

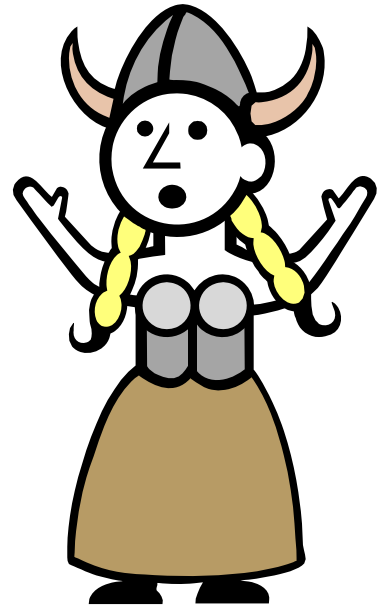
La Bohème Study Guide

The Rimrock Opera Company

Presents

WHAT'S OPERA, DOC?

Opera is all the arts wrapped up in one cool package—music, dance, drama with stage settings, costumes and an orchestra. Opera sings a story. In a movie, characters say and do things. In an opera, characters sing their passions – joy, sorrow, hope, and despair. Opera is very similar to Broadway shows except that opera singers are not amplified. They project only through using their own natural voice resonance. Musical theater performers use small microphones placed in their clothing or hair to amplify their voices. Opera singers are “athletes of the voice” – trained to sing notes that will project throughout the theater without any electronic devices. However for the school touring show, *American Opera Idol*, the Master of Ceremonies uses a microphone.



Another difference between operas and musicals is that the action in musical theatre is usually spoken, with songs describing a character’s feelings about the situation. In opera, nearly everything is sung.

Our Mission

The mission of Rimrock Opera is to enhance the cultural life of this region by providing high quality opera productions and to make opera available to everyone through outreach presentations and educational programming.

La Bohème

Music composed by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, based on Henri Murger's novel,

Scènes de la Vie de Bohème, or Scenes of the Bohemian life

First performed at Teatro Reggio, Turin, February 1, 1896

Sung in Italian with English text projected above the stage

THE CAST

In order of appearance

Jan Michael Kliewer	Marcello, a painter, <i>baritone</i>
Jeffrey Grant Kitto	Rodolfo, a poet, <i>tenor</i>
Chris Sheppard	Schaunard, a musician, <i>baritone</i>
Dennis Rupp	Colline, a philosopher, <i>bass</i>
Daren Small	Benoit, a landlord, <i>bass</i>
Amy Logan	Mimi, a seamstress, <i>soprano</i>
Jane Van Dyk	Maître d'hôtel of the Café Momus, <i>supernumerary* role</i>
Finn Carlson	Waiter, <i>supernumerary role</i>
Philip Johnson	Parpignol, a toy peddler, <i>tenor</i>
Laura Loge	Musetta, an entertainer of the Latin Quarter, <i>soprano</i>
Daren Small	Alcindoro, a councilor of state and admirer of Musetta, <i>bass</i>
Henrietta Johnstone	A <i>Grande Dame</i> , owner of the Café Momus, <i>supernumerary role</i>
Quentin Staton	Customs guard, <i>bass</i>

***refers to an acting role, generally a non-singing, non-speaking role**

Latin Quarter townspeople, soldiers, servants: Kate Bertin, Thain Bertin, Kian Bertin, James Bertin, Jocelyn Bjornstad, Hanna Bondurant, Sammy Brodston, Kelly Deiling, Brittany Feiler, Derrian Green, Deyja Green, Devera Green, Grace Hein, Shirley Herman, Kendra Hertz, Nicole Jerominski, Philip Johnson, Megan Kilroy, Cassandra Kocab, Jon Kohn, Nate Liptac, Alec McInnis, Christen McInnis, Melinda McInnis, Paige O'Neill, Janie Rife, Jaclyn Rooney, Shelly Ryan, Kate Ryan, Mike Ryan, Paige Sears, Melissa Sheppard, Quentin Staton, Jacob Troyer, Kristin Van Luchene, Justin Ward

Urchins of the Latin Quarter: Bobbi Adler, Tana Allen, Isabelle Amato, Lily Anderson, Torrey Becker, Kayla Bertschinger, Kallie Buker, Molly Day, Anna Downs, Brittanee Fisher, Molly Frichtl, Megan Grosso, Keisha Isaacson, Lauren Lane, Desarie Lee, Alyssa Logan, Jacob Logan, Jaeli Lokken, Jorion Lokken, Makay Loran, Alexys Lyle, Issa McKnight, Emma McMullen, Veronica Murtagh, Tylene Parker, Amanda Peterson, Ashley Reitz, Courtney Schott, Brandon Secco, Katherine Shannon, Frankie Sindelar, Skyylar Staton, Halie Tisdale, Emma Vanberg, Isabelle Wagler, Nathalie Wagler, Kassie Wagner, Breanna Wendlandt, Ragan Yetley

The children are members of Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK). See ROCK page below.

Marching Band: Steve Klippenstein, drum major; Heather Dolan, Megan Izatt, Kirstin Killsnight, Devin Zimmerman, Jonathan Cantrell, Jacob Dillon, Ty Klippenstein, Tyler Sanner, Dylan Layman, Preston Roberts, Beau Tall, Trevor Vannoy, Vander Zinne

The marching band members are music students of Skyview High School, under the direction of Larry Lynam.

Production Staff

Barbara Day Turner, Conductor
Douglas Nagel, Producer and Director
Sandi Rabas, Staff Pianist
Chris Sheppard, Chorus Master
Alex Heyneman, Lighting Designer

Richelle Stricker, Stage Manager
Randy Jordan, Technical Director
Loretta Jensen Wittmer, Costume Director
Angie Stidham, Wig/Make-up Designer

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.
There will be one twenty-minute intermission between Acts 2 and 3.
Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house management.
The use of cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.

Please silence all phones and electronic devices.

Please, no texting during the performance

Saturday, April 24, 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 25, 3:00 PM, 2010
Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
Billings, Montana

Synopsis: *La Bohème*

Latin Quarter of Paris, about 1830

Act I - A Garret Studio

The winter cold is apparent in the garret of the poet, Rodolfo and Marcello, a painter. Rodolfo burns his old manuscripts for heat. Colline, the philosopher, joins them. The men are surprised when Schaunard, a musician, arrives with food, drinks and cigars. He insists that they dine out. Benoit, the landlord, comes to collect the rent. The young artists encourage him to brag that he has a mistress on the side, then pretend to be offended and rush him out. When the men head off to the Café Momus, Rodolfo stays behind briefly to finish an article he is writing. The neighbor, a seamstress named Mimì, knocks. She needs her candle lighted, but she is weak from illness and the exertion of climbing several flights of stairs. As she turns to leave, she realizes she has misplaced her key. Rodolfo has secretly pocketed the key and persuades Mimì to stay and talk with him. They are

strongly attracted to each other. Their short acquaintance leads to a jubilation of love. They kiss tenderly and leave to join the others.

Act II - A Square in the Latin Quarter outside the Café Momus

The streets are crowded with Christmas Eve revelers. Parpignol is selling children's toys. The festivities include a parade passing through the Quarter. Mimì shows off the bonnet Rodolfo has bought her. Marcello's mistress, Musetta, sweeps in with her elderly suitor, Alcindoro. She causes a scene to attract the attention of the young men. Her behavior scandalizes Alcindoro. Annoyed, Musetta screams that her shoes hurt, and sends him off to get her a new pair. Meanwhile, she escapes with Marcello and his friends, leaving her bill—generously adding the charges for the entire group—for Alcindoro to pay when he returns. He has been duped before and slaps the bill in disgust on the table of the *grande dame* who owns the café.

Intermission – twenty minutes

Act III - The City Gates

Mimì asks Marcello for help. She plans to leave Rodolfo since his jealousy is making things impossible. Marcello talks to Rodolfo, who admits he loves Mimì passionately, but realizes that because of his poverty he cannot care for her in her illness, and the situation is driving him into hopeless desperation. Mimì's cough reveals that she has been eavesdropping. Rodolfo tries to comfort her. The lovers postpone their parting until spring. Marcello and Musetta quarrel.

Act IV - In the Garret

A few months pass. Marcello and Rodolfo try to forget about their loves and pretend that they are absorbed in their arts. Colline and Schaunard bring food for dinner. Musetta arrives with the dying Mimì, whom she has found on the street near collapse. They help Mimì to bed. Musetta and Marcello leave to sell Musetta's earrings to buy medicine, and Colline goes out to pawn his precious old overcoat. Rodolfo and Mimì have a last caress. Marcello returns with medicine and Musetta with a new muff to warm Mimì's hands. Rodolfo thinks Mimì is resting peacefully and begins to relax. A doctor has been summoned, but it is too late to help their friend, who lapses into unconsciousness. As Musetta prays, Mimì dies. The others see that she has slipped away. When Rodolfo reads the expression on their faces, he is shocked into reality and plunged into despair. He cries out Mimì's name and weeps in helpless anguish.

La Bohème – Rimrock Opera Orchestra

Barbara Day Turner, Conductor
Richele Sitton, Orchestra Manager Jack Webb, Orchestra Technician
Orchestra Parts courtesy of Utah Festival Opera

Violin 1

Mary LaMonaca,
Concertmaster
Laura Dalbey
Barb Kirk
Kristi Kazmierski

Violin 2

Lisa Bollman*
Tanja Acheson
Melyssa Ostler

Viola

Amy Letson*
Brian Bell
Garion Holian

Cello

Mary McCullough*
Lewis Rawlinson

Bass

Richele Sitton*

Flute

Lynette Larson*
Dru Wagner

Oboe

Sue Logan*

Kris Ostwalt

Clarinet

Laurel Linde*

Jolane Jones

Bassoon

Doug Brown*

John Sinz

Horn

John Dutton*

Susie Fritts

Trumpet

Mark Fenderson *

Trombone

Aaron Schendel *

Brass Section sponsored
by Dr. Marilyn Grams

Percussion

Rebekah Reger*

Luke Kestner

*Denotes principle

About the Composer



Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini

(Born 1858, Lucca, Tuscany -- died 1924, Brussels, Belgium)

The Italian composer, born into a family of organists and choirmasters, was inspired to write operas after hearing Verdi's *Aida* in 1876. He was the most popular opera composer in the world at the time of his death, and many claim he still is beloved above all others.

For centuries, opera was dominated by larger-than-life characters: kings and queens, gods and goddesses, mythic figures holding the power of life and death over ordinary people. Over time, as opera became a more and more popular form of entertainment, things changed. Composers started writing operas about ordinary people, instead of those who ruled over them. The new style was called *verismo*, and Puccini was among its finest practitioners. Puccini's operas thrive on the reality that, at some point in their lives, people everywhere endure the same trials. They struggle with love, envy, betrayal, loss and heartbreak.

It's hard to say which of Puccini's many popular operas has been his greatest hit, but *La Bohème* is surely a prime candidate. It's a simple drama, involving common people. But their feelings are portrayed so deeply, and so vividly, that their emotions soon become ours, and their heartbreaks seem as wrenching as our own. – Washington National Opera

Puccini's Greatest Operas:

Manon Lescaut (1893)

* indicates those performed by Rimrock Opera

***La Bohème** (1896)

***Tosca** (1900)

***Madama Butterfly** (1904)

Il Tabarro, ***Suor Angelica**,

***Gianni Schicchi**: a trio of short works (1918)

Turandot (1924)

Meet the Artists

See complete biographies at www.rimrockopera.org

Barbara Day Turner, Conductor

Maestra Day Turner is founder and music director of the San José Chamber Orchestra, now in its 19th season, where she has premiered more than 80 new works. Her résumé also includes almost 100 operas and musical theater pieces. Most recently she has conducted *Così fan tutte* for West Bay Opera, John Adams' *Nixon in China* for Portland Opera, *The King and I* for American Musical Theatre of San José and *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Porgy and Bess* for Utah Festival Opera, where she also serves as music administrator. As conductor and artistic administrator with Opera San José, she conducted the world premieres of Mollicone's *Hotel Eden*, Henderson's *West of Washington Square*, Bohmler and Helfgot's *The Tale of the Nutcracker* and Roumanis' *Phaedra*. Ms. Day Turner holds a masters degree in harpsichord performance from San José State University, defining an alter-ego musical life as a harpsichordist. Some of Maestra Day Turner's more unusual involvements include the premiere of Randall Wong's *Victorian Toy Theater Puppet Opera* in San Francisco, Ezra Pound's *Le Testament*, live orchestral accompaniment for an IMAX laser show. Upcoming: *Manon Lescaut* and *Gypsy* with Utah Festival Opera. Maestra Day Turner will return to RO in 2012 to conduct *The Crucible*.

Douglas Nagel, Producer and Director

Douglas Nagel, a native Montanan, made his directing debut at 21. After receiving his MM from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Douglas joined the faculty at California State University, Hayward, and held a similar position at Southern Oregon University, Ashland. He produced, directed and conducted *Die Fledermaus*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Gigi*, *Pajama Game*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Il Tabarro*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Hand of Bridge*, *L'Egisto*, *Riders to the Sea*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Scarf*, *The Telephone*, *The Impresario* and *L'Ormino*. He made his Northern Plains Opera (North Dakota) debut directing *The Merry Widow*. He has also directed at Opera Idaho, West Bay Opera, Palo Alto, Sacramento Opera and Opera East Texas. Among his productions are *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Don Pasquale*, *The Magic Flute*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Girl of the Golden West*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Carmen*, *The Merry Widow*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *La Traviata* and *La Bohème*. Mr. Nagel takes great pride in bringing opera to children, adapting operas to mini versions for schools, including *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Impresario* and *The Magic Flute*. Douglas received grants from the Utah Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts to produce "Let's Make an Opera" in a Salt Lake area grade school. In 2005 and 2007 Mr. Nagel sat on the National Endowment of the Arts Opera Division panel, reviewing grant requests. Mr. Nagel's current new project is *American Opera Idol*, a touring show geared to middle and high school students. *La Bohème* marks Mr. Nagel's 17th production he has directed for RO.

Jeffrey Grant Kitto, tenor

Rodolfo

Jeffrey Grant Kitto was most recently seen as Don Jose in *Carmen* for Rimrock Opera and Beethoven's 9th for the Billings Symphony. Previous engagements include Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Rinuccio in Opera Theater of Oregon's production of *Gianni Schicchi*, covering Tamino in the Intermountain Opera Association's *The Magic Flute*, Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*, and Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor* among others. A native of Montana, Jeffrey completed his bachelor's degree in music from Montana State University where he performed roles in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *L'Orfeo*, *Così fan tutte*, *La Bohème*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Rent* among others. A multiple recipient of The Metropolitan Opera Auditions National Council Awards as well as

a past winner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award, Mr. Kitto was a five-year scholarship recipient of the Intermountain Opera. Jeffrey was a founding member of national recording artists, The Clintons, with whom he performed, toured, and helped release two albums including their 2002 release of the album "Who Invited Roger". Upcoming engagements for Mr. Kitto include Cavaradossi in *Tosca* and the Duke in *Rigoletto* for Rimrock Opera.

Amy Logan, soprano

Mimi

Ms. Logan makes her debut in the role of Mimi. Other roles for Rimrock Opera include Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Despina in *Così fan tutte* and the title role in *Sister Angelica*. Ms. Logan has soloed with the Billings Symphony and the Messiah Festival 2009, performs with High Plains Chamber Singers, in the Billings Symphony as a clarinetist, and as music director or pit musician for Venture Theatre and Billings Studio Theater. Ms. Logan's relationship with Rimrock Opera began in 2001 as clarinetist in the orchestra, expanding to stage manager, chorus member and chorus master, though her most substantial work has been as artistic director for the Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids. Since its inception in 2004, ROCK has grown to three choirs with over 100 student musicians in grades 1-12. Ms. Logan currently conducts ROCK'S Bel Canto (High School) choir and prepared the ROCK children's chorus performing in this production, including her two children, Jacob and Alyssa. Ms. Logan is choral director at Skyview High School and maintains a private music studio, coaching musicians on voice, clarinet, piano and saxophone. She has served as music director for numerous musicals and is an active adjudicator, clinician, guest conductor and teacher at summer music and theater camps. Ms. Logan holds degrees in Music Education and Performance from the University of Montana.

Jan Michael Kliewer, baritone

Marcello

Jan Michael Kliewer is in his twentieth year teaching music at Northwest College, in Powell, Wyoming. He is engaged in teaching voice, music theory, and conducting the Northwest College Choir. Jan is an active baritone soloist in both concert and opera. He has performed professionally with the Robert Page Singers, Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Kansas City Choral Art Ensemble. He has recently performed as a soloist with the Casper Chorale and Orchestra, the Cheyenne Chamber Singers and Orchestra, the Northwest Civic Orchestra and Chorus, the Wyoming Symphony, the Billings Symphony, the Rimrock Opera and the Helena Symphony. He has sung roles in Rimrock Opera's *L'elisir d'amore*, *The Medium*, *The Telephone*, *The Merry Widow*, *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Sweeney Todd*, and the 2004 premiere performance of *Nosferatu* by Alva Henderson. Jan is also an active conductor. His conducting pedigree includes work with Ernest Hisey, Robert Page, Eph Ehly, and Bev Henson. He has served as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the region. Jan will return to RO in 2012 to sing John Proctor in *The Crucible*.

Laura Loge, soprano

Musetta

Ms. Loge's upcoming engagements include Guadalupe and Ninetta in *La Pericholé* as part of the Hans Wolf Operetta Series in Seattle, and songs for soprano and orchestra by Edvard Grieg with the Eastside Symphony. Recent opera roles include La Fée, Suor Genovieffa, Ginger (*The Night Harry Stopped Smoking* with Rimrock Opera), Rosalinda, the Second Lady, Musetta, Goddess Diana (*Iphigenie en Aulide*) and Miss Silverpeal. On the concert stage she performed *Bachianas Brasileiras no. 5* with eight cellos at the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival, and was soprano soloist in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Faure's *Requiem*, Schumann's *Mass and Requiem*, Händel's *Messiah*, and Verdi's *Requiem*. She has presented recitals of Scandinavian art song across the northern United States, in Norway and on the radio broadcast, "Live by George". Laura is a district winner of the 2005 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a finalist in the 2008 Ladies Musical Club of Seattle Competition and a semi-finalist in the 2009 Grieg Festival Competition. Raised in Dillon, Montana, she received her Master's Degree from New England Conservatory, studied bel canto in Italy and Scandinavian Art Song in Norway. Currently, Laura resides in Seattle and studies with Jane Eaglen.

Chris Sheppard, baritone

Schaunard

Dr. Chris Sheppard, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at MSUB, began working with Rimrock Opera in 2008 as chorus master and continues this relationship into 2009-2010. At MSUB, he directs Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, and teaches voice and choral conducting. Chris appeared as Dancaire in *Carmen* and Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Rimrock Opera. Dr. Sheppard is Music Director at First English Lutheran Church in Billings and directs the Magic City Singers. In 2006 and 2007, he served as chorus master and voice instructor at the Maud Powell Festival's International Opera Institute during summers in Illinois. A native of West Virginia, he has also taught at Bluefield College in Virginia and Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado. He was given a Faculty Excellence award at MSUB in 2009 and has been honored twice in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." A proficient baritone, Chris has appeared on stage in a variety of venues, including opera, oratorio, musicals, and plays. Dr. Sheppard holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin, University of Northern Colorado, and Marshall University.

Dennis Rupp, bass

Colline

Fresh from his directorial debut for Rimrock Opera's summer One Act Festival, Dennis Rupp returns to assay the role of Colline in *La Bohème*, which he sang at the renowned Shanghai International Arts Festival in the People's Republic of China. A California native, Mr. Rupp's repertoire includes Méfistofélès in Gounod's *Faust*, which received an L.A. Emmy Award for Best Entertainment Feature and his creation of the role of Heinrich Skuller in Alva Henderson's widely acclaimed *Nosferatu* with Rimrock Opera and Opera Idaho. Recently Mr. Rupp has sung Méfistofélès with the Pacific Palisades Symphony, Sarastro with the Antelope Valley Symphony and Haydn's *Creation* with the same orchestra. He also created the role of Captain Bedoya in Enrique Gonzalez-Medina's *Serafina y Arcangela* for Conaculta-Cecut in Tijuana, Mexico. Elsewhere in the United States, Mr. Rupp has bowed with, among others, Anchorage Opera, Sacramento Opera, Long Beach Opera, Pacific Repertory Opera, Opera San Jose, Opera Nova, Bay Shore Lyric Opera and The Bear Valley Music Festival. Roles include Prince Gremin, Don Alfonso, Leporello, Don Basilio, Sarastro, Hoffman's Four Villains and Figaro, to name but a few. His performance of *Nosferatu* is available on CD, released by Albany Records.

Daren Small, bass

Benoit and Alcindoro

Daren Small is a native of Billings. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Montana State University-Bozeman where he made his opera soloist debut as Colas in Mozart's *Bastien und Bastienne*. While attending MSU he was bass soloist for the *Mozart Requiem*. In Bozeman, Daren sang in the chorus for the Intermountain Opera Company's *The Magic Flute*. He has been featured as baritone soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and in a Eugene Butler Easter Cantata. In summer 2006, Daren performed internationally with the Montana State University Chorale and Montanans in Berlin, Leipzig, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest and was soloist at mass in Siena, Italy. Mr. Small is currently a voice teacher and a general music teacher for the Billings Public Schools and sings with the High Plains Chamber Singers. Daren made his professional opera debut with Rimrock Opera in summer 2009 as Simone in *Gianni Schicchi* and Mr. Bluff in *The Impresario*. He also performed as Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*.

Quentin Staton, bass

Customs Guard

This is Quentin Staton's third appearance with Rimrock Opera. He debuted as Marco in *Gianni Schicchi* and was an officer in *The Barber of Seville*. Originally from North Dakota, Quentin graduated from Montana State University Billings in 2009 with degrees in music and elementary education. Mr. Small is currently a first grade teacher for Lockwood Public Schools and the director for the Cantabile Choir of Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK). Quentin serves as the Youth Music Director at First English Lutheran Church. Mr. Staton also teaches voice lessons privately and at Venture Theatre.

Philip Johnson, tenor

Parpignol

Philip Johnson has been singing and performing off and on since the seventh grade. From July 2000 - July 2004, he served in the US Marine Corps. Mr. Johnson holds a BA in Communications and Theatre from MSU Billings, graduating in 2009. This is his fourth performance with the Rimrock Opera Company. Philip also currently sings with the Magic City Singers

SETS, COSTUMES and TITLES

Scenery constructed by the Utah Festival Opera Company
Jack Shouse, scenery designer
James Lyden, associate scenery designer
James Lyden, set technical director
Costumes constructed by Westendorf Costume Emporium
Titles courtesy of Douglas Nagel

PRODUCTION TEAM

Richele Sitton, orchestra manager
Sandi Rabas, rehearsal pianist
Kendra Hertz, rehearsal pianist, **ROCK**
Richelle Stricker, stage manager
Jessica Goldade, assistant stage manager
Chris Sheppard, chorus master
Jacquelyn Marie Weitz and Sandi Rabas,
chorus pianists
Loretta Jensen Wittmer, costume director
Marie Thompson, costume assistant
Angie Stidham, wigs/make-up designer
Adair Borges, make-up assistant
Valeria Camboni-Miller, Italian diction
coach

Dae Jong Kang, title operator
Randy Jordan, technical director
Dodie Rife, properties master
Joanna Johnson, properties assistant
Utah Festival Opera, orchestra music
Alberta Bair Theater Technical and Stage
Crew
Voice Specialists for artists of Rimrock
Opera: ENT Associates, Steven A. Butler,
MD, Brian T. Pelczar, MD, Cynthia A.
Kennedy, MD, Matthew Wolpoe, MD; Dana
Fink, P.A.-C



Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK) is a select choral program founded by the Rimrock Opera in September 2004. Its mission is “to challenge, to teach and to elevate—through music of the highest quality.” Singers in grades 1-12 are invited to audition for participation in a two-semester season with weekly rehearsals

and many opportunities for public performances. Besides Rimrock Opera’s mainstage performances in Alberta Bair Theater and OperaFest dinner and show, **ROCK** has performed at such events as the Big Sky State Games, Mannheim Steamroller and Rita Coolidge concerts, Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale concerts, the Montana Music Teachers Association, Moss Mansion events and other venues.

Dolce Choir 1st - 3rd Grades

As a part of this choir, students learn about vocal technique, choral singing and basic music theory concepts.

The students in this chorus perform 2, 3, and 4-part treble music. They also learn music theory, history, rhythm, diction and vocal techniques.

Cantabile Choir 4th - 8th Grades

Bel Canto Choir 9th - 12th Grades

This high school chorus performs music of varying genres, styles, and languages. These students learn more advanced musicianship skills, including theory, history, rhythm and sight-singing.

ROCK Staff: Directors: Amy Logan, Quentin Staton and Erin Small.
Accompanists: Lynette Redland and Sandi Rabas

Auditions

Auditions are held twice a year – in September and January. For more information, call Amy Logan at 406.671.5174 or e-mail thelogans@bresnan.net

Upcoming ROCK Events

ROCK Scholarship Fundraising Dinner and Concert May 15, 2010

Dinner 5:00pm - Concert 7:00pm - Skyview High School Theatre
ROCK Summer Camp - June 21-26, 2010 at Venture Theatre

For more information, please call Amy Logan at 671.5174

Education and Outreach

American Opera Idol

Rimrock Opera's school touring show, American Opera Idol (AOI), written by General Director Douglas Nagel and Staff Pianist Sandi Rabas, has completed a successful week of 11 performances in 6 middle schools, reaching 4,000 students.

AOI is loosely based on the hit TV series American Idol. Using operatic melodies, AOI also features a competition to choose the best singer. Complete with a master of ceremonies, judging panel and contestants, AOI scenes take place behind as well as before the curtain. With an unusual twist, methamphetamine abuse is introduced into the plot as one contestant befriends another who has a family member involved with meth.

The purpose of Rimrock Opera's school tour is to present captivating entertainment by professional artists combined with a dramatic plot focusing on methamphetamine dangers. The intent is to increase awareness by provoking students to conversation and consideration of the ravages of this destructive drug and to heighten social stigma against its use. An additional goal is to demonstrate to children between the age's levels of 5th grade through high school that opera and classical music are an approachable and enjoyable art form. Previous school tours have focused on elementary students.

American Opera Idol will tour again October 11-22, 2010. Schools interested in booking this show should contact Rimrock Opera office at 406.671.2214. To learn more about American Opera Idol, please visit our website at www.rimrockopera.org to view the study guide and further details.

Thanks to the sponsors and financial underwriters who make the tour possible:

Anonymous
Billings Community Foundation
Fortin Foundation for Youth Enrichment
Individual Rimrock Opera donors

Montana Cultural Trust
Oprah's Big Give
Rocky Mountain Health Network
Yellowstone Surgery Center

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