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Sarasota Opera Announces 2026 Summer Programs for Young Singers

New this year: Launch of the Youth Opera Vocal Academy

Sarasota, FL — Sarasota Opera is pleased to announce two exciting summer training opportunities for young singers: **Sarasota Youth Opera Summer Camp** and the **Sarasota Opera Vocal Academy**, a specialized intensive for pre-college vocalists.

Sarasota Youth Opera Summer Camp

Under the guidance of Sarasota Opera’s professional artistic and production staff, Sarasota Youth Opera Summer Camp immerses young people in the many facets of opera—from performing on stage to working behind the scenes. Designed for all skill levels, the program offers a vibrant and comprehensive introduction to the art form. A typical day includes sessions in singing, acting, physical comedy, sets, props, wigs, make-up, costumes, and opera appreciation, all led by experienced industry artists, directors, musicians, and technicians.

All skill levels are welcome and there are no auditions required. Families seeking tuition assistance may complete a short questionnaire; decisions will be emailed within five business days. Registration closes May 8. For more information and to register, visit:

<https://www.sarasotaopera.org/summer-camp>

Summer Camp Sessions

Ages 8–10

Two-week session

June 8–19, weekdays

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Participants must be 8 or older by December 31, 2026

Tuition: \$350

Ages 11 and above

Three-week session

June 8–26, weekdays

10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Participants must be 11 or older by December 31, 2026

Tuition: \$525

Sarasota Opera Vocal Academy

Designed for pre-college singers, the **Sarasota Opera Vocal Academy** is a new addition to Sarasota Opera’s educational program offerings this year. The Vocal Academy is a six-day vocal intensive that offers specialized training in operatic performance. The curriculum focuses on refining vocal techniques, preparing collegiate audition repertoire, and exploring and discovering the rich history of the operatic art form. The program culminates in a showcase for invited guests. Participants receive daily one-on-one music, language, and drama coaching and vocal instruction from working industry professionals.

Vocal Academy Session

Tuesday, July 7 – Sunday, July 12

9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$600

For more information and to apply, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/260304137470145>

About Sarasota Youth Opera

Sarasota Youth Opera is a national model for opera education and the only program in the United States to present an annual fully staged Youth Opera production with professional orchestra, sets, and costumes. The program welcomes young singers of all skill levels and is committed to fostering artistic excellence, personal growth, leadership, confidence, and community among its participants. For more information on Sarasota Youth Opera programming, visit

<https://www.sarasotaopera.org/youth-opera-program> or email **youthopera@sarasotaopera.org**.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is in its 67th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida’s Gulf Coast and 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. In June 2026 Maestro DeRenzi will be stepping down from the company and Mr. Russell will add Artistic Director to his responsibilities. 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. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org