

## **Sarasota Opera Youth Usher Program**

Sarasota Opera is proud to launch its Youth Usher Program, an exciting new opportunity for high school juniors, seniors, and college students to engage with the performing arts while gaining valuable experience behind the scenes. This initiative invites young arts enthusiasts to become an active part of the Sarasota Opera community by welcoming patrons, assisting front-of-house staff, and contributing to the overall audience experience.

Participants in the Youth Usher Program will enjoy a unique behind-the-scenes perspective of live opera performances while building skills in customer service, communication, hospitality, and professional responsibility. In addition to hands-on experience in a vibrant cultural environment, students may also be eligible to receive academic credit, making this program an enriching addition to both their resumes and educational journeys.

The inaugural cohort will begin this fall, with applications due by **September 1**. Applications and interviews will be reviewed throughout September, and selected applicants will be notified in early October. Whether you are a passionate arts supporter or simply curious about the world of opera, the Youth Usher Program offers an inspiring and meaningful way to get involved.

Join us in bringing the magic of opera to life—one performance at a time.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

The Youth Usher Program is open to high school juniors and seniors, as well as currently enrolled college students.

#### **What are the responsibilities of a youth usher?**

Youth ushers assist Sarasota Opera's front-of-house team by greeting patrons, scanning tickets, distributing programs, helping guests find their seats, and ensuring a welcoming, safe environment during performances.

#### **What is the time commitment?**

Participants will be scheduled for select performances throughout the season. Specific expectations and scheduling flexibility will be discussed during the interview process.

#### **Will I receive training?**

Yes. All selected participants will receive training to prepare them for their roles, including customer service expectations, safety procedures, and an introduction to front-of-house operations.

**Is this a paid position?**

This is a volunteer program; however, participants gain valuable experience, networking opportunities, and may be eligible for academic or community service credit.

**When are applications due?**

Applications must be submitted by **September 1**. Interviews will take place in September, and applicants will be notified in October.

**Can this count toward school credit or service hours?**

Yes, the program may qualify for academic credit or community service hours depending on your school's policies. We are happy to provide documentation upon request.

**Do I need prior experience in the arts or customer service?**

No prior experience is required—just enthusiasm, reliability, and a willingness to learn.

**Do I need transportation?**

Yes, you will need to arrange for your own transportation to and from the Opera House.