

Tips for Teachers



PRACTICE: *Audience Etiquette*

As audience members we can....

- 1) Have quiet voices and listen carefully to the performers in the room
- 2) Raise our hands quietly if called upon to participate or ask a question
- 3) React! Laugh if it is silly! Clap if we liked a song!
- 4) Have fun!

DISCUSSION: *Big Ideas*

Opera is all about big ideas! Our storytime books feature the following:

- **Community:** No part is too small; everyone can make a difference.
- **Kindness:** Everyone needs help sometimes.
- **Perseverance:** The show must go on!

CONNECT: *Growth Mindset and the Arts Activity Pages*

Use our six ready to print activity pages connecting personal strengths/affirmations to careers in the arts!

<https://tinyurl.com/TAQjobsSEL>

RESEARCH: *What does opera sound like?*

[Check out our playlist of opera examples for kids!](https://tinyurl.com/voiceexamples)

(<https://tinyurl.com/voiceexamples>)

EXPLORE: *Storytime Library*

Check out our full list of titles and synopses of Opera Storytime books!

- <https://tinyurl.com/operalibrary>

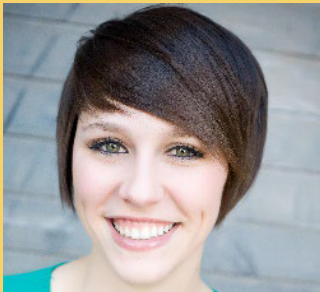
DISCOVER: *Curricular Connections*

Opera isn't just for music teachers! Take a look at our ever-growing arts integration resource library, including:

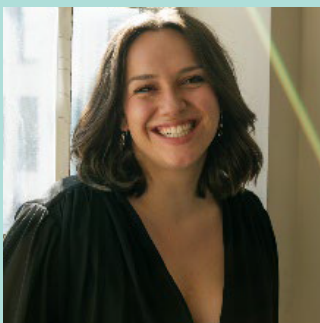
- Our EXTENSIVE teacher resource page connecting opera and the arts to core subjects
- Sneak peeks into our educator guide archives from our Studio Tour program
- Games, crafts, lessons and more!

[Storytime Lesson and Resource Library](#)

2025-2026 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 eighth Atlanta Opera Studio Tour in the Spring of 2026. 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*.



Isabella Chaney, is a mezzo-soprano and Augusta, GA is a recent graduate of Georgia State University, where she studied under Grammy-winning tenor, Richard Clement. She has 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.



Michael Ntwa Ydjumbwiths, a Bass-Baritone originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and raised in Vienna, Austria, began his classical vocal training at the age of 7 with the Vienna Boys Choir, where he performed internationally at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House. After moving to the United States at 16, he earned his BA in Classical Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina. Michael has excelled in notable roles, including Agamemnon in *The Belle Helen*, Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. A passionate advocate for the arts, he has shared his talent through youth programs and community initiatives. Currently residing in Atlanta, GA recently performed the roles of Papageno and Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* with the Atlanta Opera.



Alexandra Watson: Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, and raised in Canton, Georgia, Alexandra is an accomplished singer and passionate storyteller. Her diverse performance credits include Emily in Rorem's *Our Town*, Susannah in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Serpina in Pergolesi's *La serva padrona*, Liesl in Rodgers' and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, Célie in Pasatieri's *Signor Deluso*, and Mrs. Gleaton in Floyd's *Susannah*. As a chorus member with The Atlanta Opera, she has participated in their mainstage productions of Verdi's *Macbeth* and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and Handel's *Semele*. Recently she received an Encouragement Award from The Metropolitan Opera Laffont competition, and performed Pamina in The Atlanta Opera Studio Tour *The Magic Flute*. Based in Atlanta, Alexandra continues to hone her craft under the guidance of Kristin Jensen, in addition to running her own voice studio.