

Detroit Opera

"Detroit Opera prides itself on connecting students with renowned industry talent and continuing our commitment to arts education"—Andrea Scobie, Director of Education

Detroit Opera Announces New Name and Season for its Children's Chorus plus Summer Programs

Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus will become Detroit Opera Youth Chorus; Auditions for its 2022-23 season will be held June 4 and June 6

Operetta REMIX! and Create & Perform summer programs will engage youth ages 8 - 18



Photo credit: Jones Photography/Detroit Opera

DETROIT, May 26, 2022 --- The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus, led by Chorus Director Suzanne Mallare Acton, is changing its name to Detroit Opera Youth Chorus. Auditions for its 2022-23 season will be held Saturday, June 4 and Monday, June 6 at the Detroit Opera House. Students ages 8 to 16 are encouraged to participate. Registration is underway for [Detroit Opera](#)'s annual Summer Programs held July 5th through August 5th at the Detroit Opera House for area youth ages 8 to 18.

New Name, Same Artistic Experience

Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus is changing its name: the ensemble will be known as **Detroit Opera Youth Chorus**. This new name follows the company's name change announced in March, and reinforces the company's transformative vision that emphasizes community, accessibility, artistic risk-taking, and collaboration.

The Detroit Opera Youth Chorus (DOYC) is a permanent ensemble providing exceptional choral music and theatrical performance instruction in a professional environment to youth in metro Detroit. DOYC instruction helps foster students' creativity, personal expression, and social growth. Its curriculum embraces diverse traditions and an extensive range of musical genres. DOYC has two choruses: **the Preparatory Chorus**, which introduces young singers ages 8-11 to choral performance, is directed by Jane Panikkar; **the Principal Chorus**, designed for students ages 10-16 who are ready to perform advanced repertoire, is directed by Assistant Director Dianna Hochella.

Detroit Opera President and CEO Wayne S. Brown said: "We are a Detroit-based company, operating in a city that is internationally recognized for its focus on the arts. As we embark on our second half-century, we will continue the legacy of Detroit Opera (Michigan Opera Theatre) founder Dr. David DiChiera and remain acutely focused on nurturing emerging talented voices."

"As we partner with major opera companies across the country, we're putting Detroit Opera on a national stage," stated Detroit Opera Board Chairman Ethan Davidson. "Via the Detroit Opera Youth Chorus, we are showcasing the next generation of opera and musical theatre talent and helping export the uniquely creative talent that Detroit has become known for throughout the world."

Detroit Opera Assistant Music Director & Chorus Master Suzanne Mallare Acton remarked: Now more than ever, focusing on our youth is even more important. Now is the time to adapt and align ourselves even more with our community. We will continue to offer our Youth Chorus students great learning experiences that represent their varied economic, cultural, and social backgrounds and prepare them for fantastic futures."



Detroit Opera
YOUTH CHORUS



Photo Credit: Detroit Opera

2022-23 Season Auditions

In-person auditions for the Detroit Opera Youth Chorus' 2022-23 season are scheduled on Saturday June 4 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Monday June 6 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House. Auditions are open to singers in metro Detroit between the ages of 8 and 16. Students will not need to remain for the duration of the auditions. An exact audition timeslot will be assigned once the student is registered.

Now in its 16th year, the Detroit Opera Youth Chorus is a world class training program for young vocalists, helping build a solid foundation in musical literacy and theory as well as artistic expression. Past performances have included Cary John Franklin's *The Very Last Green Thing*, Malcolm Williamson's *The Happy Prince*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Hans Krása's *Brundibár*. The ensemble has sung in *The Nutcracker* ballet and in main stage productions for *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Carmina Burana*. DOYC has appeared with Andre Rieu at the Fox Theatre, performed at Detroit Tigers' games, during numerous holiday presentations and Random Acts of Culture throughout metro Detroit. The ensemble has made broadcast appearances in the America's Thanksgiving Day Parade, on PBS, FOX 2 Detroit and WJR Radio. Many DOYC alumni have continued their studies at prestigious conservatories and universities majoring in vocal performance or musical theater.

The Detroit Opera Youth Chorus' 2022-23 season will run October through April with rehearsals primarily on Monday evenings at the Detroit Opera House. DOYC presents *A Winter Fantasy*, its annual December showcase concert, and produces its own fully staged opera every spring. On April 23, 2023, the ensemble will perform Seymour Barab's *The Maker of Illusions*.

"We are thrilled to revisit *Maker of Illusions* next Spring and we welcome all area youth to participate in this marvelous opera," said Dianna Hochella, DOYC Assistant Director and Conductor. "In this piece, a wicked Queen imprisoned for transgressions against her people demands the Genie and Goblins sacrifice a young Boy for his 'Life Force' to restore her beauty. Their attempts to use illusions to lure the Boy from his home and thwart his sister's rescue efforts are overcome by the sister's determination, and the Queen learns the true meaning of 'Life Force'."

For the 2022-23 season, Preparatory Chorus tuition is \$700 and Principal Chorus tuition is \$800. Full and partial tuition scholarships are available based on financial need. For more information and to register, visit www.detroitoperayouthchorus.org or email Twannette Nash at tnash@detroitopera.org.



Photo Credit: Detroit Opera

Summer 2022 at Detroit Opera

Students participating in Detroit Opera's 2022 Summer Programs will have the opportunity to develop their skills as performers, composers, designers, directors, and crew members via the teen program, "Operetta REMIX!" and its younger counterpart "Create & Perform."

"Detroit Opera prides itself on connecting students with renowned industry talent," said Director of Education Andrea Scobie. "We are thrilled to resume our in-person experience this summer and continue our long-held commitment to arts education in a robust way."

Create & Perform is an innovative two-week program held July 5 – 15, 2022 (10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.), in which young people create their own stories, music compositions and dances, culminating in a performance at the Detroit Opera House on Friday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. Tailored for students ages 8-12, "Create & Perform" participants receive direction in singing, dancing and stage movement and get to take part in all aspects of mounting a new production as they write and perform an original opera. Leading this summer's "Create & Perform" program is award-winning playwright [Emilio Rodriguez](#) (director) and renowned guest artist [Maria Cimorelli](#) (music director).

Operetta REMIX! will take place July 25 through August 5, 2022 (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), helping youth ages 13-18 gain valuable experience in healthy vocal technique and audition practice. Operetta REMIX! workshops will be taught by experienced opera and theatre professionals including [Mary Martin](#) (director, fourth summer with Detroit Opera), [Jessica Fielder](#) (vocal coach), [Branden Hood](#) (vocal coach) and [Joseph Jackson](#) (accompanist). The program allows aspiring youth to explore scenes and songs from beloved operas and musicals and learn more about career opportunities. Operetta REMIX! will culminate with a performance at the Detroit Opera House at 6:30 p.m. on Friday August 5.



Detroit Opera 2022 Summer Staff (L to R): Martin, Fielder, Hood, Jackson, Rodriguez, Cimorelli

Create & Perform

July 5 – 15, 2022

Detroit Opera House

Students aged 8-12

Fee: \$400; special “Early Bird” pricing of \$325 if you register by June 1.

Operetta REMIX!

July 25 – August 5, 2022

Detroit Opera House

Students aged 13-18

Fee: \$550; special “Early Bird” pricing of \$475 if you register by June 1.

Financial assistance will be available based on financial need. For more details, visit [Detroitopera.org/learn/music-and-theater](https://detroitopera.org/learn/music-and-theater), email Andrea Scobie at ascobie@detroitopera.org or call 313-237-3429.

About Detroit Opera

Detroit Opera (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 the late 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 and Board Chairman Ethan Davidson. For more information, visit www.detroitopera.org. or follow the company on Facebook and Instagram (@DetroitOpera) as well as Twitter (@DetOperaHouse).

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