

Opera San José

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News Release

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Raising the Curtain for the iPod Generation *Opera San José brings 'opera-ed' to Cambrian Unified School District*

SAN JOSE, CA—In a fun-filled and innovative way, Opera San José recently introduced students at two Cambrian schools to the exciting world of opera.

At Bagby Elementary on November 12, four members of Opera San José's resident company presented "Opera in a Box." Using little more than a trunk full of costumes and a few props, the Opera San José singers and a pianist worked their magic in a 35-minute presentation that helped to dispel all the preconceived notions that seem to make opera so foreign to today's iPod generation.

"It was an immensely entertaining lesson on the art form, from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* to Bizet's *Carmen*, with a little 'Hannah Montana' thrown in for good measure," said Virginia Perry, Opera San José's senior director of marketing/development, who attended the performance. "I had as much fun observing the kids opening up to opera as I did watching the presentation. 'Figaro, Figaro, Fi-ga-ro!' certainly does resonate with this age group!"

The next day, resident artists Khori Dastoor and Daniel Cilli presented another new Opera San José K-12 program, "Vocal Masterclass," to the Ida Price Middle School Choir. The one-hour masterclass focused on healthy vocal technique, breathing fundamentals, and principles of good diction.

"When Daniel sang them an aria," a parent commented, "the students were blown away by the power and beauty of his voice. I don't know if any opera careers were launched, but a choir member was overheard saying, 'You know, opera is pretty cool!'"

For more information on Opera San José's education programs—which also include free mainstage student matinees and evening dress rehearsals—contact Outreach Coordinator Lettie Smith at 408-437-4462 or smith@operasj.org.

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