy			X	
Bonneville Academy		X		
Bridge Elementary School				X
C.S. Lewis Academy	X			
Canyon Grove Academy				
Canyon Rim Academy	X	X		
Channing Hall		X		
City Academy				X
Davinci Academy	X		X	
Dixie Montessori Academy				X
Dual Immersion Academy			X	
Early Light Academy at Daybreak	X	X	X	
East Hollywood High	X			
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	X	X		
Endeavor Hall	X		X	
Entheos Academy	X	X		
Entheos Academy Kearns				X
Entheos Academy Magna				X
Esperanza School		X		
Excelsior Academy	X		X	
Fast Forward High				
Franklin Discovery Academy		X	X	
Freedom Preparatory Academy	X		X	
Freedom Preparatory Academy Vineyard				X
Gateway Preparatory Academy			X	
George Washington Academy			X	
Good Foundations Academy				X
Greenwood Charter School				
Guadalupe School		X		
Hawthorn Academy				X
Hawthorn Academy South Jordan			X	
Hawthorn Academy West Jordan	X		X	
Highmark Charter School			X	
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy	X	X	X	
Intech Collegiate Academy				X
Itineris Early College High	X			
Jefferson Academy			X	
John Hancock Charter School	X	X		
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy	X	X		
Lakeview Academy	X	X	X	
Leadership Academy of Utah	X	X		
Leadership Learning Academy		X	X	
Leadership Learning Academy - Ogden				X
Legacy Preparatory Academy	X	X	X	
Lincoln Academy				X
Lumen Scholar Institute	X		X	
Mana Academy Charter School				X
Maria Montessori Academy			X	
Merit College Preparatory Academy				X
Moab Charter School				X
Monticello Academy	X		X	
Mountain Heights Academy	X	X		
Mountain Sunrise Academy			X	
Mountain West Montessori Academy	X			
Mountainville Academy				X
Navigator Pointe Academy	X			
No. UT. Acad. for Math Engineering & Science	X	X		
No. UT. Acad. of Math Engineering & Science - Ogden				X
Noah Webster Academy				X

North Davis Preparatory Academy	X		X	
North Star Academy				X
Odyssey Charter School			X	
Ogden Preparatory Academy				X
Open Classroom	X			
Pacific Heritage Academy			X	
Paradigm High School	X		X	
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	X			
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning		X		
Providence Hall			X	
Quest Academy		X		
Ranches Academy				X
Reagan Academy				X
Real Salt Lake Academy High School				X
Renaissance Academy			X	
Rockwell Charter High School	X			
Roots Charter High School				X
Salt Lake Arts Academy				X
Salt Lake Center for Science Education				X
Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts	X	X	X	
Scholar Academy		X	X	
Soldier Hollow Charter School				X
Spectrum Academy	X	X	X	
Spectrum Academy - NSL			X	
Spectrum Academy - Pleasant Grove	X		X	
St. George Academy				X
Success Academy				X
Success DSU				X
Success SUU				X
Summit Academy	X	X		
Summit Academy - Bluffdale			X	
Summit Academy - Draper Campus			X	
Summit Academy - Independence	X		X	
Summit Academy High School				X
Syracuse Arts Academy		X		
Syracuse Arts Academy - Antelope				X
Syracuse Arts Academy - North	X		X	
Terra Academy				X
The Center for Creativity Innovation and Discovery			X	
Thomas Edison				X
Thomas Edison - North				X
Thomas Edison - South				X
Timpanogos Academy	X		X	
Treeside Charter School	X			
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts		X		
Uintah River High				X
Utah Career Path High School				X
Utah Connections Academy			X	
Utah County Academy of Science	X		X	
Utah International Charter School				X
Utah Military Academy		X		
Utah Military Academy - Camp Williams				X
Utah Mountain				X
Utah Virtual Academy	X		X	
Valley Academy				X
Vanguard Academy				X
Venture Academy				X
Vista School			X	
Voyage Academy				X
Walden School of Liberal Arts	X			
Wallace Stegner Academy		X	X	
Wasatch Peak Academy	X	X		
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School	X		X	
Weber State University Charter Academy				X
Weilenmann School of Discovery	X	X	X	
Winter Sports School				X
	*Capstone Academy *Provo e school *Utah online	*UT School for the Deaf and Blind	*My Tech High *UT School for the Deaf and Blind	
Total # of Charter Schools Visited	53	40	57	
Total # of Charter & LEA Visited	343	318	474	

*Schools Utah Opera visited but are not included in the comprehensive Charter School list provided by POPS

ORGANIZATION'S SELF-EVALUATION

Cost Effectiveness

In November 2019, we budgeted for a normal 2020-21 year of school visits and performances in the Capitol Theatre, and then we rebudgeted during summer 2020 for what was possible in the fall, and then again several more times during the year, as safety protocols kept changing.

For fall 2020, we redirected our education funding from live in-person performances and invested in a projector, screen, microphone, amplifier and digital platform membership so that we could recreate programs to be presented live but online. We also invested our education funding in professional videographers and an audio engineer who could help us create quality film products that could be viewed in individual classrooms.

We added many resources online, repurposing recordings and materials made for other purposes, but these did not require additional financial investment.

Even though we had new equipment and audio-video costs, we did not have travel costs, or expenditures related to half of a season of performances for students in the Capitol Theatre. For these reasons, we turned back a good portion of our POPS funding this year.

Procedural Efficiency

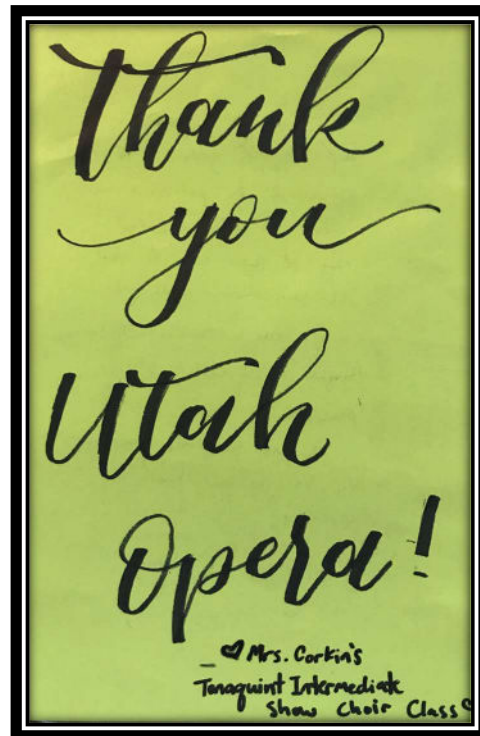
Along with creating all-new programs, we worked with our Web Manager to set up a password-protected method for teachers to access the programs, so that we could collect data of online usage. Then we came up with campaign after campaign to get information about our free arts offerings to teachers.

In spring 2020, we titled our offerings "School from Home," and in the fall our focus became "Connecting to Classrooms." Classrooms throughout the state are equipped with computers, projectors and screens (and students still learning from home were learning onscreen too), so our elementary school programs were made to be viewed in this setting. To get the news to elementary school teachers, we publicized through LEA arts coordinators, through the USBE fine arts newsletter, and sent Wordfly email messages to school principals to forward to their teachers.

Whenever sign-ups by teachers seemed to lag during the year, we came up with a fresh campaign. Because our artists weren't traveling, I used some of our artists time to make calls to schools. After we updated our school contacts list by visiting every secondary school's website, our artists called and emailed every choir teacher in the state, inviting them to sign up to have a hybrid program for their choir classes. Our artists also called and emailed every elementary school music specialist to invite them to use our virtual programs.

Our efforts led to use of our programs by students and teachers in 39 Utah school districts. It was exciting to have products that could be used state-wide this past year. We will resume our 3-year rotation with live in-person presentations through the school districts next school year, and keep virtual resources available.

We did supply new before-during-and-after learning experiences for students whose teachers used our programs: our narrated Introduction to Opera PowerPoint provided an excellent "pre" experience; and our live "Q&A" with an opera artist gave students an excellent follow-through learning opportunity.



Collaborative Practices

We are dedicated to collaboration in our work:

We participate in all of the USBE/POPS meetings, and have been a partner in every peer review opportunity. We work with LEA arts specialists throughout the year. Instead of traveling to visit their schools this year, we engaged their assistance in sending news of our resources to their teachers.



We continue to work to make our Education website a resource for all in our community who want to be actively involved in music. This year we have increased the number of digital resources for teachers on our website, for those who want additional follow-through opportunities for their students in the art form of opera. The innovations required in the current year have led to a wealth of online resources, and a shift of attention: we will always make sure that teachers have ready access to opera programs about singing and theatre.

We keep information on our website for students of all ages (including teachers) who want to learn more and/or

be more active in music and theatre. We maintain a contact list of community choirs; we post information about guest artist masterclasses; we post our current teacher materials and downloadable flyers about the season's education programs.

A special collaboration that started in 2019-20 and will resume with a full year of connections in 2021-22 is Utah Opera's "adoption" of the performing arts departments at West High School. We explored every way any of us thought of supporting and extending student learning and experience; a report about the 2019-20 projects is located at www.utahopera.org/adopt-a-school.

Educational Soundness

Utah Opera's education programs and their accompanying teacher materials are planned with the Utah Music and Theatre Core Curricula, Core Standards and National Standards in mind. In pre-performance materials for elementary schools, for example, we invite teachers to let their students experiment with their own voices and practice clapping rhythms; students get a chance to build on these during our presentations. They also get the opportunity to interpret emotional communication in music. We provide post-performance suggestions, so students can continue to practice their evaluation skills: they can discuss and/ or write to our artists about their favorite scenes, evaluate stage presence, stopping & starting together, as well as use of pitches, rhythms, dynamics, and singing in voices free from strain. Our professional performers provide demonstrations of skills teachers address through the music core curriculum. Their performances also illustrate life skills including cooperation, collaboration, and confidence in public presentation.

Many teachers and administrators have reported that after our assembly, their students were excited about opera, and they asked how they can give their students more experiences with the art form. For several years we provided each school with a DVD of a complete Opera (a Metropolitan Opera production in English of *The Magic Flute*); because of the creation of more online resources this year, we have many additional follow-through options for teachers and students.

In our program for students to create original operas, not only do students develop skills in music and other curricular areas, but they also build life skills such as collaborating, listening, creating, analyzing, evaluating, and critical thinking.

Professional Excellence

Our primary presenters for in-school programs are Utah Opera's Resident Artists, who are contracted for the school year to perform for students. Typically, these artists have recently completed master's degrees in vocal performance and come to Utah Opera through competitive national auditions for experience with a professional company as they prepare to launch their individual performing careers.



No higher than his shoulder there shall he see a boulder of marble.
Let him tear it free, and rich as Kim Kardashian shall he be!"

Our Utah Opera Resident Artists receive additional professional training while on contract with Utah Opera. They work with our Principal Coach to prepare music and improve language skills for each project, and they receive voice lessons and other professional training sessions from nationally-recognized

vocal specialists, guest artists, directors, and conductors. We engage stage directors of national repute to direct the programs our artists present in schools.

During their season with us, our Resident Artists polish their performance skills by participating in professional operas on the Capitol Theatre stage, even in this year when we only created productions in October and May. Each of our Resident Artists had a principal main role in a mainstage opera production.

Our Opera-tunities Nights feature opera performers of national stature, along with the professional work of Utah Opera's Costume, Scenic, and Lighting artists. Our opera performances in the Capitol Theatre include the professional instrumentalists of the Utah Symphony.

The quality work of Utah Opera's Education Director and USUO's Symphony Education Manager were recognized with "Service to Music Education" awards at a 2011 annual UMEA Conference. USUO's full-time Education staff members attend the annual Mountain West Conference in early May, including the online gathering this year. In May 2021, OPERA America's conference was offered online, so our Education Director attended virtual sessions, and engaged weekly in national virtual meetings with education directors from opera companies throughout the US and Canada.

Resultant Goals & Plans for Continued Evaluation & Improvement

Maintain excellent digital resources online. We created high-quality virtual presentations that also included a live-but-online opportunity for interaction with our artists. We will keep our digital presentations on our website, and look for opportunities to add to the collection. We are excited that teachers statewide can access these programs, so they can share them with students, especially in years when we can't visit with a live presentation. We would like to continue the opportunity for classroom Zoom Q&As with individual opera artists following a live or virtual presentation.

Ensure equity and inclusion. We pay attention to the concept of equity in our services to schools. Our goal is to perform in every school on a 3-to-5-year rotation schedule, so in that way equity is central in our offerings. We will always be attentive to further ways we can ensure that we offer excellent arts learning opportunities

to underserved populations. Additionally, we want to draw attention to opportunities for all races and genders in the world of performing arts, and will look for ways to include and draw attention to diverse musical voices in our offerings for schools and students.

Acquire more feedback. Assessments are valuable tools for students and teachers in recognizing their own learning, and we strive to find ways to help assessment happen; we appreciate suggestions and responses about our programs via our electronic surveys. Though we still wish for a greater number of responses, we have received more teacher feedback in our e-surveys than we did when we distributed them on paper as part of printed teacher materials. We have experimented with student surveys, and will pursue ways to work with teachers to conduct more student surveys.

Continue improvements to teacher materials. We will continue to take teacher ideas into consideration as we improve the quality, management and effectiveness of our pre- performance materials. For several years we have offered a PowerPoint presentation that provided an introduction to our assemblies that teachers could show their students without advance preparation time. This past year, we made it even simpler for teachers to use this product by creating a narrated PowerPoint, so the teacher can simply play the introductory video for students to provide a pre-performance learning experience.

We have and will continue to elicit and respond to teacher suggestions to our electronic teacher materials. One teacher requested more information about opera costumes this past year, and we created a Parade of Opera Costumes resource which other teachers visited as well. During the summer of 2020, we updated our secondary school music teacher email list, so we could communicate directly with current music and drama teachers and respond quickly to requests.

Participate in POPS and new publicity work. We plan to actively participate in all POPS meetings and projects, and will promote the POPS/USBE partnership. We will continue to brainstorm and explore ways to promote knowledge of POPS programs available in all art forms around the state; we will continue to participate in every POPS peer evaluation. We have provided materials for the POPS website, and will continue promoting it. We will promote POPS at every live school performance with our banner recognizing our state support.



Offer more post-performance plans for teachers. Utah Opera has an effective procedure for offering programs to schools according to a regular rotation period, and we want to offer more follow-through opportunities for classrooms. From 2015-16, we donated a DVD of *The Magic Flute* at the end of each assembly to each school's library, and encouraged teachers and students to see it. Utah Opera streamed its complete production of *The Little Prince* in summer 2020, and we offered our On-Demand performances this past year free of charge to teachers and students. Our recordings of our 4 short Golden Spike operas, the new *The Better Man* opera, and our Collection of Opera Scenes are additional opera performance recordings that are now available for educational use.

Grow our High School Music Clubs. In the coming year, we will explore additional effective ways to build our High School Music Club program. Students attend symphony and opera events together, and also are privy to special opportunities, such as artist visits and backstage tours. In 2019-20, 12 schools participated in this valuable program, and we would like to double that.

Continue offering teacher support in classroom original opera-making. We will continue to support teachers already trained in our *Music! Words! Opera!* Program, and invite a new small group of teachers to our training program (held in conjunction with a youth opera camp) in summer 2022.

Develop an online library of available Children's Operas. We have wanted to develop an online library of excellent children's operas created by Utah classrooms and composers. Now that two of our music specialists who have also served as music mentors in opera projects have left their classroom positions, we hope to make more progress on this goal.

Build further our Teachers in the House program. We will continue to use MIDAS for our Teachers in the House program, through which teachers earn credits for attending a pre-performance lecture as well as a symphony or opera performance, and encourage more teachers to use it.

EVIDENCE OF NON-PROFIT STATUS

Utah Opera's tax exemption number is
12006459-002-STC.

Addendum - Online Opportunities Provided

Virtual Assemblies

- For elementary school classes, *All About Opera: Classroom Edition* (1 version for grades K-3; another for 4-6). Teachers could also sign up for a live Q&A over Zoom with one of our opera artists.
- For secondary school choir classes, hybrid live Zoom presentation with recorded excerpts, *Opera Up Close*. This included the short opera *The Better Man*.
- In the 2018-19 school year, Utah Opera commissioned four short (10-15 minute) operas on the Golden Spike/transcontinental railroad theme. We hired excellent filmmakers to record the 3 nights of performances, so we had good recordings. We were able to add subtitles for ease in listening to these recordings, and added PDFs of suggested response topics.
- At the end of each of these virtual assemblies, we invited students to submit further questions through an "Ask a Singer" form, and to watch FAQ videos made by our artists.
 - OnDemand available free of charge
 - Gentleman's Island recorded for student viewing
 - Tuni Night for Teachers this year

Resources for Young Singers

To aid secondary school choral teachers in their work teaching singing to at-home learners, our artists recorded the following:

- **Vocal Techniques for Young Singers**
 - Video lessons in breathing and warming up with opera singers (high & low voices)
 - A 5-part lesson learning an Italian song with opera singers: rhythm, melody, language, characterization & putting it all together. Plus, PDFs of the song "Caro mio ben" in 2 keys, as well as recordings of the melody, accompaniment, and our mezzo singing her own characterization of the song.
- **Additional School-from-Home Resources include:**
 - an Introduction-to-Opera PowerPoint
 - a Parade of Utah Opera Costumes, with commentary by our Costume Shop Director
 - our general Utah Opera Resources for online learning about our productions
 - Ask a Singer button
 - During the summer of 2020, Utah Opera screened its 2019 production of *The Little Prince*; our online learning materials are posted on our website to enhance the experience.