

Lori Brown Mirabal
Presents...



Stirring up excitement with Opera!

OPERA SOUP PRODUCTIONS... (STIRRING UP EXCITEMENT WITH OPERA)

Opera Soup Productions are high quality, audience-interactive music presentations created to introduce opera essentials to young audiences and families. To that purpose, the shows have been designed to entertain, to inform, to encourage creative thinking skills, and to spark an interest for an on going and more in depth relationship between the learning community, the field of opera, and other areas of life and the performing arts. In keeping with this aim, the scripts have been meticulously developed so that they might be meaningful to diverse groups of learners on multiple levels. Likewise, the music for these presentations has been carefully selected and prepared to incorporate national standards in music such as: (1) *“Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music;”* (3) *“Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments;”* (6) *“Listening to, analyzing, and describing music;”* (7) *“Evaluating music and music performances;”* (8) *“Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts;”* and (9) *Understanding music in relation to history and culture.”*

SHOW #1 – “Opera Soup” was created for children in kindergarten through second grade and family audiences. This audience interactive show begins with an explanation of opera fundamentals (the “main ingredients”), and culminates into an operatic version of the *“Itsy, Bitsy Spider”* song, which is performed with participants from the audience. The show is approximately 45 minutes long, after which time will be allotted for questions and answers. (Note: shows can be tailored to accommodate specific school themes or celebrations. For example, during African American History Month an aria from an opera about the life of Harriet Tubman and the underground-railroad can be integrated into the show upon request).

SHOW #2 – “A MUSICAL TOAST TO MARIAN ANDERSON” is designed for third grade through middle school students and family audiences. The legacy of African American Contralto, Marian Anderson is explored by integrating historical narrative with classical song repertoire. The presentation begins when the performer, dressed as the sorceress “Ulrica” (from Giuseppe Verdi’s opera *Un Ballo in Maschera*), enters singing the “Invocation to the Powers of Darkness” aria. Marian Anderson made her historic debut at the Metropolitan Opera singing this role, which made her the first African American artist featured at the that opera house. The show is approximately 45 minutes long and there will be time for questions and answers after the presentation.

SHOW #3 – “THAT SPICEY GYPSY GIRL” was developed for adaptability according to the age group (from middle-school to adult audiences). Opera is introduced with popular excerpts from Georges Bizet’s most famous opera about the feisty Spanish femme fatale, “Carmen.” This audience interactive presentation uses castanets, dance, and popular aria excerpts from *Carmen*. The show is 45 minutes long with a question and answer segment following the program.

SHOW #4 – “Songs of Passion and Love,” featuring multiple Grammy® nominee Allison Brewster-Franzetti at the piano, is an elegant evening of well-known arias and songs from the classical and music theatre repertoire. The presentation is ideal for school fundraisers, corporations, embassies, universities, museums, libraries, and private parties.

About the Artists

◆Lori Brown Mirabal, Ed.D. (Creative Director/Principal Artist)

International mezzo-soprano Lori Brown Mirabal has enjoyed an eclectic career singing throughout the United States and abroad. Over the years, Lori has worked with such legendary opera and music theatre luminaries as Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Hal Prince, and Cab Calloway. Her career highlights include: “Adelaide Bobo” in the world premiere opera *Les Negres* at Opera d’Lyon in France; “Clara Brown” in the world premiere of *Gabriel’s Daughter* at Central City Opera Company in Colorado; “Carmen” with the New York City Opera; “Queenie” in *Show Boat* at the Gershwin Theatre on Broadway; as a featured guest in the PBS television documentary *Aida’s Brothers and Sisters*; and she can be seen in the major motion picture *The Secret Lives of Dentists* in a comical cameo performance.

In addition to performing, Lori Mirabal is accomplished as a scholar and music educator. After receiving a B.F.A. in theatre from the University of Memphis, Lori aided by a scholarship from Oprah Winfrey, attended Manhattan School of Music. Here she earned a Masters degree in music performance. Shortly afterwards, Mirabal was awarded a fellowship and stipend to participate in the prestigious Juilliard Opera Center program. At present, she has just completed both a masters and a doctorate degree in Music Education at Columbia University Teachers College. Her primary focus at Teachers College involved creative strategies in music education, and pedagogy for young voices. Presently, she is an adjunct voice professor at New Jersey City University.

Opera Soup Productions provide Lori with an opportunity to share with young people the accumulative wealth of her experiences as a performer, music educator, and parent. It is anticipated that this caliber of presentation will engender a more thorough comprehension of opera, inspire a lifetime enjoyment of this art form, and enhance the lives of students beyond the presentations.

◆David P. Maiullo (Music Director/Accompanist)

Described by *Opera Now Magazine* as “a pianist of sentiment, discretion, and style” David Maiullo is an avid accompanist/coach in the New York City Metropolitan area. His numerous performance collaborations have led him to the stages of Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher, Alice Tully, and Merkin Concert Halls in the US, as well as venues in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, and Japan. Currently, Mr. Maiullo serves as the accompanist for the Gerda Lissner Foundation, Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, Career Bridges, and he is the official Accompanist/Music Director for the Altamura/Caruso Competition. Additionally, Maiullo is a faculty member of NYACK College where he is director of the Opera Workshop, New Jersey City University, and he is the Coach/Accompanist of the Musical Theatre Class at the Juilliard School of Music.

◆Allison Brewster-Franzetti (Piano Soloist/Accompanist)

A multiple Grammy® Nominee and 2008 Grammy® Nominee for Best Instrumental Soloist without Orchestra, pianist Allison Brewster Franzetti has received international acclaim from critics and audiences alike for her stunning virtuosity and musicality, both as a soloist and chamber musician. Her most recent performance includes the 2008 Grammy® Awards Classical Music Tribute to Earl Wild and Lang Lang at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Currently, Ms. Franzetti teaches at Kean University and Montclair State in New Jersey. She serves on the board of directors for ArtPride, an organization that supports arts advocacy in the state of New Jersey, and is on the advisory board of Arts High in Newark, New Jersey.

OPERA SOUP PRODUCTIONS

What Parents and Educators Are Saying...

“What gracious deity blessed humans with an instrument at once so forceful yet pure? It is a sound most fully embodied by the late Marian Anderson...but now, in this sanctuary the arias are sung by someone new, by Lori Brown Mirabal, a mezzo-soprano who is more than up to the challenge.”—Paul Watson, The Ridgewood News

“A dramatic entrance in full opera regalia sets the tone for the lively interactive program of opera performer Lori Brown Mirabal. With a passion for opera that can ignite the most passive audience, Mirabal combines superb musicality with a captivating gift for storytelling. Her presentation, designed for youngsters, delights adults as well and is a treat for anyone who has ever been intimidated by opera.”—Joanne Bonwick, The Ridgewood News

“Dear Lori, your “Carmen” program is outstanding. I’m not alone in thinking so. After your program I heard a number of people—including both students and teachers—discussing what a wonderful time they had.”—Frieda Hollober, President of Whittier PTO



“Her magnetic charm and skillful weaving of performing while explaining about opera kept students in rapt attention for the duration of the performance. Her material was appropriate and entertaining for this age level and we will not hesitate to invite her again”. —Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby, Principal of Whittier Elementary School in Teaneck, NJ

“I want to thank you very much for your breathtaking performance. I appreciate your coming to Brooklyn to perform and I admire the time energy and care that you put in your work. The audience was thoroughly engaged in the activity and learned that opera can be dynamic and exciting. You as well as your wonderful, world-class pianist, David Maiullo have helped us with the educational function of our mission with your excellent presentation.” — Enyi Okezie, President, Friends of the Brooklyn Library

“Thank you for entertaining our children and educating them on the life of Marian Anderson. Your performance was mesmerizing and certainly held the children’s attention.” —Barbara Pinsak, Principal of Lowell School, Teaneck, NJ

OPERA SOUP PRODUCTIONS:

What Kids Have To Say...

"Your are an excellent singer. You should be the champion" – Shabaaz, student

"I want to be like you...how did you learn"? –Marisol, student

"You have a good piano player...how many years has he been playing?" –Chris, student

"I like your singing, and I like you, and I like your dancing, and you are my fan" –Allie, student

"I like your songs. How do you sing like that? Can you teach us to?" –Kristine, student

"I like your voice. It is beautiful. Your show was fantastic!" –Brittney, student

"Thank you for sharing your voice and piano with us. I hope you come again. I had a good time - Kiersten,student



For more information or to schedule an engagement contact:

Lori Brown Mirabal, Ed. D

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