

NEWS RELEASE

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YOUNGSTERS EXPLORE OPERA WITH NEW JERSEY OPERA THEATER

PRINCETON, NJ- Beginning on April 18 and continuing through May 19, **New Jersey Opera Theater** will conduct a state-wide tour of their innovative children's program "Interact with Classics." This program consists of professional opera singers performing children's versions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* for grammar and middle school children.



Prior to each performance, approximately 15 students from each school are chosen to participate with the singers onstage by collaborating in singing, dancing and performing minor roles. In addition to these student onstage participants, every child in the audience joins in the performance by becoming the chorus and singing along with the performers from their seats in the audience.

Weeks in advance of the performance, the teachers are given a Teachers' Guide for either *The Magic Flute* or *Carmen*. This Guide, meeting core curriculum standards, consists of lessons and suggested activities that will help teach the students about subjects like the composer, the plot of the opera, music and opera history, stagecraft and how the opera interrelates with current study objectives for each grade level.

New Jersey Opera Theater's "Interact with Classics" program will tour throughout New Jersey, including schools in Mercer, Essex and Middlesex counties, including underserved schools in Trenton and Newark.

About New Jersey Opera Theater

New Jersey Opera Theater, founded in 2002, is a non-profit arts organization based in Princeton, NJ that is dedicated to presenting high quality opera in Princeton and throughout the state of New Jersey, promoting the development of emerging artists and creating new and sustainable audiences for opera through educational outreach programs. For more information, please visit our website at www.njot.org.

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