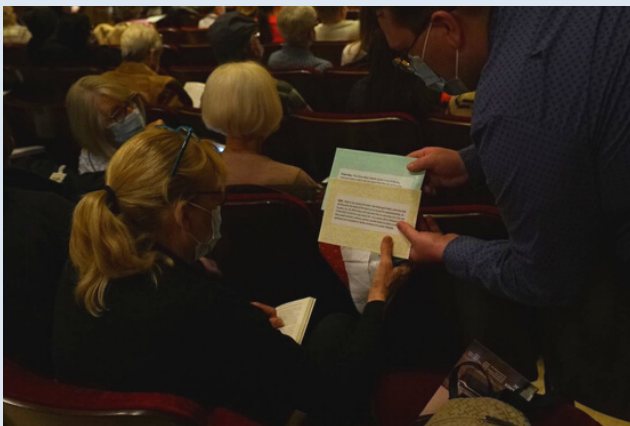
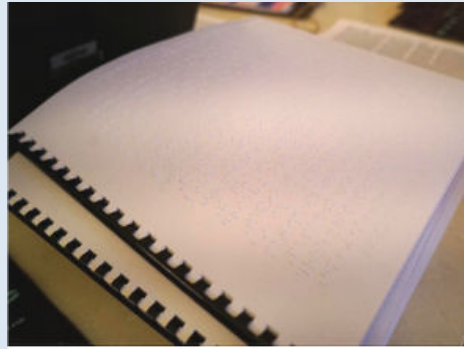


Blind and Visually Impaired Night at the Opera

The Pirates of Penzance – May 5, 2022



Blind and Visually Impaired Night 2022

The Pirates of Penzance

In collaboration with the Moran Eye Center and the Utah Council for the Blind, Utah Opera's Education Department hosted its 25th annual Night at the Opera for blind and visually impaired members of our community at the May 5th dress rehearsal for Utah Opera's production of The Pirates of Penzance.

Events started at 6:00 pm with a presentation by Utah Opera Education Director Paula Fowler and Artistic Director Christopher McBeth. Christopher and Paula described in detail all of the props and costume materials from the production that were then passed around to the audience, including a lantern, skeleton keys, a "life preserver," fabric samples, and a specially-designed picnic basket with an accompanying tea set used in a fight scene as well as a picnic scene.

Audience members were able to experience the dress rehearsal while Paula Fowler 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.

87 people attended as well as 2 guide dogs who attended with their owners. Here are a few of the comments that audience members shared in our post-event survey:

"Every detail was covered to make sure the evening was meaningful and could allow the blind to have a wonderful experience in things that they used to enjoy when they had their sight. You certainly covered all the bases and the added touch of seeing props and feeling materials for the sensory experience were an added bonus."

"Thanks so much for continuing this program! I think many blind and visually impaired people would never see an opera if not for this annual event."

"I enjoyed the presentation of fabrics and items before the show which allowed me to "visualize" the costumes and props that would be used in the performance. I did enjoy the fact that the person's voice while giving descriptions [during the performance], held the appropriate emotions for the scene as it was not possible to read facial expressions of the actors/singers. I [loved] that I was able to follow the performance in braille and that it was a very nice surprise to have that available. Overall, I enjoyed myself...This was the first time I have attended a performance and would likely do so again."

"Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. It was a wonderful night and the cast and orchestra were top notch!"