



The MetLife Foundation-*Music! Words! Opera!* Teacher Training Program
2010-2011 Application Questions

OPERA America
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The MetLife Foundation-*Music! Words! Opera!* Teacher Training Program

About *Music! Words! Opera!*

What is it? *Music! Words! Opera! (M!W!O!)* is a multi-level curriculum designed for children in grades K-12. It was written by a team of authors, including classroom and music teachers, curriculum specialists, composers and opera professionals. The program's flexible, multi-disciplinary nature allows teachers to relate opera to other subjects and pay particular attention to content standards.

How does it work? *M!W!O!* offers two approaches to learning. *Listen and Discover* introduces students to the art form and explores how and why specific operas were written. *Create and Produce* allows students to produce their own original opera. Teachers learn to use the program in five-day training workshops, which are hosted by local opera companies and taught by members of OPERA America's national training team. The workshops lead teachers through the student experience – they learn about opera through the study of great works and then apply that knowledge to compose and perform an original piece.

Why opera? Interdisciplinary in nature, opera is an excellent tool to aid students and teachers in their explorations of history, language, literature, the arts and more. *M!W!O!* places students at the center of the learning process, as they work in partnership with teachers and artists to find new, creative means of self-expression through the study of opera. Further, *M!W!O!* has proven very effective as a means to create and build relationships between opera companies and local schools and community organizations.

Grant opportunity

With the support of MetLife Foundation, OPERA America will provide grants of \$15,000 to Professional Company Members (PCMs) to defray the costs of trainer fees, travel, lodging, teacher manuals and other materials. The grants will support PCMs by covering 100% (\$10,000) of these costs during the first year and 50% (\$5,000) of costs in the second year, allowing companies time to leverage the tangible effects of the program in their own fundraising efforts for future years.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be OPERA America Professional Company Members (PCMs) in good standing, located in the United States.
- PCMs must not have hosted a *M!W!O!* workshop in the last five years.
- Applicants must have a full-time staff member dedicated to facilitating education programs. While not required, it is recommended that applicants have an education director or similar position.
- Applicants must have OPERA America's logo, including hyperlinks to OPERA America's educational web resources, in a prominent location on their Web site.
- Opera companies must commit to hosting teacher training workshops in the summers of 2011 and 2012.

Application

Applications will be evaluated on the clarity, thoroughness and effectiveness of the proposed planning process.

Please e-mail this completed application as an attachment, along with any supporting documentation, to Education@operaamerica.org by Friday, September 10, 2010. Applicants will be notified of decisions by Friday, October 1, 2010.

Company Information

Contact Name:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone:

Company Name:

Address 1:

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Web site:

Operating budget for current fiscal year: \$

Education budget for current Fiscal year: \$

Guidelines

The following criteria, which are weighed equally, will be used to determine which applications will be awarded funds. **Responses for each section should not exceed 500 words.**

- **Commitment to education**

The intention of this initiative is to introduce *Music! Words! Opera!* to new communities and to assist companies in developing rich, sustainable educational relationships.

Explain your company's dedication to arts-infused learning. How will *M!W!O!* help meet the short- and long-term educational needs of your community? How will *M!W!O!* fit into your company's overall educational goals?

- **Local collaboration**

At the core of *Music! Words! Opera!* is the relationship between an opera company and its local schools and community partners. Training workshops are typically attended by 12 to 20 teachers and, following the workshops, companies can expect to devote five to ten hours per month to the program.

How will your company design and implement your involvement with local partners during and beyond the five-day teacher training workshops?

- **Equality of access in partnerships**

As a core academic subject, the arts are an integral part of a well-rounded education for all students. Therefore, all students should be considered when completing an application.

How you will create or develop partnerships that provide access to arts education for diverse student populations?

- **Evaluation**

Evaluation is integral to the success and sustainability of any educational initiative.

How do you plan to evaluate the results and impact of *M!W!O!* in terms of instructional objectives, teacher participation, student engagement and other goals? Identify specific types of data you plan to collect, and how it will be useful in evaluating the program.