

# Blind and Visually Impaired Night at the Opera

The Barber of Seville - March 11, 2020



# Blind and Visually Impaired Night 2020

## The Barber of Seville

In collaboration with the Moran Eye Center and the Utah Council for the Blind, Utah Opera's Education Department hosted its 24th annual Night at the Opera for blind and visually impaired members of our community at the March 11 dress rehearsal for Utah Opera's production of *The Barber of Seville*. 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 the barber's mug and razor, a Spanish fan, a rooster prop, and fabric samples.

In addition to our blind and visual impaired patrons, 5 puppies and their trainers from Guide Dogs for the Blind - Salt Pups were allowed to attend the dress rehearsal to experience socialization in a new space as they train to be guide dogs.

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.

75 people attended as well as the 5 guide dogs in training with their owners. Here are a few of the comments that audience members shared in our post-event survey:

*Thank you for all the work of so many people and organizations that make this event possible. I hope all involved realize that it's well worth the time and effort and that it's deeply appreciated!*

*Thank you so much for including the puppies in training from Guide Dogs for the Blind! It was a great experience for Mindy to sit in a theater and hear live instruments and singing. She also got to practice calmly greeting people during the intermissions and practice her behavior around other puppies and around working guide dogs. And I really enjoyed the opera!*

*The narrator did a great job and her personality came through in the narration which made it even more enjoyable.*

*Thank you so much for this experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it. And I was thankful to be able to bring some friends to enjoy it as well.*

*Enjoyed it very much, everyone was so considerate and pleasant. I would definitely use the headset next time.*