

OPERA BUDDIES

Whether you're 17 or 70, if you've ever been curious about opera, but unsure where to start or what to listen for, **you're invited to join *Opera Buddies*—an intergenerational opera discovery program for youth, adults, and older adults.** You'll connect with other lifelong learners of all ages interested in broadening their musical horizons or deepening their love of opera.

Each *Opera Buddies* session begins with an introduction to opera as well as a primer on the opera you'll be going to see. You'll learn what to expect at the theatre, as well as insights into what to watch and listen for at the show. Then, come to the opera and watch the performance with a live orchestra, soloists, and chorus. To make the most of your experience, the final class is a guided reflection on the opera you just saw as well as suggestions for taking your learning further. Each class is facilitated by a professional opera teaching artist from Calgary Opera.

Opera Buddies is perfect for friends or families who want to explore the arts together and guaranteed to have you talking around the dinner table. **Register for *Opera Buddies* today!**

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Sept. 28–Oct. 19, 2023)

| Date | Time | Location |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023 | 7:00-10:00 p.m. | Jubilee Auditorium |
| Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |

McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St SE
Calgary, AB
T2H 1S1

Jubilee Auditorium
1415 14 Ave NW
Calgary, AB
T2N 1M4

Cost: Free
Limited to 25 participants

Set in an aristocratic household on the wedding day of two quick-witted servants, this opera is a whirlwind of witty banter, awkward entrances, and mistaken identities—all set to some of the most genius operatic music ever written. In this opera discovery session, we'll explore Mozart's musical language, the intricate twists and turns of *The Marriage of Figaro*, as well as their broader meanings, and why singers often describe Mozart's music as so special—yet difficult to sing!

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (January 18–February 8, 2024)

| Date | Time | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 | 7:00-10:00 p.m. | Jubilee Auditorium |
| Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |

McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St SE
Calgary, AB
T2H 1S1

Jubilee Auditorium
1415 14 Ave NW
Calgary, AB
T2N 1M4

Cost: Free
Limited to 25 participants

All's well that ends well in this light-hearted and comedic opera, where you'll laugh along with the hapless Nemorino's antics as he tries to win over the heart of the beautiful Adina. How is the theatrical story amplified by singing and orchestral music? We'll discover more about the composers of the Bel Canto era (literally translated as "beautiful singing") as well as the kind of instruction and preparation—vocal and dramatic—that it takes to portray a convincing character on the operatic stage!

DAS RHEINGOLD (April 4–25, 2024)

| Date | Time | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, Apr. 4, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Apr. 11, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |
| Thursday, Apr. 18, 2024 | 7:00-10:00 p.m. | Jubilee Auditorium |
| Thursday, Apr. 25, 2024 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | McDougall United |

McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St SE
Calgary, AB
T2H 1S1

Jubilee Auditorium
1415 14 Ave NW
Calgary, AB
T2N 1M4

Cost: Free
Limited to 25 participants

In our final Opera Buddies session of the season, you'll be the first to witness Calgary Opera's company premiere of the breathtaking opera Das Rheingold! Set in the larger-than-life world of Norse gods, giants, dwarves, and river-nymphs, Das Rheingold shares the beginning of the mythological story that inspired J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. Together we'll explore the history of this opera epic, the intriguing circumstances of its creator, as well as the deeper themes the opera reveals.

OPERA BUDDIES INTAKE FORM

Sign me up for:

- The Marriage of Figaro** (Sept. 28–Oct. 19, 2023)
- The Elixir of Love** (Jan. 18–Feb. 8, 2024)
- Das Rheingold** (April 4–25, 2024)

Name:

E-mail:

Phone Number:

Age:

Emergency Contact:

Tell us a little bit about yourself!

I am very comfortable in group settings:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Strongly disagree ○ | Disagree ○ | Neutral ○ | Agree ○ | Strongly agree ○ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|

I am naturally a practical thinker and enjoy learning the nuts and bolts of how things work:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Strongly disagree ○ | Disagree ○ | Neutral ○ | Agree ○ | Strongly agree ○ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|

I am naturally an abstract thinker and enjoy using my imagination to explore new ideas:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Strongly disagree ○ | Disagree ○ | Neutral ○ | Agree ○ | Strongly agree ○ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|

I feel comfortable developing my own creative abilities:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Strongly disagree ○ | Disagree ○ | Neutral ○ | Agree ○ | Strongly agree ○ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|

I feel comfortable stretching beyond my comfort zone:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Strongly disagree ○ | Disagree ○ | Neutral ○ | Agree ○ | Strongly agree ○ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|

How familiar are you with opera?

- Not familiar at all – I’ve never heard of opera before
- Not really familiar – I’ve heard of opera before, but I don’t know what it is
- Somewhat familiar – I could recognize opera singing when I heard it, but that’s about it
- Familiar – I’ve seen or listened to a few operas and could recognize some of “the hits”
- Very familiar – I actively seek out listening to or seeing operas and have my personal favourite composers, singers, or shows
- Other:

Please share a little bit about your learning interests:

- The history of opera
- The music of opera
- The people who work in opera
- Relating what is found in opera to important issues of today
- Other:

Will you require any support travelling to or otherwise participating in Opera Buddies?

I would like to be on Calgary Opera’s mailing list for news and updates: Yes ____ No ____

I would like to be on LINKages’ mailing list for news and updates: Yes ____ No ____

I would like to be on McDougall United Church’s mailing list for news and updates: Yes ____ No ____

Photo/Media Consent

I give Calgary Opera, LINKages, McDougall United, and their representatives permission to take photos and videos to use on their websites, on social media, and for marketing and funding purposes. **Yes ____ No ____**

I acknowledge that there will be no compensation for the use of these photographs, videos, or stories, and release Calgary Opera, LINKages, McDougall United, and their agents of any liability resulting from the use of the same.

Signature _____ Date _____

For more information, please contact:
Stephania Romaniuk, Community Ambassador at sromaniuk@calgaryopera.com or (403) 262-7294