

André Grétry's operatic fairy tale

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

an OFTY original production



Opera for the Young is a professional touring company based in Madison, Wisconsin. From October 2023 to May 2024, we plan a typical tour of 200 shows in elementary schools throughout the upper Midwest. Our mythical Southeast Asian island setting of André Grétry's classical opera *Beauty and the Beast* is a 45-minute adaptation with triple cast roles for soprano (Beauty), tenor (Beast), mezzo-soprano (Beast's servant), and baritone (Beauty's Father). Cast members drive the tour van, load and unload set pieces, and train student performers for 7-10 shows per week. Compensation is \$65 per show plus \$31 per diem and travel/lodging while on tour. Each artist receives lodging and \$500 for the mandatory rehearsal period October 6-13, 2023. Each artist will tour 4-8 weeks. Submission deadline is FRIDAY, MARCH 31st, but early submission is encouraged!

Based on **ZÉMIRE ET AZOR** by
André Grétry and Jean François Marmontel

Music Adapted and Arranged by
Dan Koehn

Original Libretto and Stage Direction by
Diane Garton Edie

Musical Direction by
Scott Gendel

TO SUBMIT YOUR DIGITAL AUDITION:

- Prepare and record your audition repertoire (an aria in original language that demonstrates both sustained singing and coloratura AND an aria or art song in English (original language or translation))
- Prepare and record the dialogue, kid questions, and musical excerpt(s) from *Beauty and the Beast* for your role (visit ofty.org/auditions for excerpts and accompaniments)
- Submit your audition form (recordings, resume, references and headshot) online at ofty.org/auditions BY FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST.

Opera for the Young

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Tel: 608-277-9560
info@ofty.org | www.ofty.org
Please contact us with any questions

OFTY.ORG/AUDITIONS

INFORMATION ABOUT OPERA FOR THE YOUNG

Thanks for your interest in **Opera for the Young (OFTY)**. This background information will introduce you to our organization and our 2023-2024 production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

OFTY was founded in 1970 to bring live opera performances to school audiences throughout Wisconsin. In the past three decades, the company has presented a wide variety of programs, fully staged and sung in English, featuring many of the region's finest musicians and theatre artists. **OFTY** currently performs throughout the upper Midwest for more than 70,000 students (target age = K-5th grade) each year, as well as for their teachers, parents, and communities.

Every **OFTY** production involves the active participation of students. Children perform cameo and chorus roles, sing along from the audience, decorate the school, and enjoy question-and-answer sessions following the performance.

Prior to an **OFTY** performance, music teachers receive detailed preparatory materials including: Tutorial videos and rehearsal tracks, a Teachers' Guide (with a synopsis of the opera, background information on the composer, suggestions for pre-and post-performance classroom projects and discussions); a Student Handbook (to help prepare students for their roles); a Libretto; and a cast recordings of **OFTY**'s adaptation of the opera.

2023-24 Tour: *Beauty and the Beast*

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule: Roles/pianist will be triple cast, with only one cast performing at once. The season's schedule is designed by staff taking into consideration each artist's conflicts and requests. **All rehearsals are required and are scheduled to run from Friday, Oct. 6th - Friday, Oct. 13th.** Rehearsals will be held in Madison; non-Madison resident performers will be provided housing. We hope to hold a few Madison-area school performances at the end of Rehearsal Week: Thursday, Oct. 15th and Friday, Oct. 16th. (All cast members are required to be in attendance at those shows.) Performances will run from then until mid-November 2023, and then start up again in mid-January, 2024 until May. (There will be a required brush-up rehearsal in January for the cast scheduled to go out on the road after the late fall/early winter break). The tour will be in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan, and there will generally be two performances per school day, plus a few evening and weekend public shows (to be announced). For logistical/travel reasons, touring cast members should be prepared to be available Sunday evening through late Friday for the weeks they are scheduled to perform. Weekends are free (except for the occasional public performance); in-home lodging will be

provided for far-flung artists who have consecutive touring weeks, as long as adequate notice is given by artists.

Compensation: *While on tour*, performers are paid at a rate of \$65-\$70 per performance (usually 6-10 shows per week) and receive \$31 per diem to cover food and personal transportation. A rehearsal stipend of \$500 will be paid during the October rehearsal period. Madison is our home base: each performer is responsible for his/her own transportation from their home to Madison. **Accommodations are provided for performers coming from out-of-town and for all company members while traveling.** A van is provided to transport the artists and production elements to school performances. (Please note: in the event of a performance cancellation, performers are paid only when an alternate performance date is secured.)

Additional Information: Artists are expected to share all duties, including driving. A valid driver's license is required unless special arrangements are made. Other responsibilities include: rehearsing student performers at each school prior to the performance; participating in question-and-answer sessions afterward; performance set-up, strike, and loading of scenery, props, and costumes; and basic costume maintenance. In addition, there are occasional ½ day artist-in-residency programs for which each cast member will be paid at their own performance rate, and during which they'll be asked (as a group) to be casually informative (and demonstrative) about opera - as a career, operatic production elements, etc.

Thanks for your interest and participation!

