Little Opera of the North General Information & FAQ

Little Opera of the North brings live professional opera to young audiences in elementary schools throughout the North. Students from each school perform alongside LOON's professional cast. Music Teachers select a 16-member student chorus and help students prepare their music. Little LOON presents classic operas that have been adapted for elementary school audiences by Opera for the Young, based in Madison, Wisconsin.

We provide four professional singers, one pianist, a set, props, and costumes. The opera production is adapted so it is appropriate for K-6th graders, and sung in English.

The school provides a performance space (the gymnasium is strongly preferred), a piano, a prepared chorus of 16 students, and the audience (up to 350 students per performance.)

Cost: $750 for one performance. $1250 for two performances. We can do two performances in the same space to accommodate large student populations, or one performance at school with a same-day performance out in the community, or a combination of one performance and two hours of classroom chats.

Where does the money come from? LOON does its own fundraising to keep costs low. We encourage schools to look for funding through grants, local PIE groups, and other fundraising efforts.

Payment is due no later than the day of the performance. Make checks payable to Lyric Opera of the North and mail to: 506 West Michigan St, Duluth, MN 55802.

Performance Day Timeframe:
Load in: 30 Minutes
Rehearsal with Student Chorus (16 kids): 45 Minutes
Seating: 5 Minutes
Performance followed by Q & A: 50 minutes
Load out: 30 Minutes
Total time in gym: 2 hours 40 minutes
(Optional: Classroom chats can take place in the morning before an afternoon performance, or in the afternoon after a morning performance.)

How to teach the student chorus:
LOON provides the following materials:

- Piano vocal score
- Vocal score
- Libretto
- Co-curricular materials
- Audio recordings of the full cast, tutorials, and practice tracks

When to teach: Some teachers elect to teach the music during their regular music class time. Other teachers choose to teach the music after school, before school, or during WIN/other flex time. Teachers may choose to teach the music to their entire student population, to a select group or grade level, or just to the select group of 16 choristers. Only 16 students can be on stage in the actual performance, but if there are additional prepared choristers, they can sit on risers off stage. It is also quite wonderful when lots of students in the audience know the music, too!

Who teaches: The Music Specialist. In some cases, a person from the community volunteers to prepare the student chorus outside of regular school hours.

Where is the performance: The School Gym. These performances are designed for school gyms.

Details about this year's production and past productions can be found on the LOON website: loonopera.org/little-loon

Schedule a performance: Call 218-464-0922 or write info@loonopera.org. We do our best to accommodate scheduling requests if geographically possible!