



HoustonGrandOpera

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Houston Grand Opera Announces Summer Opera Camps for Students in Grades 3–12

Houston, February 23, 2017— Houston Grand Opera’s community collaboration and education initiative, HGOco, is now accepting registrations for the company’s three summer opera camps, open to students entering grades 3 through 12. The camps offer students a creative environment to invent, perform, and develop their skills while enhancing their vocal and dramatic talents. HGO has operated the camps for more than 20 years. The opera camps are staffed by professional choir directors, composers, directors, and pianists assisted by a corps of volunteers to help rehearse and supervise the campers.

Each camp culminates in a performance for friends and family on the last day of the session. For the Art of Opera camp, the performance takes place at the Heinen Theatre on the Houston Community College central campus, complete with costumes, props, and lighting.

“HGO continues its tradition of providing these invaluable opera camps to young Houstonians,” says HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech. “The camps encourage the students’ love of singing and performing and also allow them to develop a lasting appreciation for all the creative elements (music, singing, set design, acting) that make opera so rewarding.”

Three camps will be offered, each serving different age groups:

OPERA EXPERIENCE

Campers develop healthy singing technique and hone their music theory skills. The camp culminates in a performance showcasing group and solo repertoire. Offered for students entering grades 4–9 in fall 2017.

WHEN: Week One, June 5–9: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Week Two, June 19–23: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
COST: \$250 per student

CREATE AN OPERA

Campers collaborate to write, design, build, and perform a one-of-a-kind musical masterpiece based on a children’s story. This camp is perfect for singers and non-singers alike. Offered for students entering grades 3–6 in fall 2017.

WHEN: June 12–16: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
COST: \$250 per student

ART OF OPERA

Campers enhance their vocal and dramatic skills by rehearsing and performing a fully staged opera or musical production. This exciting camp fills quickly; register early to guarantee participation. Offered for students entering grades 7–12 in fall 2017. This camp requires a recommendation from a choir director or voice teacher.

WHEN: June 12–23: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
COST: \$450 per student

Registration is at <https://www.houstongrandopera.org/community-programs/children> and spots are offered on a first come, first served basis. After-camp child care, consisting of fun musical and theater activities until 5:30 p.m., is offered for an additional \$45/week. Scholarships are available to eligible students. For more information, please contact Kathleen Staten at kstaten@hgo.org.

HGOco is Houston Grand Opera’s broad initiative for connecting the company to the community. Its rich and varied programming includes Opera to Go!, a touring company that performs family-friendly operas in schools and community venues; *Song of Houston*, productions that bring the unique stories of Houstonians to the stage in original operatic works; and special performances of mainstage productions for school groups only, including matinees for grades 4–8 and High School Night for grades 9–12. For more information, visit <https://www.houstongrandopera.org/community-programs/children>.

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About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 62 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to create, participate in, and observe art. The NEXUS Initiative is HGO's multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy world-class opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007, NEXUS has enabled more than 225,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

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