

OPERA INSTITUTE

Washington National Opera conducts this three-week summer program that brings passionate, talented high school musicians together in the nation's capital to experience opera in a professional and nurturing environment that only a world-class opera company can provide. Serious classical singers and collaborative pianists thrive off of Opera Institute's intense and focused curriculum geared towards preparing students for college performance programs and beyond!

Thank you so much for the most inspiring three weeks of my life! I did not expect to form such great relationships with students and faculty, not to mention receive such valuable training!

—Opera Institute Alum



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AT OPERA INSTITUTE?

THE PROGRAM

When students arrive at American University for the first day of WNO's Opera Institute, they audition for the entire faculty. Each student is then assigned an art song and opera scene that is studied, memorized, and performed during the course of the three weeks. Daily coaching sessions, individual voice or piano lessons, and various classes help the students prepare their assigned pieces and grow as performers. A taste of "real life" as an opera singer is highlighted through master classes and seminars with professionals in the business. Past guest artists have included Evelyn Lear, Denyce Graves, Elizabeth Bishop, and Lester Lynch and topics covered include vocal health, breath support, and audition preparation. The young pianists participate in all master classes with the singers as well as study their pieces under the tutelage of our master coaches while learning the art of accompanying. The emphasis of the program is to foster well-educated singers and accompanists.

THE PERFORMANCES

Performance opportunities are a large part of our program and a large part of the learning process. Priceless advice and knowledge is poured into the students on how to become a confident, communicative performer. Opera Institute provides three performance opportunities: an Italian Art Song recital at the end of the second week, an Opera Scenes recital at the end of the program, and (for select students) a performance at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage.

WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE?

All classes are held in the Katzen Arts Center at American University. Students can expect a challenging curriculum and assignments.

Opera History ▶ Students will explore the historical periods of opera and various

composers from each era, beginning with Mozart and continuing through present-day examples. They will delve into the different genres of opera, learn opera terminology and performance traditions, and participate in an in-depth study of style and language through library research on selected arias and other additional topics. Class preparation will culminate in a screening of a professional opera production on DVD or a live performance.

Acting Class ▶ This exciting and fast-paced class will review the technical fundamentals of being on stage and immediately apply that information to the fundamentals of performing as a singing actor in an opera, operetta, or musical theater. An exploration of techniques used to portray emotions in a standard opera scene will be applied in all classes.

Voice Lesson ▶ Students will receive one private voice lesson each week. These lessons focus on vocal development, including breath management, intonation, and musicianship (based on the needs of each student). The students will be given repertoire that is appropriate with their level of singing and based upon the recommendation of the faculty. One of our goals at Opera Institute is to encourage proper vocal health and management.

Other classes and workshops include Period Movement, Chorus, Vocal Health, Audition Preparation, and more.

WHERE DO I STAY?

The majority of our students choose to live on campus at American University during the program. (Participants also have the option to

8:55 a.m.	Arrival	1 p.m.	Opera History	5:30 p.m.	Dinner
9 a.m.	Italian Diction	2-5 p.m.	Individual Vocal Coaching, Private Lessons, Rehearsal, Practice Time	7 p.m.	Practice Time
10 a.m.	Master Class with Guest Artist			9 p.m.	Group Activity
12 p.m.	Lunch	5 p.m.	Announcements & Dismissal	11 p.m.	Lights Out

Italian Diction ▶ This class is designed to help students understand basic Italian pronunciation, learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) rules, distinguish between correct and incorrect Italian diction as demonstrated by current performing artists, and prepare for their Italian Art Song recital.

Ear Training and Sight Singing ▶ A challenging introduction to the fundamentals of music theory, students will study rhythm and key signatures, learn the basics of analysis, practice sight reading, and begin to "develop their ears" through interval training.

live at home and commute.) Students get a real college experience while residing in the dormitories, conveniently located across the street from the Katzen Arts Center. Undergraduate music students from American University serve as Resident Assistants (RAs) and provide supervision, plan events, and act as "musical mentors" as they build relationships with the students. RAs plan field trips around the city to see sights such as the national monuments, Smithsonian museums, and the National Cathedral. Past field trips have also included attending performances at Wolf Trap and Summer Opera Theatre.



AUDITIONS: Washington, DC: Saturday, January 28 & Saturday, February 4, 2012
VIDEO AUDITIONS: Postmarked by Saturday, January 28, 2012

OPERA INSTITUTE
 A summer program for outstanding high school singers and pianists
 JUNE 25–JULY 14, 2012 AGES 15–18

Education Department
 2700 F Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20566

WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA
 AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



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 AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

