

# Utah Opera Education Annual Report and Recertification Application



## 2021-2022 | 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
31	26	244	49	537.35	1504	32,972

**Name of POPS Organization:** UTAH OPERA  
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### Organization's Arts Education Mission Statement:

Utah Opera invites Utah's students and teachers to explore and share the emotion and expression possible through music. We do this by:

1. Providing engaging performances for schools in which students experience the work of live professional musicians.
2. Creating opportunities for students to actively perform and write their own music
3. Supporting teachers and providing resources for them to become superior teachers of music and art
4. Advocating to increase awareness of the range of benefits arising from music education.

**Federal Tax ID#:** 51-0145980. *This number verifies required 501©(3) Nonprofit Status*

### Investment in POPS/Collaboration, Peer Evaluation and Program Improvement:

**A. Have you or a representative or your organization regularly attended the POPS meeting during the past 4 years?** Yes\_\_X\_\_

**B. Have you or a representative regularly participated in POPS assignments and legislative presentations?** Yes\_\_X\_\_

**C. What was the year of your last peer review?** January 2020

**D. What did you learn and implement from the review?**

Partner organizations had options of attending various Utah Opera in-school performances, and most visited our elementary school assembly program. We were happy that our evaluators found our program engaging for students; they saw students participating in active learning moments. We have started using a PowerPoint as part of our teacher materials, and this was roundly applauded. They also noted our focus on basic music vocabulary. Evaluators suggested getting links to opera scene performances into our PowerPoint, and we have done that; we have since made our PowerPoint into a narrated product that runs more like a video, making it even simpler for teacher use and student access. Evaluators also suggested giving choral music teachers the opportunity to share their own experience in vocal training, and we aim to highlight that when possible.

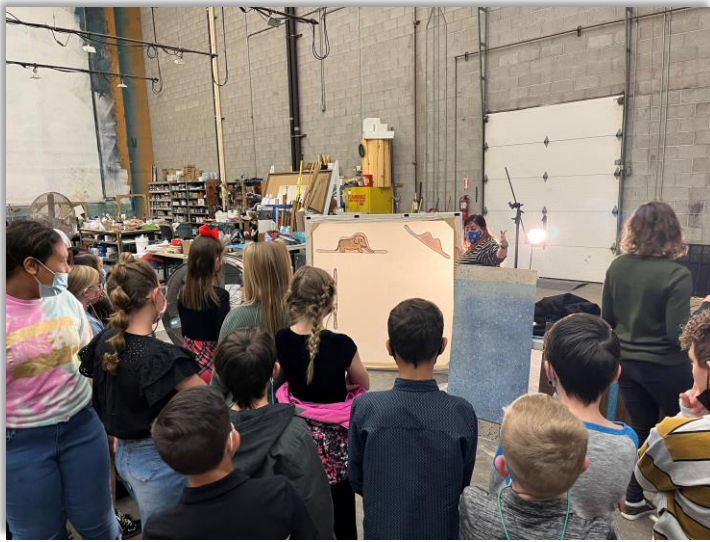
**E. Have you actively participated in peer review of other organizations?** Yes\_\_X\_\_

**F. In what ways have the members of your organization's education department pursued professional development as educators/artists/administrators?**

Every 3-4 years, one of our USUO Education Department staff members is able to attend a national conference; during COVID, the national conferences went digital, and both the Education Director and Assistant were able to attend some sessions. During the past 2 years, our Education Director has participated in monthly OPERA American Education Network digital gatherings. Our Education Director also hones her evaluation skills by serving as part of the Resident Artist audition team. Both our director and assistant performed in Utah Opera productions this past year. We also pursue development by responding to teacher suggestions, and reading publications from the field.

# Total Services Provided

Total # of Districts	Total # of Charters	Total # of Schools	Homeschool Students	Total # of Instructional Hours	Total # of Teachers	Total # of Students
31	26	244	49	537.35	1504	32,972



“It’s the best thing I could have done for my students this year. Not only was it a presentation about opera, it was geared to teenagers in a way that was easily digestible! Their performances were awe inspiring. Anytime UT Opera visits St. George, I will clear my schedule to make time. Our students need it.”

– Choir Director, Dixie Middle School

Students on a tour of the Utah Opera Production Studios



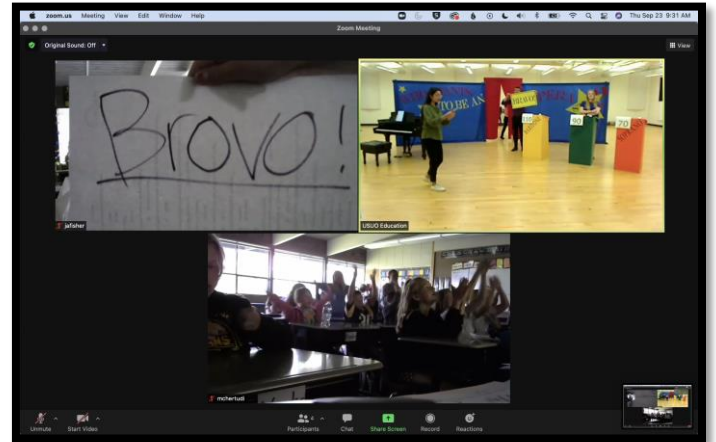
Final pose for Opera Up Close performance

# OPERA IN AND FOR THE SCHOOLS

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
29	9	165	126.1	1351	31334

After the 2020-21 school year of online and live but virtual presentations during which our theme was "connecting to classrooms," we looked forward to the 2021-22 in-person presentations that we expected - until August 2020 - to be offering in the fall. However, with the rise in our communities of the Covid Delta variant, and a few months later, the Omicron, we shifted our programming to a new kind of virtual and live presentation for school use, and explored new options for student engagement.

We were able to slowly begin experimenting with sending our artists into schools to perform live in late February and early March. We were also able to schedule one travel week to offer school programs to schools outside of the metropolitan area: our artists performed in Washington County schools during the last week of March 2022.



Adorable attempt at spelling "Bravo" from an enthusiastic elementary student

Throughout the spring, we continued to offer virtual live programs as well as in-school presentations, depending on each school's current situation and preference. We also kept all of our digital offerings created last year, including our "All About Opera" film that teachers could show in their classrooms, with a follow-up Artist Q&A. In the spring, our artists added the option of teaching a core music lesson over Zoom, using live opera examples.

"I have to say that this was one of the best online virtual field trips we have done here at Lake Powell School. And we have had many as we are so far away from everything. It was very engaging for my kiddos. Even my very young kindergartners stayed engaged. Kudos to all that were involved."

- Principal, Lake Powell Elementary

We collaborated with Local Education Agencies and with school principals to share the news of our spread of programs. We also emailed the state's elementary school musical specialists and secondary school choir teachers about unique programs they could use with their students.

Teachers at all levels were invited to view our narrated PowerPoint Introduction to Opera; the webpage for this product was viewed 153 times during the year, with 139 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; many of the respondents indicated that they had also used the narrated PowerPoint as a preparatory experience for their students.

### Around the state:

Including virtual options in our programming this year meant that classrooms across the entire state were able to participate in our current programming. We were able to perform live in schools from February through May in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area and In Washington County.

### LIVE AND VIRTUAL

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
24	8	73	64.75	893	19227

### LIVE IN-PERSON

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
8	1	21	17.25	268	5496

"I loved introducing my students to a new type of music. Over half of them had never even heard opera before. They liked learning about the different parts of singing and that it was a gameshow format. We loved seeing them sing and perform!"

-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Lomond View

## Live Program for Elementary Schools: *Who Wants to be an Opera Star?*

### Virtual and In-Person Versions

We returned to our traditional assembly *Who Wants to be an Opera Star?* in fall 2021, planning - even if virtually for a while - to offer school-wide assemblies during which students could stay safely in their classes, yet the whole school could participate. We had invested in equipment to allow us to Zoom with a quality product from the artists' safe space of a rehearsal studio in our opera center. In place of the excitement of being together in a crowd, students were able to participate in a different way: those who had school tablets could play the quiz show along with the artists in the competition, and check their own answers as well as vote on various topics.

The Resident Artists performed 53 Virtual Editions of *Who Wants to be an Opera Star?* and, toward the end of the year, 11 in-school presentations.



*Who Wants to be an Opera Star? Live Performance*

**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. Teacher materials also included suggested follow-up activities and a link to an online teacher evaluation.

## Live Program for Secondary School Choirs: Opera Up Close

### Virtual and In-Person Versions

Last year, we revised our classroom presentation *Opera Up Close* for hybrid presentation - live but from the distance of a rehearsal room in our opera center. We acquired an excellent projector and screen, microphone and amplifier; 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. Toward the end of the year, we began offering this program in school auditoriums and classrooms for choral music student audiences. One school in Washington County



*Opera Up Close School Assembly*

requested a performance for theatre students, and we provided a live performance of "Water Memory," a new short opera commissioned by Utah Opera Education for use in a traveling concert this season.

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 presentation, our artists referred students to our online resource of short operas on themes of local interest, as well as the "opera-tunity" to attend Utah Opera student night dress rehearsal nights in the Capitol Theatre.

Our artists presented "Opera Up Close" 12 (3 virtual and 9 In-person) times for schools this past year.

## Live Program for Secondary Schools: *Freeze-Frame: The Elixir of Love*

### Virtual Version

*Freeze Frame: The Elixir of Love* was designed for secondary school audiences, to introduce opera in a fun way, and to give students the experience of being an audience for a sustained theatrical work. Our performers stop the action of the romantic comedy with our Freeze Frame time machine to highlight elements of drama and opera as they occur. During 2021-22, we presented this program 6 times, all in virtual performances that included time for a Q&A at the end.

“It’s great to use the Utah Opera performance as an example of how to use the voice, blend with others, and be exact on the rhythms.”

– Choir teacher, Eastmont Middle School (Canyons SD)

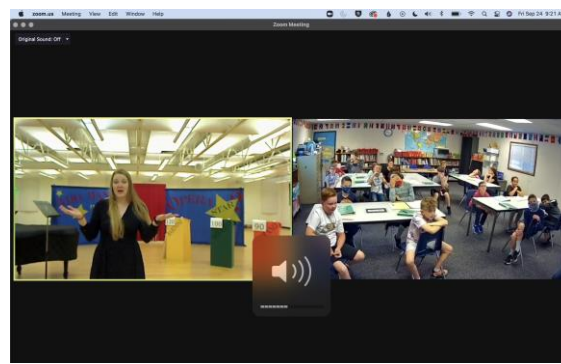
## Live Virtual Individual Artist Programs for Classrooms

### Q&As with Individual Professional Opera Artist

We offered Zoom Q&As with individual artists through the year, but found that those who had live performances in their schools were less likely to pursue this opportunity; it meshed very well with the students’ learning experience when they watched our *All About Opera* film and then got to interact with one of the performers. Our artists participated in 30 Q&As this year.

### Core Standards Lesson with Individual Professional Opera Artist

In Spring 2021, to assist elementary school music specialists in their classroom work, we offered our artists in an enhanced Q&A experience for students: our artists prepared a core standard lesson that employed opera excerpts sung live but virtually for the students. For example, the artist could sing two contrasting pieces of music, and then lead the students in a discussion of how the elements of music were used in different ways to create the effect of each piece. Our artists offered 5 Core Standards Lessons for music classes this spring.



Virtual Q&A

## Digital Programs for Schools: *All About Opera: Classroom Edition*

*All About Opera* is a film introduction to opera, with behind-the-scenes footage included, that Utah Opera created for the 2020-21 school year. We continued to make it available for individual classroom use this year, and make it easily accessible for interested teachers. We requested but did not require teachers to sign up and provide us with the number of students watching; we wanted it to be as easy as possible to access the program. Many teachers who used this program were able to get more of a “live” feeling by signing up for a Zoom Q&A with one of our artists. 105 classes signed up to watch this program officially; but we had an additional 29 views on the Utah Opera website.

## Digital Programs for Schools: 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 for use as a classroom resource. In 2020, we filmed another short opera, *The Better Man*, about Martha Hughes Cannon's run for the first Utah State Senate against her husband; this opera joined our online collection, along with educational resources. The webpage for these operas showed 207 unique page views, but because we didn't require sign-up and passwords, we haven't included any numbers from these views in our accounting of program use.



Drawing from a student of a  
*Freeze-Frame: The Elixir of Love*  
character



Utah Opera van at a school for the first time

"The students were thrilled to call out the different types of singing voices. The program solidified what students have been learning in their music class."

-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Spring City Elementary (North Sanpete

SD)

# OPERA AT THE CAPITOL THEATRE

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
16	18	86	304	119	1282



The Capitol Theatre

## Opera-tunities Nights

Secondary school students were invited to attend final dress rehearsals of Utah Opera's mainstage operas in the Capitol Theatre. This year they experienced professional performances of *The Barber of Seville*, *Flight*, *Tosca*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Our student audiences, who in the earlier part of the year had to meet vaccine and masking requirements in order to attend, were smaller in number initially, but we had a full house for our final Opera-tunities Night this year. We also continued extending an invitation to these events to elementary school music specialists, whose students are not old enough to go on an evening school trip.

"AWESOME! I would LOVE to work here, backstage or performing. I admire all of the actors."

– 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, Mountain View High School (Alpine SD)

## Access to Music

Utah Opera and Utah Symphony presented a concert in the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre for children with special needs and their families on March 15, 2022. These families often cannot enjoy cultural events together because of their children's behavior or needs. We invited schools and community groups to issue invitations to this free event and publicized it on our website, in email, social media, and company publications.



Access to Music Audience Members



Resident Artists Perform

# ORIGINAL CLASSROOM OPERAS

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
3	0	4	100	10	245

Teachers trained in Utah Opera's *Music! Words! Opera!* workshops (see Professional Development for Teachers section) become project managers for year-long cross-curricular projects with their students. Though many teachers reasonably found the prospect of pursuing such a project daunting during the continuing pandemic, four of our previously-trained teachers did find a creative way to let their students make opera. 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.

Most of the classrooms worked with their composers virtually rather than in person, and produced innovative performances. Three of our four operas were performed in the spring for live audiences; the fourth production was a shadow puppet film presented to families over Zoom. The students recorded the music they wrote with the composer, and then animated their shadow puppets to visually communicate their story.

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 (Alpine SD)
- Mountain Point Elementary (Jordan SD)
- Wasatch Elementary (SLC SD)
- Highland Park Elementary (SLC SD)

*Music! Words! Opera! Performance*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
7	1	12	12	28	0

## Opera-tunities Nights

During the 2020-21 school year, when we couldn't invite students to our limited number of productions in the Capitol Theatre (because of the pandemic), we started inviting music teachers and specialists, who could show



Pre-Show Talk for Opera-tunities Night

their vaccine status and wear masks, which were required last year. During 2021-22, when we resumed something closer to our performance schedule in the Capitol Theatre, we continued to invite music teachers to join us at the dress rehearsal intended for secondary school student audiences.

We invested in our music teachers' continued learning in the arts by inviting them to review online learning materials about the productions or come to a pre-performance presentation, and then enjoy the dress rehearsal with the student audience.

## Music! Words! Opera! Summer Workshop

Because of the pandemic, no summer workshop was offered for teachers in 2021. However, teachers already trained in the program were invited to use Utah Opera support (funding for a composer, and a production stipend) to create an original opera with their students. We contributed in this way to their ongoing development, but since there weren't professional development meetings, these are not included in this section's statistics.

## 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).

"I loved the training I got from MWO and actually used some of the lessons and what I had done with my students today as they begin creating their own devised musical."

- Theater Director, Bountiful High School (Davis SD)

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## All About Opera

Our *All About Opera* video, created in 2020-21, featured behind-the-scenes walk-throughs of various areas of the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre as well as various parts of the Utah Opera Production Studios. It was an investment to make this film last year, and the sections that show off our venues continue to be valuable as a behind-the-scenes resource.

## Facility Tours: Capitol Theatre and Production Studio

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
2	0	3	2.25	5	160

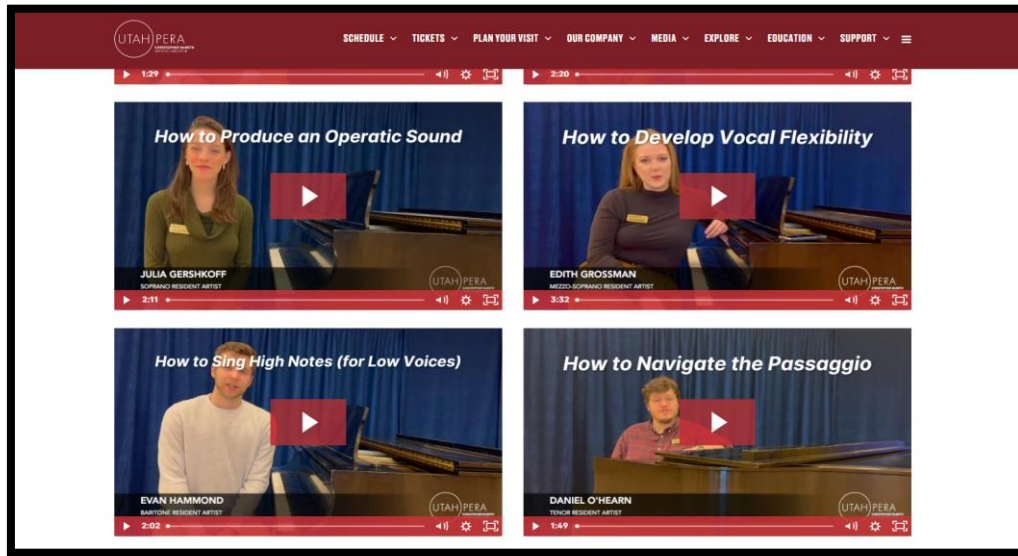
We are delighted to show students our behind-the-scenes work during tours of the Utah Opera Production Studios and the Capitol Theatre. Students learn about the process of creating an opera production, and see costume and set artists at work. We always emphasize the various careers people pursue in the arts. We collaborate with teachers about any special emphasis they would like during their class tours of our facilities.



**Dixie High School Choir visiting  
the Utah Opera Production Studio**

## OTHER DIGITAL RESOURCES

Districts	Charters	Schools	Hours	Teachers	Students
24	1	97	44.1	190	6611



Utah Opera New Digital Resources

### New digital resources created during spring 2022:

During Spring 2022, our Resident Artists created new Frequently Asked Questions video and an array of vocal technique videos, this time with secondary school music students in mind. With all the technology we've acquired in the past few years, and utilizing the expertise of one of our artists, the videos produced this year are of a much higher audio and visual quality, and we look forward to sharing them with students and classes for years to come. These sites were visited 275 times this spring.

### Continuing digital resources created in 2020-21:

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.
2. "Five Singing Skills" video - Students could actively warm up and practice their own singing with this short video by our Resident Artists.
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 51 times.
4. "Parade of Opera Costumes" webpage.
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.
6. "Ask a Singer or Pianist": Students are invited to post an individual question to get a singer's response.
7. SHORT OPERAS, commissioned and filmed by Utah Opera. We now have 5 operas in this collection of 10-20 minute operas on local topics. These pages were visited 207 times this year.

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

## Districts

Number of Schools Served in Each District				
DISTRICT	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023
Alpine	29	45	33	X
Beaver		1		X
Box Elder	1	9	1	
Cache	4	16	2	
Canyons	16	31	14	X
Carbon	2	5	1	
Daggett		2		X
Davis	38	55	32	X
Duchesne		4	2	
Emery	1	2	2	
Garfield		1	2	
Grand		1	1	
Granite	41	50	31	X
Iron		4	2	
Jordan	22	33	29	X
Juab		4		X
Kane		1	5	
Logan	3	3		X
Millard		1	2	
Morgan	1	4	4	
Murray	5	7	4	X
Nebo	3	7	9	
N. Sanpete	1	4	3	
N. Summit				X
Ogden	6	6	4	
Park City	6	2		X
Piute		1	1	
Provo	6	13	4	
Rich		1		X
SLC	14	15	15	X
San Juan			1	
Sevier	1	6	3	
S. Sanpete	5	2	1	
S. Summit		1		X
Tintic		1		X
Tooele	97	13	5	
Uintah	8	5		X
Wasatch		3	3	
Washington	8	16	12	
Wayne		1		X
Weber	9	24	16	X
Total # of Schools Visited	278	417	244	
Total # of Districts Visited	25	39	31	

## Charters

Record of Charter Schools Served				
Charter Schools	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023
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		X
American Preparatory Academy - Draper #3		X		X
American Preparatory Academy - Salem		X		X
American Preparatory Academy - The School for New Americans				X
Ascent Academies of Utah	X			X
Ascent Academies of Utah - West Valley				X
Ascent Academies of Utah Farmington		X		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		X
Bonneville Academy	X			X
Bridge Elementary School			X	
C.S. Lewis Academy				X
Canyon Grove Academy				X
Canyon Rim Academy	X			X
Channing Hall	X			X
City Academy				X
Davinci Academy		X		X
Dixie Montessori Academy				X
Dual Immersion Academy		X		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			X
Excelsior Academy		X		X
Fast Forward High				X
Franklin Discovery Academy	X	X		X
Freedom Preparatory Academy		X		X
Freedom Preparatory Academy Vineyard				X
Gateway Preparatory Academy		X		X
George Washington Academy		X		X
Good Foundations Academy				X
Greenwood Charter School				X
Guadalupe School	X			X
Hawthorn Academy				X

Hawthorn Academy South Jordan		X		X
Hawthorn Academy West Jordan		X		X
Highmark Charter School		X		X
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy	X	X		X
Intech Collegiate Academy				X
Itineris Early College High				X
Jefferson Academy		X		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		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		X
Merit College Preparatory Academy				X
Moab Charter School				X
Monticello Academy		X		X
Mountain Heights Academy	X		X	
Mountain Sunrise Academy		X		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		X
Ogden Preparatory Academy				X
Open Classroom				X
Pacific Heritage Academy		X		X
Paradigm High School		X	X	
Pinnacle Canyon Academy			X	
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning	X			X
Providence Hall		X		X
Quest Academy	X			X
Ranches Academy				X
Reagan Academy				X
Real Salt Lake Academy High School				X
Renaissance Academy		X		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		X
Soldier Hollow Charter School			X	
Spectrum Academy	X	X		X
Spectrum Academy - NSL		X	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		X
Summit Academy - Draper Campus		X		X
Summit Academy - Independence		X	X	
Summit Academy High School				X
Syracuse Arts Academy	X			X
Syracuse Arts Academy - Antelope				X
Syracuse Arts Academy - North		X	X	
Terra Academy				X
The Center for Creativity Innovation and Discovery		X		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			X
Uintah River High				X
Utah Career Path High School				X
Utah Connections Academy		X		X
Utah County Academy of Science		X	X	
Utah International Charter School				X
Utah Military Academy	X			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		X
Voyage Academy			X	
Walden School of Liberal Arts				X
Wallace Stegner Academy	X	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
	*UT School for the Deaf and Blind	*My Tech High *UT School for the Deaf and Blind	*My Tech High *Utah Online School	
Total # of Charter Schools Visited	40	57	26	
Total # of Charter & LEA Visited	318	474	270	

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

# ORGANIZATION'S SELF-EVALUATION

## Cost Effectiveness

After many budget-affecting changes the past two years, during the 2021-22 school year, Utah Opera Education program costs began to approach our usual fiscal picture. We still offered many programs virtually, but already had the equipment on hand to present a quality digital experience to teachers and students.

We continue to add many resources online, and we also repurposed recordings and materials made for other seasons, and incurred little additional financial investment.

Because of special caution during Covid, we did not incur any travel costs until February 2022, when we gradually started offering more in-school presentations. We were only able to make one tour - to Washington County in late March - so our travel costs were reduced. We did have the usual artist costs, as well as the education portion of our performances for students in the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre.

## Procedural Efficiency

We came up with campaign after campaign to get information about our free arts offerings to teachers: we spread the word through LEA arts coordinators, created Wordfly documents, and sent direct emails to teachers and principals.

In spring 2020, we titled our offerings "School from Home," and in fall 2021 our focus became "Connecting to Classrooms." For 2021-22, we focused both on classrooms we could connect to virtually, and gradually were able to mix in-person performances among the virtual ones, gradually giving mostly in-person performances by the end of the school year.

Whenever sign-ups by teachers seemed to lag during the year, we came up with a fresh campaign. We continually updated our school contacts and fine arts teachers lists by visiting every school's website. We also made good use of elementary school music specialists and BTSALP lists.

Our efforts led to use of our programs by students and teachers in 31 Utah school districts. It was exciting to have products that could be used state-wide again this past year. We will resume our 3-year rotation with live in-person presentations through the school districts next school year, but we are also determined to keep virtual resources available, and add to them.

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.

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 past two years have led to a wealth of online resources, and a shift of attention: we will always make sure that teachers have ready access to online 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.

## **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.

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. Each of our Resident Artists had a principal main role in at least one 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. During the past two years, OPERA America's annual conference has been offered online; our Education Director attended virtual sessions, and engaged each month 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, especially with videos from our Resident Artists and short commissioned operas on local themes. 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 their school district with live presentations. We would like to continue the opportunity for classroom Zoom Q&As with individual opera artists, and shift these toward specific Music Core Standards Lessons.

**Ensure equity and inclusion.** Utah Opera is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our programs as evidenced by program availability, selection of our Resident Artists, and selection of the repertoire. In regards to program availability, we strive to perform in every school on a 3-to-5-year rotation schedule; we make every effort to offer our services to every school in the state. In the selection of our Resident Artists, we have committed to hiring Resident Artists from historically underrepresented communities; we feel that representation in the art form is paramount in inspiring Utah students to see opera as a viable pursuit. We are proud to present an exciting and rich array of cultural diversity in the 2022-23 season in that four out of five of our artists identify as people of color. In our repertoire selection, we have made significant efforts to include Spanish pieces from Zarzuela (Spanish operetta) in order to reach Spanish speaking students. We will always be attentive to further ways we can ensure that we offer excellent arts learning opportunities to underserved populations and often discover these engagements through special projects and collaborations.

**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. In the 2021-22 Opera-tunities Nights at the Capitol Theatre, we distributed flyers with a QR code to a survey that could be filled out during intermission; we were able to acquire some excellent student feedback in this way, so we will continue and build on this effort.

**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, and we created a Parade of Opera Costumes resource which other teachers visited as well. Others have asked for next step opera learning adventures, and we have started building a collection of short filmed operas on our education website.

**Participate in POPS and new publicity work.** We actively participate in all POPS meetings and projects, and 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. We're pleased to see that other POPS organizations have added similar pop-up banners at their programs.

**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. For several years, 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 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. We would like to continue commissioning short works by local librettists/composers to add to our collection of digital resources, and one is currently being written during the summer of 2022 for use in the upcoming school year.

**Grow our High School Music Clubs.** 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.

**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 future summers.

**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.

### Statement of Compliance:

To the best of my knowledge, **UTAH OPERA** complies with all requirements of Board Rule R277-444 and this report is accurate.

Education Director Signature:

Date: 6/30/2022



Executive Director Signature:

Date: 6/30/2022