

Hansel & Gretel



OPERA
iowa

Des Moines Metro Opera's
Educational Touring Troupe

2010 Infopac

OUR 2010 OPERA IOWA SPONSORS



THE BRIGHT FOUNDATION



PIONEER
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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction Letter	1
School Information Sheet	2
A Sample Schedule.....	3
Workshop Details.....	4-5
All About the Opera.....	6
Plan an Evening Community Performance	7
Publicity Made Simple	8-10
Evening Concert Information Sheet	11

Dear OPERA Iowa Host:

OPERA Iowa is headed to your school with the irresistible antics of *Hansel & Gretel*. New scenery, costumes and a very talented group of young artists will make this a tremendous experience for your students. **Your contract is enclosed. We ask that you sign it and return one complete copy with the requested deposit by the date shown.**

To arrange your day with OPERA Iowa, you will need to:

1. Read the enclosed materials carefully and respond with the appropriate information as soon as possible.
2. Read the information about the workshops for 2010. You may choose one to three pre-determined workshops for OPERA Iowa to present to the small groups you select. There is an introduction immediately preceding the show in which ALL the students will participate. (See the schedule on page 3 for clarification.) Note any special needs for each workshop. Decide workshop locations, the number and the grade level of the students who will participate.
3. Use this information to fill out and return the enclosed School Information Sheet (page 2). This sheet should be returned within 14 days of receiving the contract. Make a copy for yourself before you return it to us. Your OPERA Iowa teaching materials will be sent once we have this information.
4. If you haven't already booked an evening concert along with your school show...consider the idea again! An evening concert will add so much to the OPERA Iowa experience for students and their families.
5. A TEACHERPAC will be sent to you 6-8 weeks prior to your scheduled date. Newspapers will be sent approximately four weeks before OPERA Iowa is scheduled to arrive. If you are one of the early schools on the tour, these materials may arrive closer to your date due to printing constraints. In the TEACHERPAC, you will find information for classroom activities that complement the workshops as well as other pre- and post-residency activities.

This is a great deal of information, but if you keep this letter and refer to it as the time approaches you will find that it answers most, if not all, of your questions. If you find you need any assistance, please feel free to give me a call at (515) 961-6221.

What an exciting time this will be for your school and OPERA Iowa, and it will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,



Michael Egel
Director of Artistic Operations

On the day OPERA Iowa is scheduled to arrive, please have ready:

- A tuned piano for our workshops and performance.
- An On-Site Coordinator (this is probably you) to answer any questions during our visit.
- A minimum of **4** adults capable of lifting at least 50 lbs to help unload, set up, then reload scenery. 5 or 6 responsible high school students are welcome to assist only if an adult is provided for supervision.
- The building Custodian to handle technical questions primarily concerning power sources to the performance site and to help unload/load scenery and set up scenery. (1 hour when troupe arrives and 1/2 hour before troupe leaves.)
- If you are the morning school, you are asked to provide lunch for the 10 troupe members. Anything other than school lunch is deeply appreciated by these young professionals. In fact, it's a great day to plan a teacher's potluck!

School Information Sheet 2

Please complete, photocopy and return this sheet to Michael Egel as soon as possible by mail (Des Moines Metro Opera, 106 West Boston Avenue, Indianola, IA 50125-1836), by fax (515-961-8175) or by email (dmmo@dmmo.org).

***Required Information**

*School On-Site Coordinator _____

*Name of School _____

*Address _____ *Work _____

*Mailing Address _____ *Fax _____

*City _____ * State _____ *Zip _____ Cell _____

Name of Custodian _____ *E-mail _____

Publicity:

Des Moines Metro Opera will send publicity information to the media you request. For best results, please contact them yourselves as well.

*Local newspaper _____ Contact Name _____

*Address _____ *E-mail _____

*City _____ * State _____ *Zip _____

*Local radio station _____ Contact Name _____

*Address _____ *E-mail _____

*City _____ * State _____ *Zip _____

Performance:

Hansel & Gretel Date(s) _____ Time(s) _____

Where will the performance take place (stage, gym, etc.)? _____

Are the dimensions of the performing area at least 25' wide x 15' deep x 10' high? (circle one) Y N

Is this space easily accessible for set pieces? Y N Are there stairs? Y N If yes, how many? _____

Do you have four 20 AMP circuits available in this space? (OPERA Iowa's lighting equipment cannot be plugged into the same circuit.) Y N

What lighting equipment do you have? _____ Do you have stage curtains? Y N

Any special instructions? _____

Directions: Please provide written directions, including landmarks, to your school from the main roads into town. (Use a separate sheet if necessary.) _____

Each student will receive a newspaper. Please indicate the total number of students that will be attending the performance.

___ 2nd ___ 3rd ___ 4th ___ 5th ___ 6th ___ 7th ___ 8th ___ TOTAL

WORKSHOP INFORMATION/LOCATION (Please fill in the blanks)

AM	PM	WORKSHOP	✓ TO SELECT	LOCATION	GRADE	# OF STUDENTS
8:45	12:45	Let's Make an Opera				
to	to	Decide, Design, Direct!				
9:15	1:15	Singers and Vocal Styles				

To help you schedule your time with OPERA Iowa, a sample itinerary is listed below. Times may be varied slightly to accommodate your school schedule. Please notify us if you require any changes.

Here's a sample schedule containing a morning performance:

Arrival at school (Met by On-Site Coordinator and Custodian)..... (approximately) 8:15AM - 8:30AM
Technical Director/adult volunteers set up scenery8:15AM - 9:45AM
Student Workshops with troupe members (See attached workshop information for details)..8:45AM - 9:15AM
Singers prepare for performance9:15AM - 10:00AM
Hansel & Gretel 10:00AM - 10:50AM
Question and Answer session (If time allows before lunch) 10:50AM - 10:55AM
Technical Director/adult volunteers reload scenery 10:55AM - 11:30AM

REMINDER: The morning school is asked to provide lunch for the ten members of the troupe!

Here's a sample schedule containing an afternoon performance:

Arrival at school (Met by On-Site Coordinator and Custodian)..... (approximately) 12:15PM - 12:30PM
Technical Director/adult volunteers set up scenery12:15PM - 1:45PM
Student Workshops with troupe members (See attached workshop information for details) ... 12:45PM - 1:15PM
Singers prepare for performance1:15PM - 2:00PM
Hansel & Gretel2:00PM - 2:50PM
Question and Answer session (If time allows).....2:50PM - 2:55PM
Technical Director/adult volunteers reload scenery2:55PM - 3:30PM

Each of the following workshops will be presented for thirty (30) minutes between 8:45-9:15 in the morning or 12:45-1:15 in the afternoon. Below, you will read about the three workshops that will be offered by OPERA Iowa in conjunction with *Hansel & Gretel* performances. **You may elect to have each of the three workshops presented, but because these workshops happen simultaneously, you must have three (3) separate locations where those workshops can be conducted.** At least one space must have a piano, though two would be preferable. OPERA Iowa requests that at least one supervising teacher remain in each room during the workshop. After reviewing this information, please decide which workshop(s) you would like to present, which students will attend each section, and where the workshops will be located. Use the information to fill out the School Information Sheet on page 2.

Let's Make an Opera (For up to 50 students)

This workshop meets NSAE in Music Standard 7: Evaluating music and music performance.

Operatic forms are introduced and terms such as overture, chorus, aria, duet, trio and recitative are discussed. Students will explore the ways in which composers use their music to tell a story and will experience how all of the elements of music and theatre work in cooperation to create the performance we see on stage! Characters, plot lines and conflicts are pulled from the story, then students will create their own resolutions.

OBJECTIVES: To provide a framework of information that will enhance student's understanding and appreciation of *Hansel & Gretel* by:

- Exploring musical forms and the composition of an opera.
- Introducing, identifying and evaluating music and its elements.
- Engaging the students in a verbal review of the forms used in the creation of that scene.
- Demonstrating that opera can be a lively and accessible art form.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Piano, room for movement, supervising teacher

Decide, Design, Direct! (For up to 50 students)

This workshop meets NSAE Standard 9: Understanding Music Performance in relation to the other arts, history and culture.

What makes an opera? Areas such as costuming, make-up, set design, properties and casting are explored. In this workshop, students will learn on the job! Opera uses many different elements that, when combined, create the performance you see on the stage. Creating an opera requires making many choices—each choice affects the final production. After the elements of opera are presented, student designers will create the 'look' of a *Hansel & Gretel* production all their own!

OBJECTIVES: To show how each element of theatre works together to create a final product by:

- Discussing what thought processes go into each element of production.
- Demonstrating the basic stage materials used.
- Discussing the importance of how costume and makeup transforms an actor into a character.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Blackboard or dry erase markerboard, supervising teacher

Singers and Vocal Styles (For up to 35 students)

This workshop meets NSAE Standard 6: Students should listen to, analyze and describe opera, gospel, rock and jazz music styles.

Name that musical style! Of course the difference between rock and opera is obvious, but **why** do they sound the way they do? What cultures do they represent? And how do the singers make those particular sounds? This workshop will help students learn to hear **and** describe the difference between their favorite kinds of music. Join OPERA Iowa singers on a whirlwind tour of styles from jazz to country, to grand opera, to gospel, to rock-n-roll.

OBJECTIVES: To assist students in their abilities to describe, analyze and develop precise thoughts about varying styles of music by:

- Identifying different musical and vocal styles
- Exploring how cultures influence musical and vocal styles
- Developing active listening skills
- Developing analytical skills inspired from what is heard

SPECIAL NEEDS: Piano, outlet for CD Player, blackboard

Hansel & Gretel

Music..... Engelbert Humperdinck
Libretto..... Adelheid Wette
Music Director Michael Sakir
Stage Director William Farlow

Technical Director Adam Rager
Scenery Ken Dusheck
Costume Coordinator Chari Kruse

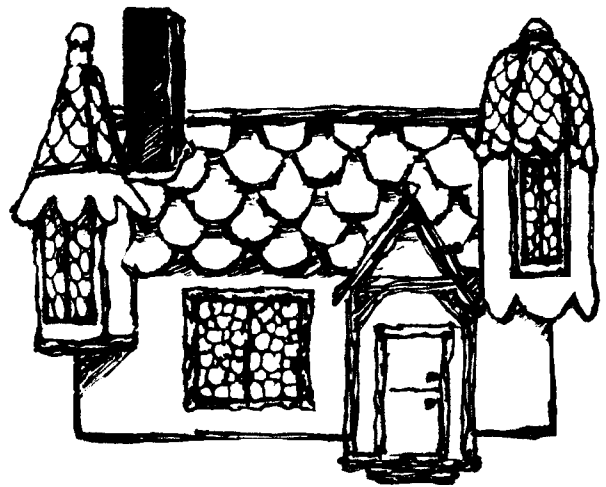
Cast of Characters:

Hansel Mezzo Soprano
Gretel Soprano
Gertrud, their mother..... Mezzo Soprano

Peter, their father..... Baritone
Witch Soprano

The Setting:

Scene 1 – A small, meager room
Scene 2 – A deep wood
Scene 3 – A gingerbread house



About the Opera:

Hansel & Gretel, in operatic form, was first heard in Weimar, Germany, in December of 1893. The opera tells the familiar tale of two mischievous children, their exasperated parents and one hungry witch! In its own day, *Hansel & Gretel* offered a perfect contrast to the *verismo* operas (violent depictions of everyday life) of Italy that were popular then. At its premiere, Richard Strauss conducted the performance. Strauss declared the opera a masterpiece and predicted that it would become one of the world's greatest operas. Indeed it has!



About the Composer:

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921) was a German composer who followed in the footsteps of the great Richard Wagner. In April, 1890, Humperdinck was asked by his sister, Adelheid Wette, to set to music four folksongs from the Grimm fairy-tale *Hansel and Gretel* for performance by her children. What resulted was a charming singspiel for children of operatic and Wagnerian proportions! Humperdinck was something of a one-hit wonder in the operatic world and very few of his other works are still regularly performed today.

Incidentally, he is no relation to the singer of the 1960s bearing the same name!



The Barber of Seville

OPERA Iowa is delighted to offer community audiences the opportunity to book Rossini's spectacular comedic opera *The Barber of Seville*.

Figaro can do anything! He's not only the best barber in Seville, but should you need a leg amputated or a heart mended, he's the man to call. When the wealthy young Count Almaviva comes to town in search of a wife, Figaro knows just how to get the girl—but not without pandemonium breaking loose that disrupts the entire city! Rossini's hilarious comedy returns to the OPERA Iowa repertory for the first time in ten years to delight and dazzle audiences of all ages. **Sung in English**, we are proud to present the most famous of operatic comedies for evening concerts throughout the state of Iowa and beyond.

Since its inception, OPERA Iowa has presented these operas:

*Rumpelstiltskin** • *The Elixir of Love* • *Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing* • *Beauty and the Beast*
Chanticleer • *Don Pasquale* • *The Billy Goats Gruff* • *Il Campanello* • *Little Red Riding Hood*
Monkey See Monkey Do • *Harmoonia** • *The Telephone* • *La Canterina* • *Hansel and Gretel*
Così fan tutte • *The Three Little Pigs* • *The Barber of Seville* • *The Magic Flute* • *The Tale of Peter Rabbit**
The Medium • *Opera Espresso!* • *A Dream Fulfilled: The Saga of George Washington Carver**

*world premiere

*If you have not already booked an evening program, call our office to explore ideas. We'd love to help you put this together! It is also possible to book an evening performance of either *Hansel & Gretel* or *A Dream Fulfilled*.*

Want to spread the word about OPERA Iowa
in your community? So do we!

Approximately two weeks before OPERA Iowa arrives, Des Moines Metro Opera will send an informative news release and photos of the troupe to the media contacts you specified on the School and/or Concert Information Sheet. You are highly encouraged to give these media contacts a follow-up call to ensure coverage of your event.

When an evening concert of *The Barber of Seville*, *A Dream Fulfilled* or *Hansel & Gretel* is booked, Des Moines Metro Opera will also send you publicity posters to distribute as well as a promotional flyer which can be photocopied to distribute as you wish. Upon arrival, the OPERA Iowa troupe will provide you with programs to hand out at the performance.

The collage displays three promotional items:

- Poster 1:** "The Barber of Seville" featuring a pair of scissors and the text "DES MOINES METRO OPERA presents GIOACCHINO ROSSINI's The Barber of Seville".
- Poster 2:** "A DREAM FULFILLED The Saga of George Washington Carver" featuring a portrait of George Washington Carver and the text "DES MOINES METRO OPERA presents A Dream Fulfilled The Saga of George Washington Carver".
- Program Page:** A detailed program for "The Barber of Seville" including a synopsis, cast list, and production credits. The synopsis describes the plot of the opera, and the cast list includes names like Giuseppe Giusti, TBA, and TBA.

It is important that you begin promoting your OPERA Iowa event as soon as details are finalized. The press releases on the following pages will assist you in early promotion. This information can be printed in school newsletters or on information sheets that are sent home with students. Feel free to customize the information to suit your individual needs. If you have any questions regarding publicity, please call McB McManus at (515) 961-6221.

"Opera is the fastest growing art form in the country for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24."

– National Endowment for the Arts' 2002 Audience Survey

Hansel & Gretel

Date _____
School _____
Contact _____
Phone _____



Experience Award-Winning OPERA Without Leaving Town!

(Name of your town, state)

Students from _____ (your school) will have the chance to see one of Iowa's premier arts organizations when Des Moines Metro Opera's educational touring troupe arrives on _____ (date). OPERA Iowa will present *Hansel & Gretel* in English at _____ (place/time).

OPERA Iowa's exciting productions and workshops entertain while they educate, and make opera more understandable and more accessible to students and families. The opera is performed in English with colorful scenery and costumes, theatrical lighting, and musical accompaniment. Prior to OPERA Iowa's arrival, _____ (your school) received teacher packets to help prepare students for the performance. Once OPERA Iowa arrives, the troupe will work directly with the students in interactive workshops that may include improvisation, musical styles, or character development. These workshops meet National Standards for Art Education guidelines.

The OPERA Iowa troupe has performed in nine states throughout the Midwest, in Montana and even in Japan and China to spread the thrill of opera to over 500,000 students and adults since it began in 1986.

OPERA Iowa's parent company, Des Moines Metro Opera, is located in Indianola, Iowa, just south of Des Moines. The 38th Summer Festival runs from June 25 through July 18, 2010. This season, under the baton of Artistic Director Robert L. Larsen, DMMO will present Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, and Floyd's *Susannah*. All performances will feature English supertitles. Free opera previews are presented 45 minutes prior to each performance. All operas are performed in the unique 488-seat Blank Performing Arts Center on the picturesque campus of Simpson College in Indianola. For more information on Des Moines Metro Opera's upcoming productions, call (515) 961-6221 or visit www.desmoinesmetroopera.org.

For more information on the OPERA Iowa performance, contact:

(your contact person)

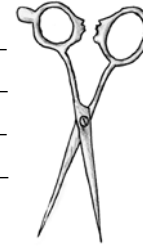
(name of your school)

(phone)

The OPERA Iowa troupe is available for interviews and photos while at schools and concerts. For a complete tour schedule, please call (515) 961-6221 or visit www.desmoinesmetroopera.org/operaiaowa.

The Barber of Seville

Date _____
Venue _____
Contact _____
Phone _____



Experience Award-Winning OPERA Without Leaving Town!

(Name of your town, state)

Area residents will have the chance to see one of Iowa's premier arts organizations when Des Moines Metro Opera's educational touring troupe arrives on ____ (date) _____. OPERA Iowa will present a two-hour version of *The Barber of Seville* in English at ____ (place/time) _____.

OPERA Iowa complements the evening performances with exciting school-day performances and classroom workshops that entertain while they educate, all in an effort to make opera more understandable and more accessible to students and families. The operas are performed in English with colorful scenery and costumes, theatrical lighting, and piano accompaniment.

The OPERA Iowa troupe has performed in nine states throughout the Midwest, in Montana and even in Japan and China to spread the thrill of opera to over 500,000 students and adults since it began in 1986. The concert is sponsored by ____ (name of organization) _____. To purchase tickets (Insert information here on where to purchase tickets, prices, etc. if this is applicable. Be sure to mention if the concert is free to the public.) For more information, contact ____ (name/phone) _____.

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For more information on the OPERA Iowa performance, contact:

(your contact person)

(name of your organization)

(phone)

The OPERA Iowa troupe is available for interviews and photos while at schools and concerts. For a complete tour schedule, please call (515) 961-6221 or visit www.desmoinesmetroopera.org/operaiaowa.

Note: Sample Press Releases are also available for evening performances of *Hansel & Gretel* and *A Dream Fulfilled*.

Evening Concert Information Sheet 11

Please complete, photocopy and return this sheet to Michael Egel as soon as possible by mail (Des Moines Metro Opera, 106 West Boston Avenue, Indianola, IA 50125-1836), by fax (515-961-8175) or by email (dmmo@dmmo.org).

*Required information

*Contact Person _____ *Work _____
*Name of Concert Facility _____ *Fax _____
*Address _____ Cell _____
*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____ Seating Capacity of Facility _____
*E-mail _____ Anticipated Attendance _____

Publicity:

Des Moines Metro Opera will send publicity information to the media you request. For best results, please contact them yourselves as well.

*Local newspaper _____ Contact Name _____
*Address _____ *E-mail _____
*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____
*Local radio station _____ Contact Name _____
*Address _____ *E-mail _____
*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____

Performance: _____ *The Barber of Seville* Date(s) _____ Time(s) _____
_____ *A Dream Fulfilled* Date(s) _____ Time(s) _____
_____ *Hansel & Gretel* Date(s) _____ Time(s) _____

Admission/Ticket Information _____

Where to Purchase Tickets _____

Concert Sponsor _____

Where will the performance take place (stage, gym, etc.)? _____

Are the dimensions of the performing area at least 25' wide x 15' deep x 10' high? (circle one) Y N

Is this space easily accessible for set pieces? Y N Are there stairs? Y N If yes, how many? _____

Do you have four 20 AMP circuits available in this space? (OPERA Iowa's lighting equipment cannot be plugged into the same circuit.) Y N

What lighting equipment do you have? _____ Do you have stage curtains? Y N

Any special instructions? _____

On the day OPERA Iowa is scheduled to arrive, please have ready:

— A tuned piano for our workshops and performance.

— An On-Site Coordinator (this is probably you) to answer any questions during our visit.

— A minimum of 4 adults capable of lifting at least 50 lbs to help unload, set up, then reload scenery.
5 or 6 responsible high school students are welcome to assist only if an adult is provided for supervision.

— The building Custodian to handle technical questions primarily concerning power sources to the performance site.