

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

Your Gala Gift Goes to School

Dvořák's *Rusalka* is serious, adult opera - rooted in folklore, but still out of reach for most young audiences. Our adaptation, *Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale*, lays the groundwork, and our cast carries it into schools, guiding students through every scene. These are exceptional singers with a rare gift for connecting with kids. Your Gala support is what puts them there.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Alex Burch & Erik DeMario

OFTY TOURING CAST · MADISON OPERA STUDIO ARTISTS

Mainstage on Sunday night. Elementary school on Monday morning.

"It was so rewarding to see how the energy shifted from the theater to the school," says Alex, "and a fun challenge to go from singing the bel-canto style of Bellini to the more lush style of Dvorak!" Alex and Erik performed in Bellini's *Norma* on November 1 with Madison Opera, then jumped into two weeks of OFTY tour first thing Monday morning - a great example of the talent and heart our artists bring to every student audience.

NOVEMBER 2026

OFTY FYI

news to ignite and excite

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Supranet
Stoughton Opera House
One Prime Steakhouse
Lone Girl Brewing
Lioness Fitness
Nitty Gritty
Barrett's Bagels

Gala support funds the artists who carry opera into schools. Thank you!

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FEEDBACK FROM THE ROAD

“The exposure to opera in an approachable way is incredibly important to me...songs from actual operas.”
DAVID HASSELDAHL, MUSIC TEACHER
ZION LUTHERAN, MARENGO (IL)

“I tried to opera sing in front of my parents for the first time and they said I could be an opera singer one day! ”
CAM, GRADE 4
OAK SCHOOL, HINSDALE (IL)

(following a performance in Baraboo, WI)
“The cast was swarmed by kids after posing for pictures; they had many more enthusiastic questions.”
VINCENT FUH, 2026-2027
RUSALKA CAST



GALA DAY

Students from Lapham Elementary and EAGLE school performing with the cast at the Gala

SHARE YOUR STORY

Has OFTY made a difference to you?

Send us a note or a photo to share your experience. Your story might appear in a future OFTY FYI!

SHARE

info@ofty.org

GIVE TODAY

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OFTY.org/give

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How your Gala support puts artists in schools