



For Immediate Release

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**Michigan Opera Theatre's Teen Theater Camp Expands to Offer
Musical Theater Training**

July 8-26 at the Detroit Opera House

DETROIT, May 29, 2019 - Michigan Opera Theatre's renowned teen theater camp, "Operetta Workshop," is expanding its programming to focus on musical theater in addition to opera and operetta. The three-week summer program features professional training for students ages 13-18 in singing, acting, dancing, stage movement, healthy vocal technique and audition skills.

The program traditionally focused on operatic singing, but MOT Director of Education Andrea Scobie said the workshop is expanding its offerings to encompass a larger variety of theatrical styles and interests. In addition to classical operatic repertoire from composers like Engelbert Humperdinck and Mozart, students will learn works from musical theater composers including Leonard Bernstein, Rodgers & Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim, as well as operetta music from Gilbert & Sullivan. Instructors work with each student to select a personalized repertoire, culminating in a showcase at the end of the camp.

"Our teens tend to love musical theater, and we want to offer them training that prepares them for both classical and modern performance styles," Scobie said. "Our goal is that every student leaves the workshop with improved singing and theater techniques, as well as an audition-ready piece to help secure their next role."

Operetta Workshop is an open-enrollment program, accessible to teenagers with varying levels of skills and experience. The workshop is taught by music and dance professionals who share their industry experience and training for students interested in singing performance as a career path as well as general interest.

Instructors include:

Mary Martin, Director

Soprano Mary Martin brings years of professional singing and teaching experience to Operetta Workshop. Her performance credits include work with opera companies throughout the country, including the lead roles as Susanna in "The Marriage of Figaro," the Queen of the Night in "The Magic Flute" and the title role in "Lucia di Lammermoor," among others.



Outside of performing, Mary maintains an active voice studio. Her students have gone on to perform regionally and off-Broadway, and have attended programs like Ithaca College, Indiana University, the University of Michigan and New York University. She holds a master and bachelor's degree in Voice

Performance from the University of Michigan and is working on her Doctor of Music degree at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she is also an Associate Instructor of Voice.

Leah O'Donnell, Choreographer

Professional dancer and choreographer Leah O'Donnell returns for her second summer with Operetta Workshop. Her performance career spans concert and commercial dance. Credits include work with the Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Tonight Show*, *Trainwreck*, Beyoncé and more.



Leah trained with the Joffrey Ballet School and holds a degree from Wayne State University. She has choreographed for Wayne State University, Kristi Faulkner's Women's Work Festival and the University of Michigan's Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Her work, *Dance of the Ancestors*, was selected for the American College Dance Association gala in 2019.

The program runs from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday July 8-26 at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Street, Detroit. Fee is \$500, select need-based scholarships are available. The workshop is capped at 40 students with registration available at <https://michiganopera.org/learn/classes-and-camps/>. For additional information contact Andrea Scobie at ascobie@motopera.org or (313) 237-3429.

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown, Principal Conductor Stephen Lord and Chairman of the Board Rick Williams. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.