

2022-23



Utah Opera Education Report



Services

187

Schools
Served

253

Districts
Served

29

Instructional
Hours

220

Teachers
Served

2,347

Students
Served

41,910

Adults Served

1,274

Opera in the Schools

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students
144	108	24	102.96	2,102	39,711

WHO WANTS TO BE AN OPERA STAR? (106 Services)

The *Who Wants to Be an Opera Star?* program is an assembly-style offering for grades K-6 in the form of a highly engaging game show presented by the Utah Opera Resident Artists. The 50-minute long scripted presentation is created as an accessible introduction to the operatic art form, organically presenting educational material amidst musical examples and student participation. The presentation ends with an opportunity to validate students' curiosity in an open Q&A session.

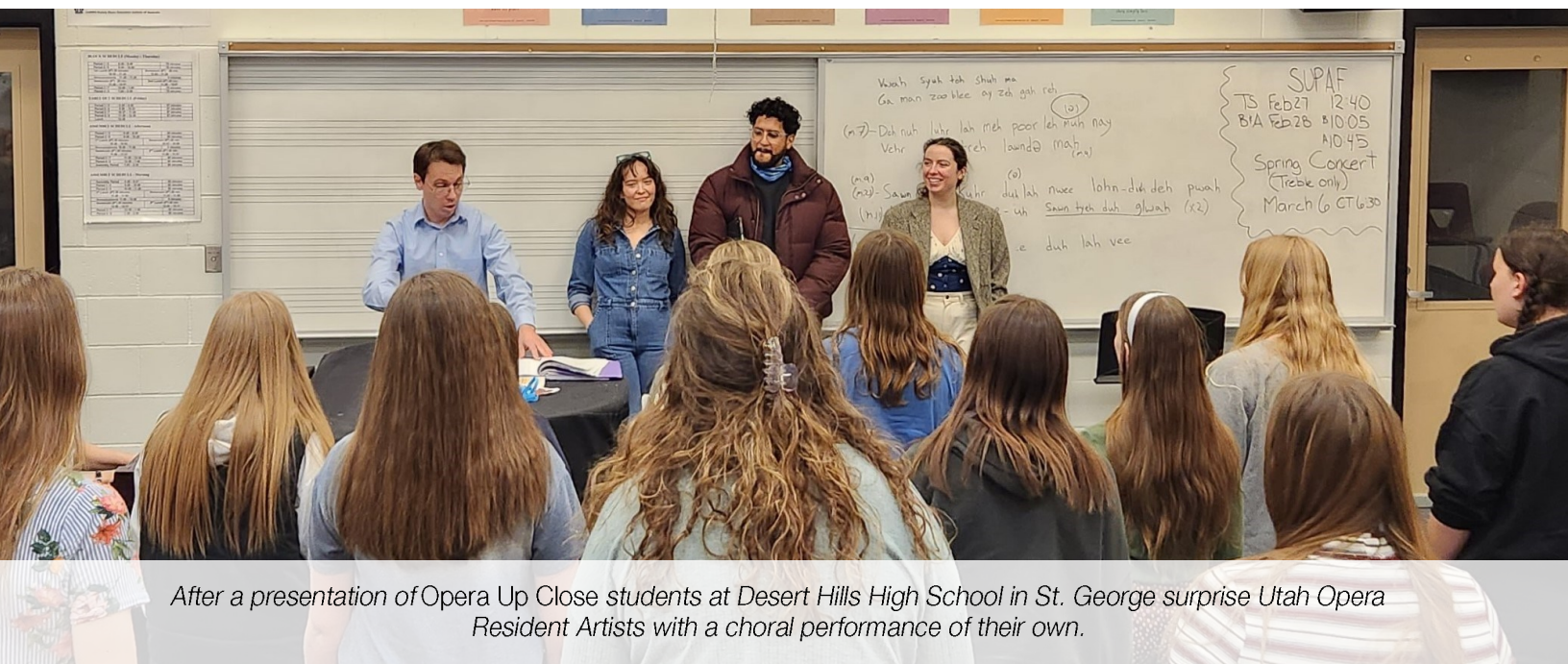


A performance of Who Wants to Be an Opera Star? for the seven students of La Sal Elementary in San Juan School District.

Who Wants to Be an Opera Star? supports a multitude of learning objectives outlined in the Fine Arts Core Standards through the introduction of musical and theatrical terminology augmented through active participation by students and faculty such as demonstrating a rhythmic figure, a melodic segment, identifying a portrayed emotion, or pronouncing and recalling a foreign language

vocabulary term. Teachers are also provided with materials designed to further connect the assembly to in-class learning. These exist as pre- and post-assembly materials including a narrated Intro to Opera PowerPoint presentation and suggested classroom activities, as well as opportunities to deepen their exposure to opera through educational videos and invitations to pose additional questions to the Resident Artists.

“[The students] were so moved by the beautiful music and breathtaking performances that they were captivated by the experience ... For my students to be exposed to these talented examples of artists with such high levels of self-master and resilience is a gift.” –Elementary Principal



OPERA UP CLOSE (15 services)

Opera Up Close is a presentation by the Utah Opera Resident Artists (four vocalists and a pianist) specifically designed to be presented to choral students during a class period at the high school level. While the program is primarily focused on opera history, genres, and styles, *Opera Up Close* also introduces and provides performed examples of other forms utilizing a classically trained voice such as art song and musical theatre. The Resident Artists demonstrate their varied voice types through solos and ensembles, define the role of a coach/pianist, present a mock audition, and highlight the collaborative nature of opera by presenting an overview of the multitude of artistic fields contributing to a production (costumes, scenic, orchestra, composition, wigs & makeup, etc...). Each presentation concludes with a Q&A session allowing students an opportunity to learn more about their specific interests ranging from what life is like as a professional artist to vocal production technique.

Opera Up Close supports many of the established Fine Arts Core Standards through the presentation. Students learn of the historical development and background of opera and art song, as well as how operatic foundations lead to contemporary musical

theatre. The many varied styles of vocal music presented provide opportunities to experience and discuss the similar or contrasting techniques, musical elements, and their effectiveness as demonstrated by professional classically-trained musicians.

“It was wonderful! The artists were prepared, talented and had a great sense of humor with my teenagers. Even my 8th and 9th grade boys were captivated. Thank you so much! I'd love to make this a tradition!”
–Jr. High Choir Teacher

OPERA 101 (11 services)

Opera 101 is an introductory opera presentation for junior high and high school students. It retains all of the subject matter, energy, and dynamic presentation that interweaves performances and demonstrations of *Who Wants to Be an Opera Star?* (WWBOS) outside of a game show format.

Opera 101 compares and contrasts the operatic artform with the familiar and relatable musical theatre genre in addition to the materials it shares with WWBOS (musical and theatrical terminology and accompanying examples), expanding students' historical understanding of the development of theatrical arts in addition to the knowledge and vocabulary useful in identifying musical elements and structures.

CORE MUSIC STANDARD LESSON (12 services)

Core Standard Music Lessons bring a Utah Opera Resident Artist singer digitally into the classroom for a 20-minute presentation. The singer presents two contrasting arias from the opera repertoire and leads a discussion with the students as they identify the emotions of the pieces and specific musical elements (such as tempo, dynamics, melody, and rhythm) the composers employed to convey that emotion. This program is developed specifically to assist students in identifying and describing elements that make contrasting music selections different from each other while also providing the opportunity for students to interact with a style of music with which they may have little to no prior experience.



Students at Gateway Preparatory Academy in Enoch eagerly come up with questions to ask after a performance of *Opera 101*. Utah Opera Resident Artists performed both *Opera 101* and *Who Wants to Be an Opera Star?* at this school.

Opera at the Theatre

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
9	150	17	18.25	195	1,651	741

OPERA-TUNITIES NIGHTS & DOCENT VISITS (7 services)

Open to secondary students and their educators, Opera-tunities Nights are invitations to attend the final dress rehearsal of Utah Opera's mainstage productions at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre. This season, students witnessed *The Flying Dutchman* by Richard Wagner, *The Daughter of the Regiment* by Gaetano Donizetti, *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi, and *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* by Mason Bates and Mark Campbell. These Opera-tunities Nights allow students to witness the grand art of opera in its full form with orchestra, sets, props, lights, costumes, wigs, makeup, and high caliber singing.

Beginning with *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, we began incorporating additional educational opportunities in the lobby beginning one hour prior to the performance. Students had hands-on learning opportunities with props from the show, tracks of the electronic music played via synthesizer as part of the orchestration, hands-on interaction with costumes from an upcoming production, and information outlining highlights from the life of Steve Jobs.

Teachers are offered the additional resource of having Utah Opera come to their class for a docent presentation to their students; this is the in-school component of this program. By presenting the history, common practices, and themes of the specific upcoming work as well as behind-the-scenes information about the production, students

arrive at the theater with a greater understanding of what they're going to see and hear during the performance. There were three docent presentations given in the classroom this year.

In addition to these presentations, Utah Opera provides teachers and students with online learning materials for each production written by music scholars. The result of these combined efforts creates a wealth of connections to the Fine Arts Core Standards.



ACCESS TO MUSIC (1 service)

Access to Music is an annual Utah Opera concert presented specifically for people with sensory sensitivities or other disabilities and their families. This performance featuring Utah Opera Resident Artists and Utah Symphony allows valuable opportunities for all to experience professional, live music without any expectations to remain seated or refrain from audible or physical reactions to the performance.

The house lights remain on and doors remain open for anyone wishing to relocate to a less acoustically active space. Invitations to this free event are sent to schools and community groups and it is publicized on our website, in email, social media, and company publications.



“Everyone loved it. My son McKay calls it ‘The most important night of the year.’

–Parent

BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED NIGHT (1 service)



In collaboration with the Moran Eye Center and the Utah Council for the Blind, Utah Opera hosted its 26th annual Blind and Visually Impaired Night at the Opera during the orchestra dress rehearsal for our production of *Rigoletto*. In a pre-performance presentation, members of our artistic and education staff introduced the story, history, and themes of the opera. At this time, props and fabric swatches from the production were passed around to the audience, providing a tactile element to the experience. During the performance, many audience members used

provided headphones to listen to a live audio description of the events happening on stage. Patrons also had access to braille supertitle scripts provided by the Library for the Blind. This event also welcomed guide dogs in training and their handlers into the theatre as an opportunity to gain experience attending a live performance.

“My daughter ... can feel included AND understand what is happening”

–Parent

Original Classroom Operas

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
3	3	2	75	10	242	3

MUSIC! WORDS! OPERA! (3 services)

In addition to fostering valuable life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, *Music! Words! Opera!* aligns with each of the four strands of the Music Fine Arts Core Standards (Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect) as well as many of the Drama Core Standards. Teachers also utilize the program as a cross-curricular activity by aligning the subject matter of their original opera with another non-arts learning objective (ex., one school this year used the program to add music performance elements to plays created and presented by students centered around Greek history and mythology).



Highland Park Elementary in Salt Lake City presents their original opera, *The Interrupting Chickens*.

Music! Words! Opera! is an extended immersion program wherein trained teachers guide their K-5 students through the creation of an original opera all the way through the world premiere of their work. Over an academic year, students create their own libretto based on an existing or original story, write the melodies with a composer, design and build the show (including sets, make up, and costumes), rehearse, and finally perform for their friends and family. Teachers providing this opportunity to their students have participated in a summer training program provided in partnership with the Madeleine Choir School, where they not only learn about, but also participate in the creation process. Utah Opera provides a stipend to participating schools for production costs and compensates a professional composer to mentor the musical aspect of the work by dictating student melodies, scoring, and creating accompaniments.

“The opera is fun! I like when we all sing together because it sounds good.”
–Student, Highland Park Elementary



Sixth grade students at Jordan Ridge Elementary in South Jordan take a bow after their performances of stories from Greek mythology.

Professional Development

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers
8	22	10	4	39

Teachers in the House is a professional development program offering re-licensure points for Utah educators. A lecture specific to the current opera is provided at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre one hour prior to every performance and final dress rehearsal of a Utah Opera mainstage production. Following these lectures, educators attend the performance with a deeper understanding of the music, history, and dramaturgy of the opera. For reporting purposes, only the time spent in the lecture is tabulated here as there is no cost associated.

Opera Behind the Scenes

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
7	9	2	9	1	223	84

FACILITY TOURS (3 services)

OSHER CLASSES (4 services)

Our doors are opened to grades K-12 to witness and interact with the professional artisans who collaborate to bring our operas to life. With full production facilities, the Utah Opera Production Studio houses scenic, costumes, and props shops as well as their storage; a scenic bay where large backdrops are constructed and painted, and a rehearsal hall. Students and teachers get a peek behind the scenes as Utah Opera technicians, staff, and artisans give presentations about their individual artistic processes, illustrate how they have used technical skills to realize a design, and answer any questions. Attendees are not only offered insights to a multitude of career paths that contribute to the opera artform, but to witness the skills and products of a professional technician and artisan.

Utah Opera offers four classes per year through University of Utah’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. These classes give members of the community an opportunity to preview each mainstage opera during the early production period. Classes are held at the Utah Opera Productions Studios, where participants first view a presentation on the history, story, and music of the opera. Then participants are invited to view portions of the staging rehearsal, giving a rare glimpse into the process of mounting an opera. Finally, participants are invited on a tour of the costume shop and scenic bay to observe the technical aspects of the opera in progress.

Opera in the Community

Services	Hours	People
16	11.25	518



RESIDENT ARTISTS COMMUNITY CONCERTS (10 services)

In addition to their services to schools, Utah Opera Resident Artists also performed community concerts throughout the state. Their traveling concert, entitled, *All in a Day* was performed in Parowan, Beaver, St. George, Provo, Blanding, Ogden, and Salt Lake City. Two of these concerts were attended free of charge thanks to the generous contributions of community partners.

All in a Day, a concert filled with musical numbers from opera, musical theatre, and art song, also featured two short operas. One of these short operas, *Happy Birthday*, by Utah composer Andrew Maxfield and librettist Ruth Prillaman, was commissioned by Utah Opera specifically for the Resident Artists in 2022.

RANDOM ACTS OF OPERA

(6 services)

Utah Opera Resident Artists also performed several “Random Acts of Opera” in partnership with the Salt Lake City Library. These pop-up concerts gave members of the community a unique chance to hear a variety of repertoire

sung in the open lobby of the library. As this was a public performance in an open space, we did not take a count of the audience for this program.

