



Volunteering as an Usher at Sarasota Opera

Summary

Sarasota Opera House ushers ensure the safety, comfort and enjoyment of the audience – our patrons. Sarasota Opera House ushers must:

- Partner with other ushers to ensure a positive work environment and a positive experience for patrons.
- Treat patrons, staff and other volunteers with courtesy and respect.
- Present a professional appearance – making a positive first and lasting impression for our patrons.

Qualifications

While a sense of humor and a passion for Opera are what we look for in our volunteer ushers, its important that applicants are aware of some very specific requirements:

1. Ushers must be able to read tickets, know the locations of rows and seats in the house and the location of patron amenities in the public spaces in the theater.
2. Ushers must know the locations of emergency exits and be able to follow safety and security procedures. Ushers must work in an orderly fashion and remain calm in emergencies.
3. Ushers must have the ability to communicate effectively with the public and deliver excellent customer service.
4. Physically, ushers must have the ability to move quickly, climb stairs, tolerate heights, read in low light conditions, lift/move/carry 10 lbs., walk aisles at an incline, stand and walk for extended periods.
5. Ushers duties are performed in crowded lobbies and theater with moderate to occasionally high noise levels.

Work Schedule

Ushers work both rental events and Sarasota Opera productions. Through June 30, 2008, we will require ushers to commit and work a minimum of 6 performances/events. Schedules will be mailed and assignments will be made on a first come first served basis.

Performances may be scheduled any day of the week and may be in the morning, afternoon or evening. Ushers must arrive 1 hour before curtain and plan to stay through the performances whenever possible. Running times are usually 2.5 to 3 hours so the total time commitment for each event/performance is approximately 3.5 to 4 hours.

Contact

Please fax or email your application to:

Susan Reeves

Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.

50 Central Ave., Suite 820, Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: 941.366.8450

Fax: 941.955.5571

Email: sreeves@sarasotaopera.org

VOLUNTEER USHER APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Home Phone _____ Cell/Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

If you live part of the year outside of Florida and would like us to contact you there, please provide that contact information below and indicate the dates you will be at that address:

Please list any Sarasota Opera staff or volunteers with whom you are acquainted:

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Your Current Employment: _____

Please list any current volunteer commitments:

Organization _____ Duties _____

Organization _____ Duties _____

Please list any previous volunteer experience:

Organization _____ Duties _____

Organization _____ Duties _____

May we contact these people for a reference? Yes _____ No _____

If no, please provide us with others we may contact: _____

Acknowledgement

I agree to abide by the Sarasota Opera Guidelines and Policies and attend training sessions as required. I attest the information in this application is true and I authorize verification of all information contained in this application. I understand that completion of this application does not guarantee acceptance into the Volunteer Usher Program. If accepted I understand that I may withdraw from volunteer service at any time and that Sarasota Opera Association may release me from services at any time.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please provide us with the following measurements for your uniform:

Jacket _____