



Taught by teaching artists from The Atlanta Opera, Opera Storytime is perfectly suited for young ones as their first venture into the world of opera. This program will explore the early literacy skills of singing, playing, talking and reading.

Synopsis of each Storytime book option:

***Diva Dolores and the Opera House Mouse* by Laura Sassi, Illustrations by Rebecca Gerlings**

Fernando loves Mozart, Puccini, and Strauss, and lending a paw at the old opera house. Unfortunately, diva Delores wants no help from a mouse. She craves glamour and spotlights and praise—and she’s getting her chance to take center stage. But it’s all going wrong; she’s missing her entrance and flubbing her song. Fernando can save her—but only if Delores behaves. Will Delores hit a sour note? Or will she team up with Fernando . . . and bring down the house?

***Bantam of the Opera* by Mary Jane Auch**

When a farmer and his wife decide to see a touring production of Rigoletto, they are not aware that Luigi the singing rooster has hitched a ride in the back of their truck. It's a one-way trip for Luigi, who becomes so enamored of the opera that he decides to stay. His singing enrages the famous tenor Enrico Baldini, but the feisty fowl cannot contain his joy. What happens when the tenor and his understudy fall ill? Will Luigi be able to step in and save the show?

***Opera Cat* by Tess Weaver, illustrations by Andréa Wesson**

Alma the cat lives with Madame SoSo, an opera diva. When Madame rehearses, Alma softly sings along. Madame doesn’t know Alma’s secret—in fact, she doesn’t pay Alma much attention at all. But on the night of the big performance, Madame comes down with laryngitis . . . and at last Alma is given a chance to prove she is no ordinary animal.

How to prepare your students before we come:

Encourage your students to listen and watch closely during the performance. Talking during the performance will disturb others around you, and you may miss the best part. If you think something is funny, it's OK to laugh. If you like something a lot, applaud.

Great examples of opera to share with your students:

Excerpt of Soprano Beverly Sills on The Muppet Show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVxTNb3Kfel>

Excerpt of Soprano Renee Flemming on The Muppet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPdP7XJdvIM>

Excerpt of Mezzo-Soprano Marilyn Horne on Sesame Street

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaF7kT5Moc0>

Excerpt of Baritone Samuel Ramey on Sesame Street

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85ezTttDh0I>

Excerpt of Mezzo-Soprano Denyce Graves on Sesame Street

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_C_NouJCuFY

Kids Meet an Opera Singer featuring Soprano Angel Blue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95RLviccrQc>

Meet the Teaching Artists



Jessica Wax is an Atlanta-based artist and has been performing with The Atlanta Opera since 2015. She has her master's degree in vocal performance from Florida State University and will be performing in her seventh Atlanta Opera Studio Tour in the Spring of 2025. Her favorite roles include Stephano in *Romeo et Juliette*, Fantine in *Les Miserables*, Wife in Stephen Sondheim's *Putting it Together*, and Hansel in The Atlanta Opera Studio Tour of *Hansel and Gretel*.



Randall Perkin's musical journey began when he was 10 years old in his hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. A choir boy at heart, Randall joined his middle school choir and immediately started winning awards at the city and state level at the age of 11. Randall continued singing in high school choir, all-state choirs, and honor choirs. Randall's first collegiate journey began at Tuskegee University, where he became a member of the world-renowned Tuskegee University "Golden Voices" Concert Choir. He later continued his musical journey by attending Columbus State University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance in 2017, then Georgia State University earning a Master of Music in Vocal Performance in 2024. Randall performed multiple mainstage operatic roles while attending Columbus State and Georgia State, to include Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Tonio in *Il Pagliacci*, and The Sorcerer in *Dido and Aeneas*. Randall began his professional opera career with The Atlanta Opera as a chorister in the 2021-2022 season. Since then, Randall has been a consistent contributor to the Atlanta Opera Chorus and has been an active performer in The Atlanta Opera's 96-Hour Project Competition since its inception in 2022. Randall wishes to continue his musical journey through educational outreach, with the goal of elevating to consistent principal work in the opera industry and creating more music all over the world.



Isabella Chaney, mezzo-soprano and Augusta, GA native is currently a senior at Georgia State University studying under Grammy-winning tenor, Richard Clement. She has most recently performed the role of Carmen in Carmen at Georgia State University, in which she describes as one of the most demanding yet rewarding roles she has yet to undertake. Some notable performances include Tisbe in La Cenerentola with FIO Italia in Urbania, Italy, and Nancy in Albert Herring at the Harrower Summer

Opera. Other performances include La Ciesca in Gianni Schicchi, L'infermiera in Suor Angelica, Mrs. Soames in Our Town, Dido in Dido and Aeneas, and her Shuler "Best Leading Actress" Award winning performance of Nettie Fowler in Carousel. Isabella Chaney has also performed in the Chorus with the Atlanta Opera in their 2024 production of La Boheme, and has performed choral works in Istanbul, Turkey for the World Choral Symposium. Outside of performances, she loves to ride horses and spend time with her amazingly supportive family, friends, and colleagues.