

OPERA TEENS

Ideas for Events and Activities You Can Plan

HOLD EVENTS

- **Check out [OPERA America Onstage](#).** Organize a viewing party, watch an event together, and hold your own conversation afterward.
- **Watch or listen to opera.** You're here because of your interest in opera, so plan to watch or listen to a performance together.
 - Find a local performance using the [National Opera Calendar](#).
 - Watch a performance through the [Naxos Video Library](#).
 - Find a movie theater that broadcasts live or recorded opera.
 - Rent a DVD from your library.
 - Create an opera playlist on YouTube around a particular theme, such as comedic moments or your favorite arias.
- **Discuss and explore.** Add a discussion onto any event or organize a fun activity.
 - Host an opera trivia night.
 - Interview an opera staff member or artist. OPERA America or your local company can help put you in touch with an opera professional.
- **Replicate another great idea.** See another an activity at another Regional Council that looks awesome? Contact the Council for information on how they went about it.
- **World Opera Day.** Opera companies around the world have made October 25 [World Opera Day](#). Celebrate this international occasion with a special activity.

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DO PROJECTS

Use your love and knowledge of opera to serve your community. Here are a few ways to get involved:

- Start a blog
- Start a podcast
- Share playlists with friends
- Host opera viewing parties
- Volunteer as a council
- Sing at senior living facilities, music schools, outdoor markets/festivals

Community Service Opera Performance Troupe

Consider starting your own community service opera performance troupe.

1. Find rehearsal space. Work with parents to help find a space to reserve or ask your school if there is a space you can use on the weekends. Some organizations that might allow regular rehearsals would be churches, schools or someone's home (with piano).
2. Pick out your pieces. Select five to ten arias or songs that you would like to learn and share. Some libraries will have sheet music available.
3. Find a music director. A music director is a person who can accompany your singers (usually on piano) and help teach the music.
4. Get in touch with local nonprofit organizations, hospitals and nursing homes and offer to set up free performances. (Make sure you can arrange for any necessary instruments.)
5. Consider the final touches. Perhaps think about adding elements of costume or scenic design. And be sure to take pictures and post them to social media using #OperaTeens, #meetopera, and @operaamerica.

Playlist Projects

Playlists can be a great way to introduce people to opera and to give back to your community. A well-crafted playlist can help new people connect to the art form, provide an emotional outlet for people in need or help people reconnect with their past (see Music and Memory for a great example). Consider creating a personalized playlist for someone in your community.

1. Brainstorm people or groups of people who might benefit from their own playlists. Would a teacher want background music while students work quietly? Are there nonprofits that might like a playlist for an event or reception? Do you have a friend

- who is sad or stressed who could use a playlist to feel better? Do you know someone who just wants to hear good opera? Lots of people might appreciate your playlist. Think outside the box.
2. Find the arias. Pay attention to the different emotions the songs stir up while you listen to them. Also, include a variety of singers, voice parts and, possibly, languages. Aim for at least 10 per playlist.
 3. Write the liner notes. Include a note for each aria — where it's from, who is singing it and other relevant facts. Do a little research if you need to. You might learn something yourself. And be sure to explain why the aria is included on the list.
 4. Make a CD (optional). If you have the songs handy or the means to (legally!) obtain them, consider burning a CD that you can give as a gift

Raise Awareness for Diversity in Opera

One idea is to create a Faces of Opera digital album to show that diversity exists in the performers, designers, composers, and conductors of operas. It's not just fat ladies in Viking hats! Consider creating your own Faces of Opera mural or completing a similar art project.

1. Decide on a topic. Are there negative stereotypes about opera that you would like to fight? Are there aspects of opera that really excite you? Are there specific operas (such as operas featured as Operas of the Month) that you would like to present to others in a creative way?
2. Make art! Draw. Paint. Make a collage or sculpture. Collect photographs. Get creative and find a way to make your message visual.
3. Find a place to display it. See if your school or local opera house will display it. Brainstorm other locations that might be open to your work. Just be sure to get permission!

Bring Opera Education to Your School

Take advantage of OPERA America's [National Opera Teacher and Educator Source](#) (NOTES) to provide your teachers with ideas and lesson plans to incorporate opera into their classrooms.

1. Browse through the NOTES collection. See if there are lessons that sound interesting to you.
2. Check to see what subject matter is taught through the lesson. (Helpful hint: See the Advanced Search functions.) Think of a teacher of that subject who might be open to the idea.
3. Copy the link for the lesson and give it to the teacher. Politely say that you thought this sounded like something that might be interesting for the class. Keep in mind that teachers put a lot of work into planning their lessons and often plan far ahead, so they can't always immediately incorporate new material. So suggest; don't insist. If your teacher does incorporate opera in the classroom, tell us about it! OPERA America is committed to supporting and highlighting teachers who use opera.

Volunteer at Your Local Opera House

Whether you volunteer to fulfill graduation requirements or want to gain industry experience, working with an opera company is a great way to show your support. Here are some ideas:

1. Stitch costumes in the costume shop.
2. Lightwalk for a technical rehearsal.
3. Audition for supernumerary roles.
4. Intern in an administrative department.
5. Help with social media campaigns.