

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

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Contact: Nancy Mahany
Marketing and Development
Phone: 317-283-3531 x1005
414-737-2454(c)
Email: mahany@indyopera.org

Contact: David Craig Starkey
General Director
Phone: 317-283-3531 x1001
Email: starkey@indyopera.org

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA'S YOUNG ARTISTS FALL '17 PROGRAM STARTS SOON

Great performers begin at IO!

Indianapolis Opera's Resident Artist Program provides young, rising talent the opportunity to develop their craft in a professional environment. From intensive learning experiences to daily rehearsal and performance schedules, Indianapolis Opera (IO) supports the artists' transition from vocal performance students to professional opera singers. The Resident Artist Program is an essential post-graduate program that leads participants to productive and rewarding careers.

An integral part of the Resident Artist Program is bringing to life a children's opera in schools, sometimes in tandem with young students. Not only do the Artists address 21st century learning skills and state education standards, they inspire kids with their creative school offerings. Through their multi-week experience with IO, resident artists develop a concert program to share with older adults in senior living facilities, libraries and businesses across the state.

The numbers of people who are impacted by IO's Resident Artist's Outreach program is in the 100's and potentially 1,000's. Damon Clevenger, music teacher at Winding Ridge Elementary in Indianapolis shared his comment after one of last year's troupes visited his school: "Thank you so much for the performance. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the show and I think they learned quite a bit as well! That is a fantastic ensemble and show!! Really appreciated the opportunity to expose my students to something so wonderful."

Karen Hosek, music teacher at St. Susanna School exclaimed, "I just wanted to tell you how much the teachers and students enjoyed the performance yesterday. The favorable comments keep rolling in. The troupe did an excellent job. I also want to commend them for taking some off the wall questions and turning them into real learning experiences. I could go on and on, but I will just end with BRAVO & WELL DONE!"

The Fall '17 program begins September 11th and runs approximately 10 weeks. Briana Sosenheimer is the Artistic Director. Other area professionals will facilitate master classes. The Resident Artists audition for their residency with David C Starkey, General Director of the Indianapolis Opera about 4 months before each of the two seasonal programs begin.

The criteria he uses for acceptance is strength of singing, resumé, and diversity of repertoire. At the Auditions last spring for the upcoming Fall program, close to 80 young singers applied and tried out for the 5 Resident Artist spots.

The new Artists for IO's Fall '17 Resident Artist Program include:

Soprano: Shannon Paige Christie – Ms. Christie is passionate about all aspects of performance including back stage, directing, administration, and advocacy of the arts. Shannon completed her Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Indianapolis.

Mezzo-soprano: Krista Marie Laskowski - Ms. Laskowski earned both her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She is a native of Canandaigua, New York. She will be making her main stage debut performance in IO's *La Traviata* on November 17,18 & 19th, 2017.

Tenor: Christopher Plaas – Mr. Plaas attended East Tennessee State University, graduating with his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance degree. He recently completed his Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Appalachian State University.

Baritone: Adrian Sanchez - A native of Haslett, Michigan, Mr. Sanchez received his Masters in Music from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and holds degrees in both performance and music education from Michigan State University.

Piano: Allegra Sorley – Ms. Sorley is a graduate of Ohio University where she received her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance. She has studied at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music with André Watts and recently took the position of musician-in-residence and regional music therapist at Woodland Terrace in Carmel.

Note: Resident Artists' bios and headshots are available upon request. Please call Rachele Woolston, Education and Outreach Coordinator at Indianapolis Opera. Email is woolston@indyopera.org, phone number is 317-283-3531.

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