



A season in Lonesome Gulch

This season Opera for the Young took our original adaptation of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* to the Old West. In Lonesome Gulch, Miss Addy, Jimmy Reno, Sgt. Bill Corey and the cure-all peddler Dr. Dulcamara taught students that honesty and staying true to yourself matter more than any magic potion - especially one that turns out to be root beer! All season long our touring casts brought live opera to schools, senior communities, and stages across the Midwest.

2,000+

students joined our cast onstage as the opera chorus, and over half of our student audience learned the songs in advance

THE SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

48,300

audience members

\$7

expense
per/person

129

performances &
programs

111

venues

Our 111 venues (including **15 first-time venues** new to our program): 91 elementaries, 12 senior communities, 4 high schools, and 4 performing arts centers

Season Highlights

The Diane Garton Edie Legacy Fund

Honoring Diane's 30 years as Artistic Director, the fund brings opera free of charge to schools that couldn't otherwise afford it. Students at Tomahawk (WI), Karel Havlicek (IL), and Lincoln (MN) Elementaries experienced opera for the first time.

A new digital portal for teachers

We rebuilt our teaching materials as a fully digital online portal for teachers, plus a public page where students and families can rehearse the music at home before OFTY comes to town.

Opera for the whole community

Public audiences joined us at Family Opera Day at the Overture Center, where Madison Youth Choirs sang alongside our cast, and at the Plymouth Arts Center, Stoughton Opera House and UW-Madison's Summer Music Clinic.

Growing our team

In March we welcomed Julian Lynch as our Development Coordinator. Julian leads our work with donors, sponsors, and grant partners to help keep OFTY programs affordable for schools.

In Their Own Words

"It was tremendous: the talent and performance were incredible, the show was entertaining, fun, and age-appropriate, and the performers were energetic, fun, and great to have at our school!"

**JAMES BENA, PRINCIPAL
ED HEUER ELEMENTARY (PORT EDWARDS, WI)**



"OFTY exposes our students in an interactive and engaging way [to] a genre of music that isn't often accessible to children and especially children in a very rural setting like the community our school is located in... and it was fun!"

**BETH STEFFL, MUSIC TEACHER
ST. RAPHAEL (SPRINGFIELD, MN)**

"Simply watching opera through videos doesn't tend to go over well in my school. Kids tend to get bored, but seeing it live and in person is a whole different thing. They all of the sudden love it."

**AMANDA LANG, MUSIC TEACHER
EAST ELEMENTARY (BARABOO, WI)**

"Best opera company in the whole world!"

3RD GRADE STUDENT

"You and your actors are so kind and so fun to be around during the opera!!!! (I mean it!!!!)"

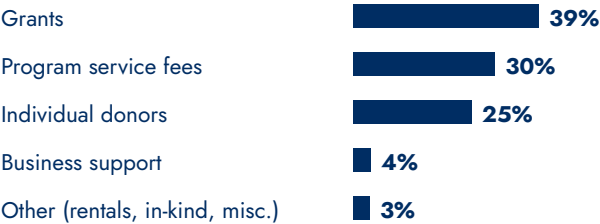
4TH GRADE STUDENT

"Yes! Because it's loud and I like loud things. Because it had parts that were presto and prestissimo!"

**KINDERGARTEN CLASS,
ON SEEING ANOTHER OPERA**

FY26 Financials

Where our support came from
\$310,483 total



How we put it to work
\$324,828 total



Operating income and expenses for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 (unaudited), prepared by myfriendtheaccountant.
Not shown above: \$129,618 in investment income and \$12,909 in loan interest. Percentages are rounded.

Thank You!

Every performance was made possible by our donors: individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and government agencies who believe every child deserves live opera. Together, you brought The Elixir of Love to 48,300 people.

NEXT SEASON

Help bring Rusalka:
A Mermaid's Tale to
schools!

Give at [OFTY.org/give](https://ofty.org/give)



TOURING COMPANY

Miss Addy: Megan Brunning, CeCe Hastreiter, Tessa Newman
Jimmy Reno: Austin Bare, Tomás Domínguez, Christopher Jackson
Sgt. Bill Corey: Lifan Deng, Grady Hayden, Joel Rogier
Dr. Dulcamara: Jeannette Lee, Eliza Morris, Evita Trembley
Piano: Vince Fuh, Steve Radtke, Sherri Hansen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Calland Metts, Stage Director
Scott Gendel, Music Director
Karen Brown-Larimore, Costumes
Tiffany Fier, Set Design
Greg Silver & Teresa Sarkela, Sets & Props

STAFF

Saira Frank, General & Artistic Director
Isabel Celata, Operations Manager
Julian Lynch, Development Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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