



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarasota Youth Opera Presents *Brundibár*, a Tale of Courage and Community

Sarasota, Florida— Sarasota Youth Opera returns to the stage this fall with [*Brundibár*](#), an opera with a profound history for young voices that has resonated across generations. Two performances will take place at the Sarasota Opera House on Saturday, [November 8](#) at 5:00 PM and Sunday, [November 9](#) at 12:00 PM.

Composed by Hans Krása with a libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister, *Brundibár* tells the story of siblings Little Joe and Annette who seek to buy milk for their ailing mother but are thwarted by the greedy organ-grinder Brundibár. With the help of animal friends and neighborhood children, they stand up to injustice and sing a triumphant song of victory. This opera is a celebration of unity, resilience, and the power of young voices.

Written in the 1930s by Jewish Czech composer Hans Krása and originally performed by children at the Theresienstadt concentration camp during WWII, *Brundibár* became a symbol of hope during its 55 performances at Theresienstadt camp. Today it remains one of the most-performed youth operas worldwide.

The opera is preceded by a special prologue written by Sarasota Opera's Martha Collins and Jessé Martins specifically to accompany *Brundibár*. "As we delved more into the lives and writings of these young artists, most of whom did not survive the Nazi regime, we became deeply inspired and humbled to learn they strove to stay creative artistically under such prohibitive conditions," said Martha Collins. "It quickly became imperative to us that the companion piece we would create to go with *Brundibár* not use words and stories created by us, but rather the actual words of young people."

[Sarasota Youth Opera's](#) production will feature a cast of talented young performers from the company's nationally recognized youth program. The production is fully staged with professional sets, costumes, and live orchestra, conducted by Jessé Martins and directed by

Martha Collins, with costume design by Howard Tsvi Kaplan and lighting design by Ken Yunker.

Performance Dates:

Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Tickets are available at <https://www.sarasotaopera.org/event/brundibar> or by calling the Box Office at 941-328-1300.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is entering its 67th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast and is celebrating 100 years of the historic Sarasota Opera House. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984, the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater — now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company's Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive youth opera program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

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