

# The Metropolitan Opera

## **Columbia Public School Students at 4 Schools Will Participate in the Seventh Season of *The Met: HD Live in Schools***

**Approximately 200, 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Graders will be part of the program, which uses opera to enhance studies of music, theater, history, and English Language Arts**

*Columbia Public Schools 10/914*— Students at Battle High School, Hickman High School, Rock Bridge High School and Lee Expressive Arts Elementary will participate in the 7th season of the Metropolitan Opera’s *The Met: HD Live in Schools*, a groundbreaking cross-disciplinary education program that uses opera to enhance students’ studies in a variety of subject areas, including music, theater, history, and English Language Arts. Columbia Public Schools is one of more than 34 districts around the country that will participate in the program this season.

James Melton, Coordinator of Fine Arts with CPS along with Jazz Rucker – Vocal Music Battle High School, Matt Felts – Vocal Music Hickman High School, Mike Pierson – Vocal Music Rock Bridge High School and Elizabeth Tummons – Lee Expressive Arts Elementary will lead the students in activities related to four of the operas in the Met’s season, culminating in a student trip to see the operas broadcast live from the Met to their local movie theater (Forum 8 Theater). This season’s operas are Verdi’s *Macbeth*, an adaptation of Shakespeare’s play (October 11); Lehar’s *The Merry Widow* (January 17); Rossini’s *La Donna del Lago* (March 14); and a double bill of Mascagni’s *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leocavallo’s *Pagliacci* (April 25).

“Last year was our inaugural launch into the Met HD Live In Schools program! It was a joy to see students of all ages make amazing connections to literature, music and theater through what is perceived to be potential a dying art form, but nothing is further from the truth once students have a chance to experience a HD Live Broadcast! – James Melton Coordinator of Fine Arts Columbia Public Schools”

The Met launched the program in 2007 in partnership with the New York City Department of Education and the Metropolitan Opera Guild, incorporating live opera into lessons in New York City classrooms. The program, now extended to schools nationwide, is designed to fully integrate opera into students' classroom studies and give them a unique opportunity to experience the thrill of live opera. Free tickets are distributed to each participating school district for the HD broadcasts of the live opera performances.

The Met has created a specially-designed *HD Live in Schools* Educator Guides for participating teachers and administrators that include classroom activities, musical highlights, story synopses, accompanying audio clips, post-opera activities, and student resources. The guides, designed to help students become familiar with the operas before viewing the transmissions, explain and align with national standards, making it easy for educators in diverse disciplines to enhance their curricula and engage their students in new and exciting ways. Earlier this season, the Met invited representatives from each school district to participate in a three-day teacher conference at the Metropolitan Opera. The conference focused on identifying and cultivating strategies for incorporating opera into a wide array of curricula, as well as identifying potential interdisciplinary collaborative opportunities. The conference itinerary included presentations from a variety of teaching artists, a backstage tour, an opera performance, and interactive workshops.

*The Met: Live in HD* series, now in its ninth season, is the company's Emmy and Peabody Award-winning series of live performances transmitted in high-definition into movie theaters around the globe. Featuring the world's leading operatic artists, the series is now seen in more than 2,000 theaters in 64 countries around the world.

Major funding for *HD Live in Schools* is made possible by Bank of America, with program support provided through a partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

"Since the launch of the program in 2008, *The Met: HD Live in Schools* has reached more than 70,000 students across the country," said Rena DeSisto, International CSR and Global Arts and Culture executive at Bank of America. "The program not only

brings many of these students their first experience of opera, it puts the libretti subject matter in an historical and/or a literature-related context.”

A partial list of participating districts appears below.

**HD Live in Schools Partner School Districts, 2014-15 Season**

Oakland School District – Oakland, CA  
San Diego Unified School District – San Diego, CA  
Santa Rosa City Schools – Santa Rosa, CA  
Academy School District 20 – Colorado Springs, CO  
Jefferson County Public Schools – Golden, CO  
Duval County Public Schools – Jacksonville, FL  
Atlanta Public Schools – Atlanta, GA  
Waterloo School District – Waterloo, IA  
New Orleans Area Public Schools – New Orleans, LA  
Columbia Public Schools – Columbia, MO  
Helena Public Schools – Helena, MT  
Clark County School District – Las Vegas, NV  
Washoe County School District – Reno, NV  
School Administrative Unit 29 – Keene, NH  
Emerson School District – Emerson, NJ  
Newark Public Schools – Newark, NJ  
Albuquerque Public Schools – Albuquerque, NM  
Bethlehem Central School District – Bethlehem, NY  
Bethpage Union Free School District – Bethpage, NY  
Buffalo School District – Buffalo, NY  
New York City Department of Education – New York City, NY  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools – Charlotte, NC  
Fargo Public Schools – Fargo, ND  
Dayton Public Schools – Dayton, OH  
Tulsa Public Schools – Tulsa, OK

North Clackamas School District – Milwaukie, OR  
The School District of the City of Erie – Erie, PA  
Shelby County Schools – Memphis, TN  
Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools – Nashville, TN  
Dallas Independent School District – Dallas, TX  
San Antonio Independent School District – San Antonio, TX  
Salt Lake City School District – Salt Lake City, UT  
Manitowoc School District – Manitowoc, WI  
Sheridan School District – Sheridan, WY

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