



## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

It is never too early to introduce your child to the world of opera. Listening to classical music at an early age can positively effect your child's development. Including music and arts exposure as part of a child's education will help your children exercise their creativity and can help them succeed in other academic subjects. Below are a few of the many resources recommended by OPERA America that can help you expose your child to this unique art form.

### Selected Books

#### Infant-Pre-K

- Ainger-Clark, Julie and Nadeem Zaidi. *Baby Einstein: Baby Mozart: Music is Everywhere*. Baby Einstein Co., 2004.
- Weaver, Tess. *Opera Cat*. Clarion Books, 2002.

#### Grades K-3

- Auch, Mary Jane. *The Bantam of the Opera*. Holiday House, Inc., 1997.
- Clement, Gary. *The Great Poochini*. Groundwood Books, 1999.

#### Grades 4-8

- Ganeri, Anita and Nicola Barber. *The Young Person's Guide to the Opera: With Music from the Great Operas (book and CD)*. Harcourt Children's Books, 2001.
- Siberell, Anne. *Bravo! Brava! A Night at the Opera: Behind the Scenes With Composers, Cast, and Crew*. With an introduction by mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade. Oxford University Press Children's Books, 2001.

#### Grades 9-12

- Plotkin, Fred. *Opera 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Opera*. Hyperion, 1994.
- Sadie, Stanley, ed. *The Billboard Illustrated Encyclopedia of Opera*. Billboard Books, 2004.

### Recordings

- *Pavarotti's Opera Made Easy – My Favorite Opera For Children*. Decca, 1994.
- *World's Very Best Opera for Kids...in English*. Children's Group, 2003.
- *Who's Afraid of Opera? The Complete Series*. A series of opera highlights featuring soprano Dame Joan Sutherland. Kultur Video, 1990.

**For more resources and information, visit [www.greatamericanvoices.org](http://www.greatamericanvoices.org)**

*Great American Voices* is presented by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with OPERA America.  
*Great American Voices* is made possible by The Boeing Company.

## RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Opera can be used as a teaching tool in many ways. The curriculum opportunities are boundless because opera is an art form that crosses many disciplines, combining singing, orchestral music, literature, theater, dance, visual arts, and design. Any one of these elements can provide numerous entry points for capturing student interest.

### Opera Resources Online

- *MUSIC! WORDS! OPERA!* is a three-level set of curriculum materials that meets national standards for students in grades K-12. This curriculum shows students how they can relate to opera and how to create and perform their own works. Visit [www.operaamerica.org/mwo/main.html](http://www.operaamerica.org/mwo/main.html) to learn more about the curriculum.
- Your local opera company may offer a number of different educational programs for teachers and students, such as written curriculum materials about opera that are tied to academic standards, discounted tickets to performances, or artist residencies for your classroom. To connect with an opera company in your area, visit OPERA America's listing of professional company members at [www.operaamerica.org/proflist.html](http://www.operaamerica.org/proflist.html). Visit [www.operaamerica.org/education/programsearch.asp](http://www.operaamerica.org/education/programsearch.asp) to learn about a multitude of opera education opportunities.
- Teachopera.net is a national collaboration between OPERA America members dedicated to providing education materials that will support K-12 teachers and teaching artists using opera in their classroom curricula. You will find lesson plans on seven different operas linked to such curriculum areas as English, history, math, and politics. Visit [www.teachopera.net](http://www.teachopera.net) to learn more.
- As part of their Broadcast Center, the Metropolitan Opera Guild offers a basic guide for incorporating opera in your classroom. *Introducing Your Students to Opera* includes activities for exploring the instruments of an orchestra, an overview of opera, and information about specific operas. You may access the guide by going to <http://archive.operainfo.org>, selecting an opera from the list, and selecting teacher materials. The Web site contains information and lesson plans for numerous operas featured as part of the Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts.

### Arts as a Core Curriculum Subject

The No Child Left Behind Act, through the U.S. Department of Education, lists the arts as a core academic subject, meaning that the arts should play a significant role in a child's education, alongside math, English, history, and science. As a teacher, you have an opportunity to work with your students toward these standards. Engaging your students in an exercise as simple as listening to an opera CD and having them discuss or write descriptions of what they have heard will help your students begin to achieve the recommended education standards in the arts. To find arts standards for your state, visit <http://edstandards.org/StSu/Art.html>.

The *Great American Voices* publication and the audio commentary CD, as well as additional resources from the *Great American Voices* Web site at [www.greatamericanvoices.org](http://www.greatamericanvoices.org), provide you with tools to begin an opera journey with your students.

