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Houston Grand Opera Announces Opera Camp for Students Grades 3–12

Houston, February 15, 2016— 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 18 years.

The opera camps are staffed by professional choir directors, composers, directors, and pianists assisted by a corps of older teens who volunteer to help rehearse and supervise the campers. In the past, many volunteers have been graduates of the Bauer Family High School Voice Studio who volunteer for Opera Camp as a way of “giving back” to HGO for their year-long intensive program of vocal study and mentorship.

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

“We are pleased to offer these camps to Houston’s young people,” said HGO General Manager Molly Dill. “Not only do they nurture students’ love of singing and performance, but they also build a lifelong appreciation for all the creative elements that make opera so exciting.”

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

OPERA EXPERIENCE

Campers perform songs from Broadway-style repertoire to develop a healthy singing technique and improve music skills. Offered for students entering grades 4–9 in fall 2016. This year a second Opera Experience Camp will be offered, for the first time.

WHEN: Week One: June 6–10, 2016. Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Week Two: June 20–24, 2016. 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 experience what it takes to write, design, build, and perform an opera by creating their own musical masterpiece based on a children's story. Perfect for singers and non-singers. Offered for students entering grades 3–6 in fall 2016.

WHEN: June 13–17, 2016. 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 performing a fully staged opera adaptation. Last summer, campers performed the music of Rossini to a packed house. Offered for students entering grades 7–12 in fall 2016. This camp requires a recommendation from a choir director or voice teacher.

WHEN: June 13–24, 2016. Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

COST: \$450 per student

Registration is open now at HGO.org/community-programs/students, 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 Stacey Michael at smichael@hgo.org.

HGOco presents diverse programming for young audiences throughout the community and downtown at the Wortham Theater Center. The journey to a lifetime of music and reading begins well before children start school, and HGOco offers accompanying opportunities through each step of their academic growth, featuring storytelling with words and music. For more information visit HGO.org/community-programs.

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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 58 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 observe, participate in, and create 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 200,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

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