

# Information about Little Opera of the North

Thank you for your interest in **Little Opera of the North (Little LOON)**. This background information will introduce you to our organization and our 2023-24 production of *Hansel & Gretel*.

Little LOON began in 2015 as a core part of Lyric Opera of the North's programming, designed to bring live opera performances to school audiences throughout northern Minnesota. Little LOON works closely with Opera for the Young, based in Madison, Wisconsin, renting their scores and teaching materials, and following the format that OFTY has used for decades to bring professional opera to students in their region for decades.

Every Little LOON production involves the active participation of students. Children perform cameo and chorus roles, sing along from the audience, decorate the school, and enjoy question-and-answer sessions following the performance.

Prior to a Little LOON performance, music teachers receive detailed preparatory materials including: Tutorial videos and rehearsal tracks, a Teachers' Guide (with a synopsis of the opera, background information on the composer, suggestions for pre-and post-performance classroom projects and discussions); a Student Handbook (to help prepare students for their roles); a Libretto; and a cast recording from Opera for the Young's adaptation of the opera.

## 2023-24 Tour: *Hansel & Gretel*

**Rehearsal/Performance Schedule:** Roles/pianist will be double cast, with only one cast performing at a time. The season's schedule is designed by staff taking into consideration each artist's conflicts and requests. ***All rehearsals are required and are scheduled to run from Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.*** Rehearsals will be held in Duluth; non-Duluth resident performers will be provided housing. We will hold at least one performance with college Music Ed. and Choral students during the rehearsal week, and may include one performance with an area school. All cast members are required to be in attendance at those shows. Performances will run from October 9 – 18 2023 and then start up again for most of the month of February 2024. There will be a required brush-up rehearsal on February 4 for the cast scheduled to go out on the road after the early winter break.) The tour will be in Superior, Wisconsin, up along the North Shore of Lake Superior, throughout the Arrowhead region, and across the northern part of the state of Minnesota to the western border. There will generally be two performances per school day, plus a few evening public shows (tba). **For logistical / travel reasons, touring cast members should be prepared to be available Sunday evening through late Friday for the weeks they are scheduled to perform.** Weekends are free; in-home lodging will be provided for far-flung artists – those from outside Minnesota / Wisconsin - who have consecutive touring weeks, as long as adequate notice is given by artists.

Compensation: While on tour, performers are paid at a rate of \$70 per performance (usually 6 – 10 shows per week) and receive \$31 per diem to cover food and personal transportation when tour takes them away from their Duluth housing. A rehearsal stipend of \$500 will be paid during the October rehearsal period. Duluth is our home base: performers are responsible for their own transportation from their home to Duluth. **Accommodations are provided for performers coming from out-of-town and for all company members while traveling.** A van is provided to transport the artists and production elements to school performances. (Please note: in the event of a performance cancellation, performers are paid only when an alternate performance date is secured.)

Additional Information: Artists are expected to share all duties, including driving. A valid driver's license is required unless special arrangements are made. Other responsibilities include rehearsing student performers at each school prior to the performance; participating in question-and-answer sessions afterward; performance set-up, strike, and loading of scenery, props, and costumes; and basic costume maintenance. In addition, there are occasional ½-day artist-in-residency programs for which each cast member will be paid at the performance rate, and during which they'll be asked (as a group) to be casually informative (and demonstrative) about opera – as a career, operatic production elements, etc. LOON provides materials and helps prepare artists for these class chats!

Thank you for your interest and participation!

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