



HAWAII OPERA THEATRE
848 S. Beretania St, Suite 301
Honolulu, HI, 96813

Opera For Everyone 2010

Dear Educator,

I hope you have had a great summer and that things are going smoothly for you in the current school year. Here at the opera we are busily preparing for what will be our 50th Anniversary grand opera season ahead which will include the productions *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, Puccini's *La Bohème* and the Hawaiian premiere of Wagner's epic *Die Walküre*. All three of these operas are considered masterpieces and have much to offer in terms of story, themes, depictions of famous literature, mythology, history, and influences on the creation of European democracy.

OPERAS

Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro): sung in Italian - Wednesday, January 27, 7pm.

In Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* we meet up with the characters of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, notably Count Almaviva, Rosina (now Countess Almaviva), and our favorite barber, Figaro. Beaumarchais' politically radical play about servants outwitting their masters was banned from many European stages when it was first published, but thankfully, not for long. The first of the great collaborations between Mozart and the Italian librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte, *Le Nozze di Figaro* features some of Mozart's most sparkling and memorable tunes as well as the genre's most beloved characters.

Die Walküre: sung in German - Wednesday, February 10, 7pm.

Magical swords, sleeping spells, battle scenes, rings of fire: *Die Walküre* has it all! Students will be whisked into the exciting world of Norse mythology in the second installment of Wagner's epic masterpiece known as "the Ring Cycle" and will no doubt be humming the 'Ride of the Valkyries' (made famous by Elmer Fudd as 'Kill the Wabbit') all the way home. A tale of family duty and betrayal, *Die Walküre* follows the tale of the Norse God Wotan and his attempts to thwart the curse of the doomed golden ring of the Nibelungen. We recommend reading the synopsis of the first opera of this four opera cycle, *Götterdämmerung*, before attending.

La Bohème: sung in Italian - Wednesday, February 24, 7pm.

No matter how many times one has seen *La Bohème*, the magic of this love story never fails to resonate. Set in Paris' famed artists district, *La Bohème* follows the doomed love affair of the writer Rodolfo and the beautiful, yet sickly Mimi. Puccini's classic love story remains one of the most beloved operas of all time and has inspired many modern interpretations, including the musical hit "Rent". Please order early as tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

Teacher's Forum

The annual **OPERA EDUCATION FORUM** will be held on Wednesday, November 11 from 9am to noon at HOT's rehearsal hall at 987 Waimanu St. As is customary, we will give priority seating for OFE to those in attendance. At the Forum we go through the stories and music of the operas, provide background information and advance print materials, discuss educational issues related to these shows, share ideas and more. Please RSVP to Erik at 596-7372 x207 if you will be attending.

Season Related Information

The Marriage of Figaro - three interesting men. Mozart you probably already know as the child prodigy. His collaborator on this opera was the Italian poet Lorenzo da Ponte. The poet led a very colorful life as a priest, gambler, libertine, poet, grocer, and professor of Italian. He found himself him travelling from Venice to Vienna, to London and eventually New Jersey and New York. Beaumarchais was a watchmaker/inventor, politician, revolutionary, gun runner and poet. He truly was Figaro. His banned play on which the opera is based was one of the many elements that led up to the French Revolution.

Die Walküre is the 2nd opera in a story of four operas known as The Ring of the Nibelungen. This epic tale of Wotan's quest to save the gods from a cursed ring which will ruin them all, took Wagner twenty-eight years to complete. The composer not only wrote the music but the poetry for this masterpiece. An ingenious story based on two ancient epic poems: The Nibelungenlied and the Volsung Saga. For the entire story look for Der Ring des Nibelungen in books or on the web. While Wagner operas are reputed to be very long, we expect this one to run about 3 hours and 20 minutes with intermission.

La Bohème is considered one of the world's most popular operas if not *the* most popular. The characters in this story are based on friends and acquaintances of Henri Murger who put them into his serial Scènes de la Vie de Bohème which was later compiled into a novel. It truly does give a glimpse into the life of a starving artist in the mid 1800s. The character Rodolfo is Murger.

Other HOT Things

WE MOVED! We are now at 848 South Beretania Suite 301 - just down the street from the Academy of Arts. This is where you will need to pick-up your Opera For Everyone tickets. Parking is validated.

HOT OPERA EXPRESS - looking for an opera to visit your school or group? We are touring with the opera Cinderella by Rossini both in the fall and spring. Slots are filling fast so call soon if you are interested.

HOT RESIDENCY - We are full for 2009 but if your grade level or school is interested in performing an opera give us a call. This year's residency schools include Roosevelt High School, Aina Haina Elementary, and Waikele Elementary.

I look forward from hearing from you and seeing you at the opera!

Aloha,

Erik Haines
Director of Education and Outreach
Hawaii Opera Theatre