



## GENERAL OPERA RESOURCES

### Books

#### *A Young Person's Guide to the Opera*

Authors: Anita Ganeri, Nicola Barber. Editorial: This book features bright color photos and a dynamic layout that is ideal for readers who are after a more informal, friendly approach to the subject. Publisher: Harcourt, Inc. 2001.

#### *Brundibar*

Author: Tony Kushner. Illustrator: Maurice Sendak. Editorial: *New York Times* Best Illustrated Books Award. Based on a Czech opera that was performed 55 times by children in Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp, *Brundibar* is an odd, urgent little tale of a brother and sister who are desperately trying to get their hands on some milk for their sick mother. Reading Level: Ages 4-8. Publisher: Hyperion Book CH. 2003.

#### *Bravo! Brava! A Night at the Opera: Behind the Scenes with Composers, Cast, and Crew*

Author: Anne Siberell. Editorial: Filled with detailed explanations and entertaining trivia, this clearly written, lively book introduces readers to the world of opera from curtain opening to curtain call. Reading Level: Ages 9-12. Publisher: Oxford University Press. 2002.

#### *Can You Hear It?*

Author: Dr. William Lach. Editorial: This visual and aural feast invites parents, educators, and young listeners to "listen and look" at 13 examples of pictorial music and visual masterpieces. The introduction prepares readers with an explanation of the connections between composers' notes and art images. Reading Level: Ages 4-8. Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers. 2006.

#### *The Dog Who Sang at the Opera*

Author: Marshall Izel, Jim West. Illustrator: Erika Oller. Spun from a true incident, and with a reprinted story from the *New York Times* to prove it, the authors reconstruct the story of an unscheduled duet on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Reading Level: Ages 9-12. Publisher: Harry N. Abrams. 2004.

#### *Getting Opera: A Guide for the Cultured but Confused*

Author: Matt Dobkin. Editorial: Dobkin, former classical music editor of *Time Out New York* magazine, is a young, hip writer who, in this wonderfully engaging and enlightening guide to appreciating opera, specifically addresses his peers – 'educated, in [his or her] twenties or thirties, a fan of theater, film, television, and music.' Publisher: Simon and Schuster. 2000.

#### *Opera Cat*

Author: Tess Weaver. Illustrator: Andrea Wesson. Editorial: In first-timer Weaver's exuberant tale, a quiet cat on an ordinary Saturday gets her moment in the sun. Reading Level: Ages 4-8. Publisher: Clarion Books. 2002.



## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA EDUCATION

### *The Random House Book of Opera Stories*

Author: Adèle Geras. Editorial: Geras has succeeded in capsulizing the basic plots of eight operas that have the potential to interest a young audience. She has chosen those that are based on familiar stories or that include fantasy, magic, and spectacle. Aida, Carmen, Hansel and Gretel, and The Love for Three Oranges are among the selections. Publisher: Random House. 1997.

### *Sing Me a Story: The Metropolitan Opera's Book of Opera Stories for Children*

Author: Jane Rosenberg. Introduction: Luciano Pavarotti. Editorial: The text and illustrations exude the glamour, passion and lyricism of opera... In this vibrantly illustrated collection, 15 thrilling opera stories are brought to children in a most enjoyable way. Reading Level: Young Adult. Publisher: Thames & Hudson. 1996.

### *Story of the Orchestra: Listen While You Learn About the Instruments, the Music and the Composers Who Wrote the Music!*

Author: Robert Levine, Robert T. Levine. Illustrator: Meredith Hamilton. Editorial: Orchestra Bob guides readers through a delightful musical journey. The book is divided into two major parts: composers from Vivaldi to Bernstein and their associated musical periods, and the instruments of the orchestra. Reading Level: Ages 9-12. Publisher: Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers. 2000.

### *Stories from the Opera*

Author: Husain Shahrukh. Illustrator: James Mayhew. Editorial: Let this book once and for all dispel any notions that children will not like opera. As this collection demonstrates, beneath that ornate and unfamiliar music are stories of fantasy, romance and suspense that have enchanted young and old for centuries. Reading level: Ages 9-12. Publisher: Barefoot Books. 2007.

## Films/DVDs

### *Hansel and Gretel: An Opera Fantasy*

Actors: Anna Russell, Mildred Dunnock. Director: John Paul, Michael Myerberg. Editorial: Two lost and hungry children, a house made of gingerbread, and a wicked witch add up to fun and excitement in this acclaimed 1954 production that mixed puppetry with stop-motion animation to bring Engelbert Humperdinck's operetta to life. Language: English. Studio: View Video. 2001.

### *In the Shadow of the Stars*

Actors: William S. Jones. Directors: Allie Light, Irving Saraf. Editorial: Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, this film is a hilarious and affectionate look at the path to stardom inside the competitive world of opera. Language: English. Studio: Light Saraf Films. 1991.

### *Rachel Portman - The Little Prince*

Actors: Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Joseph McManners, Mairead Carlin. Directors: Francesca Zambello. Editorial: Based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "Le Petit Prince," this is a remarkable staged version of the beautiful story, with music by Rachel Portman, who is more known for her film scores (she was awarded an Oscar for "Emma"), and a libretto by Nicholas Wright. Language: English. BBC Concert Opera. 2005.



# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA EDUCATION

## Websites

- *San Francisco Opera*  
[sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com)
- *San Francisco Opera Archive*  
<http://archive.sfopera.com>
- *All About Opera*  
[allaboutopera.com](http://allaboutopera.com)  
(a collection of opera resources on the web)
- *The Aria Database*  
[aria-database.com](http://aria-database.com)
- *The Metropolitan Opera*  
[operainfo.org](http://operainfo.org)  
(International Radio Broadcast Information Center)
- *New York City Opera – Resource Center*  
[nycopera.org](http://nycopera.org)
- *New York Times– Inside the Metropolitan’s Stage*  
[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/03/21/magazine/metropolitan-opera-stage.html?ref=magazine&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/03/21/magazine/metropolitan-opera-stage.html?ref=magazine&_r=0)
- *Opera America*  
[operaamerica.org](http://operaamerica.org)  
(National service organization based in New York supports opera and the musical arts internationally with education and awareness programs.)
- *Opera Glass*  
[opera.stanford.edu](http://opera.stanford.edu)
- *Opera Web*  
[oper.it/operaweb/en/home.html](http://oper.it/operaweb/en/home.html)  
(Ticket information)
- *Royal Opera House: The Opera Machine*  
<http://www.roh.org.uk/opera-machine>  
(*The Opera Machine* presents an extraordinary multi-angled view of the intricate theatrical process behind the scenes during a performance.)
- *San Francisco Symphony*  
<http://www.sfskids.org/templates/instorchframe.asp?pageid=3>  
(SFS Kids, instruments of the orchestra)
- *Opera America*  
<http://www.operaamerica.org/content/Audiences/operaStaff.aspx>  
(Resources for opera education staff)
- *Opera Chic*  
[http://operachic.typepad.com/opera\\_chic/](http://operachic.typepad.com/opera_chic/)  
(“A popular, gossipy opera site” – New York Times)

Sources: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [imdb.com](http://imdb.com)