

Opera Gala

Student Bursary Application Process & Policy

Application process

Opera Gala... Opera for a Cause offers a limited number of student bursaries for senior vocal students wishing to experience performing concert-style opera with professional musicians in an elegant setting. While a **small honorarium** is offered it is the **opportunity of an amazing learning experience** that is stressed and having the chance to rehearse in a master class setting while networking with **the foremost musicians of Northern Ontario**.

Concerts

There are two concerts for *Opera Gala... Opera for a Cause*. This year, the concerts will be held on **November 23, 2019 at 7 pm** and **November 24, 2019 at 2:30 pm** at **St Andrew's Place** (111 Larch St) in Sudbury, Ontario.

Expectations

There are several expectations that Opera Gala requests of its winning students. Please ensure that you are familiar with them BEFORE applying and ensure you comply. Failure to do so may result in revocation of both your bursary and permission to perform in the concerts.

- 1) **Parts available** – students will have the opportunity to fill any available chorus positions. Solos will not be available to students due to concert time constraints.
- 2) **Professional behavior** – students are expected to learn most of their music on their own with the help of their vocal coaches. Rehearsals will primarily be for polishing and working as a group with the music director. Students must come prepared with their parts learned, their sheet music ready, and a pencil to take notes according to the musical director's requirements for each piece.
- 3) **Rehearsals** – Student participation in Opera Gala rehearsals is **mandatory**. Students are expected to be on time and prepared. There are generally *only four 2-hour rehearsals* plus one concert rehearsal with orchestra so it is imperative you attend in order to nail down the repertoire. Rehearsals start in September and run approximately every two weeks until the concert.
- 4) **Photos** – Every year, Opera Gala has a sponsored Professional Photographer. This photographer takes professional photos of a scheduled rehearsal and performance to use as publicity shots on the Opera Gala website and in the media as required. For this she / he receives recognition and bylines. Students are asked to come to the rehearsal to be photographed in business casual (i.e not street clothes). The photographer will also take a small number of head shots for a reduced rate on the day of the rehearsal photo shoot. It is recommended that you get your head shot done by the sponsored photographer if you do not already have a head shot to accompany your bio as other photographers will charge much more. If you choose to have a head shot done by the sponsor photographer, please ensure you come prepared in formal dress and with the required money ready or email transfer done in advance. Students **MUST have a head shot** for the Opera Gala program.
- 5) **Dress Rehearsal** – Dress rehearsal is the morning/ afternoon of the first concert. Students are expected to be available the entire day as rehearsal is with orchestra. There may be waiting around as various sections make requests. Professionalism is required throughout. *NOTE: Concert wear is optional for the dress rehearsal.
- 6) **Website** – all rehearsal times, sheet music, video resources and important information will be housed on the Opera Gala website in the protected section. This saves the producers a lot of time emailing the 40 or so participants every week. Once you are accepted you will be given the password. Please familiarize yourself with the website immediately after your acceptance and refer to it often to stay organized.
- 7) **Concert Wear** - Opera Gala is full black-tie formal. Therefore, ladies, please wear floor length evening gowns and men black tuxes with either a black or white dress shirt (white preferred). If money is an issue, Value Village often offers elegant formalwear at reduced prices.

- 8) **Team atmosphere** – Opera Gala prides itself on having a team atmosphere. All members of the team contribute to the success of this event. Each artist works pro bono (for free) in order for the event to raise funds for charity giving of their time and energy to make the event a success. All work hard and have fun. This is a small organization so as such, we request that everyone contribute what they can. If possible, team members are asked to help put up posters, generate sponsors, sell tickets or do whatever they can to make the concerts a success. It is high energy, ambitious people who become successful in this business and that is what Opera Gala tries to teach its bursary students as well.
- 9) **2 free tickets** – Each member of the Opera Gala team, including the bursary students, receives two free tickets to the concert of their choice. Anyone who does not wish to receive their complimentary tickets may return them to the ticket supervisor. Any returned comp tickets will then be offered back to the performers in a second-round giveaway at which time artists may claim additional tickets on a first come, first served basis.
- 10) **Social media and networking** – Opera Gala tries to promote the concerts in as many ways as possible. Obviously social media is one of the media avenues. A final reminder that all bursary students should promote the Opera Gala positively on both social media as well as in their personal networks. Networking opportunities will be available after the first concert to mingle with vocal guests from out-of-town should students wish to have additional chances for in-person networking.

Audition

To audition for *Opera Gala... Opera for a Cause*, students **must submit** the following:

- 1) A short bio of previous vocal experience. The student **MUST** include: Full name, voice type, current education institution and grade level/ year of study. It is **SUGGESTED** the student also outline: vocal awards and achievements, competitions entered, musical theatre or stage performance experience, academic achievements, current academic status, future goals, and/or any other relevant information.
- 2) A video of the student in a recent performance.

The following items are recommended if available:

- 3) A letter of recommendation from someone who has worked (musically) with the student
- 4) A head shot

Please send the Audition Package via email to Tracy@Sanmiya.com by June 30, 2019. Student bursary recipients will be informed via email in early July.

"I'm strongly considering studying opera for post-secondary to pursue a career in the art. But before making any final decision I wanted to experience a taste of it as a performer. I'd seen all of the previous Opera Galas and studied under one of their frequent performers, so finally the opportunity presented itself to take part and I'm quite grateful it did."

~Dante Mullin-Santone, *Bursary Student 2016*

"Having the chance to perform with the other talented people in the Opera Gala has given me the opportunity to experience what it's like to be a vocalist by profession. It is an excellent learning opportunity that I wouldn't give up for the world."

~Devon Bisaillon, *Bursary Student 2016*

"My first-year Voice Teacher at Cambrian College encouraged me to audition for Opera Gala as a bursary student. After some research and some chatting with some teachers at school I knew it was something I wanted to do."

~Hannah Crawford, *Bursary Student 2016*

"I'm extremely excited to be a part of the Opera Gala this year because this is a tremendous opportunity. I feel like it's a taste of what opera singers do and, as I would like my career to go in that direction, I feel the experience will teach me a lot about the world of professional performance."

~Jamie Gooch, *Bursary Student 2016*