

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA
MUSIC! WORDS! OPERA!
2008-2009 Season

Indianapolis Opera celebrates its twelfth exciting year of Music! Words! Opera! (M!W!O!), the national curriculum program that combines study of the great works in opera and literature with the creation of original works in opera, theater, creative writing, and visual art. The 2008-2009 subject is the ever-popular *Hansel and Gretel*, based on the Grimm Brothers' children's tale. It is ideal for upper elementary, middle, and high school teachers of music, art, drama, German, and language arts, as well as other subjects.

IO's *Hansel and Gretel* production was designed by world-famous children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak. Mr. Sendak explores the dark side of the story, with its issues of poverty and abandonment, but also shows how children's resourcefulness and teamwork can triumph against adversity. The lost children in the woods, who will be portrayed by members of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, are not merely a gingerbread fence that comes to life at the end, but are an integral part of the story. The set is a visual wonder—a Sendak storybook come to life on the stage.

Our performances will be sung in the original German, with English translations projected above the stage. There will be two weekend performances of the opera (November 21 and 23, 2008), and our final dress rehearsal on the evening of November 19 will be open to school groups. M!W!O! schools have priority seating at the dress rehearsal.

We are excited to be partnering on M!W!O! this year with the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Our study of *Hansel and Gretel* ties in beautifully with the museum's new permanent exhibit, "The Power of Children." (See www.childrensmuseum.org.)

Please contact Patty Harvey, IO's Director of Education, at 317-283-3531 or pattyh@indyopera.org for more information.

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