

NEWS RELEASE

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Opera New Jersey Presents Expanded Kids' Camp

PRINCETON, NJ – For the 2008 Summer Season, **Opera New Jersey** has expanded their Children's Camp, **Explorations in Opera**, to two weeks. This is twice the length of the 2007 Camp, which was one week long. The Camp tops Opera New Jersey's continuing commitment to opera and musical education throughout the state. The first week of camp begins on July 7 and runs through July 11. The second week of camp starts on July 14 and finishes on July 18. The camp takes place at McCarter Theatre in Princeton and runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm.



Engineered by Opera New Jersey's Director of Education, Peter Hoyle, and professional opera singers, students will explore opera through theater games and improvisation. They will also watch full orchestra final dress rehearsals of OperaNJ's exciting summer productions. The first week will feature Rossini's charming *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella). The second week focuses on Lehár's sparkling *The Merry Widow*.

"The Opera Camp is the one camp that our son has fallen in love with and has been looking forward to," said the parent of a previous camper.

Students will learn about the different jobs of producing an opera from costume design to set construction, from props to lights. Additionally, they will create their own original mini-operas which they will perform at camp's end for parents and loved ones to see.

The cost of the camp is \$400 per week and children may attend one or both weeks. The first week of camp is aimed at children ages 6 and up; the second week is aimed at those students reading at the 2nd grade level. However, parents may discuss their individual child's needs with Opera New Jersey's Director of Education. Parents are also invited to attend as participants at half price.

More information as well as registration forms are available on Opera New Jersey's website at www.Opera-NJ.org or by calling (609) 799-7700.

Photo: Participants from *Explorations in Opera 2007 Camp*. Photo by Jeff Reeder.

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Opera New Jersey Presents Expanded Kids' Camp - continued

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ, formerly New Jersey Opera Theater) is earning national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. OperaNJ seeks to stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera, build a strong and diverse audience base for the art form and foster the development of emerging artists. **Opera New Jersey** recently received its second straight prestigious Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). The Citation is NJSCA's highest honor and recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." OperaNJ received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility.

This season is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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