



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 24, 2021

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**Images at:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6vdgwaqyu1ay3xt/AACqaEQoKF6uYF1FHXF\\_WsMwa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6vdgwaqyu1ay3xt/AACqaEQoKF6uYF1FHXF_WsMwa?dl=0)

## **Sarasota Youth Opera now enrolling for in-person or virtual fall semester**

*All skill levels invited to enroll, no auditions or prior experience are needed*

**Sarasota, FL**—Sarasota Youth Opera’s fall semester enrollment is now open, with in-person classes and activities offered for the first time since March 2020. Fall activities include chorus rehearsals, acting classes, and one-on-one coaching. Towards the end of the fall semester, active Sarasota Youth Opera members will have the opportunity to audition for the children’s chorus in Puccini’s *Tosca*, which will open the Winter Opera Festival in February 2022. Sarasota Opera’s Director of Education Martha Collins stated, “We are so excited that we can all be together again, sharing the joy of singing, and the fun of opera!” Thanks to the generosity of donor and community support, tuition assistance and sibling discounts are available. Visit <https://www.sarasotaopera.org/youth-opera-program> for enrollment details, health and safety guidelines, and online learning options. All classes and activities will take place at the Sarasota Opera House, located at 61 N. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236. For more information, call George Hemcher at 941-328-1329 or email [youthopera@sarasotaopera.org](mailto:youthopera@sarasotaopera.org).

### **ABOUT SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA**

Since 1984, Sarasota Youth Opera has given thousands of young people an opportunity to experience opera first-hand through participation in after-school choruses, Sarasota Opera mainstage productions, summer workshops, and fully staged Youth Opera productions. As the

only program in the United States committed to presenting annual full-scale opera productions for young voices, accepting all who wish to participate regardless of skill level or ability to pay, Sarasota Youth Opera is a national model for opera education.

**Youth Opera Choruses:** Beginning at age 8, singers are placed in one of two chorus levels. Each chorus provides a setting for everyone to participate and progress at their own level as they gain greater skills and experience. Selections performed are made up of classical music, which includes opera and choral pieces in different languages. The choruses perform throughout the community in formal concerts and outreach events.

**Opera Mainstage Season:** Members of the Youth Opera are selected to join Sarasota Opera's Winter Festival season, appearing in the mainstage children's chorus, as supernumeraries (extras who perform non-singing roles) and for special roles written by the composer for children's voices. In recent seasons these have included roles in *La bohème*, *Tosca*, and *Carmen*. Singers are involved in the complete production process – from early music and dramatic rehearsals to performing alongside opera professionals.

**Youth Opera Productions:** Part of Sarasota Opera's commitment to young people includes the commissioning of new operatic works written for children and young adults. Six new works have been presented as part of this mission: Polly Pen's *Her Lightness* (1993), Tom Suta's *Eye of Ra* (1998), John Kennedy's *The Language of Birds* (2004), Daron Hagen's *Little Nemo in Slumberland* (2012) and Rachel J. Peters' *Rootabaga Country* (2017). Members take part in the making of each opera, complete with professional staging, costumes, lighting, sound, and orchestral accompaniment.



Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450

[www.sarasotaopera.org](http://www.sarasotaopera.org)

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