



## **ACCESS OPERA FAQs**

### **1. HOW IS A DRESS REHEARSAL DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR PERFORMANCE?**

Remember that you are watching a working rehearsal. That means the people on stage, in the orchestra, behind the scenes and working on the floor of the orchestra are trying to get some beautiful, but definitely serious work done.

You will see the production team sitting in the theater quietly taking notes, you may see people moving around the auditorium or stage to check things, and while it doesn't happen often, the performance may stop briefly to fix something. When any of these things happen, remember, it is not a time to talk, the performers and production team need silence to do their jobs.

You are part of the rehearsal process! Help us to have a great performance!

### **2. WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO A DRESS REHEARSAL (OR A REGULAR PERFORMANCE)?**

Some people think of a night at the opera as a glamorous event and a good excuse to get out their fanciest attire. We want you to be comfortable and enjoy yourself. Dress in whatever it is that makes you feel comfortable and at your best. A night at the opera is a fun event. It offers a wonderful opportunity to dress to the nines if you like. There is no dress code at Austin Opera. Just enjoy.

### **3. HOW LONG IS THE DRESS REHEARSAL? DO I NEED TO STAY THE ENTIRE TIME?**

A dress rehearsal will last the full length of the opera, and can sometimes go slightly longer. For the running time on each opera you can look at the synopsis, but in general, you should expect an opera to last about 3 hours (including intermission).

If you are not able to stay for the full rehearsal (because you have homework, an early wake-up time, or a long drive home) you may leave during one of the intermissions. We encourage you to stay for the full performance to get the full experience, but understand as students you may need to get home a little earlier.

### **4. CAN I TAKE PICTURES OR VIDEOS DURING THE DRESS REHEARSAL?**

Cameras and tape recorders are great before and after in the lobby or outside but not during the performance and never in the auditorium.

**5. WHY IS THERE SOMEONE WALKING AROUND TAKING PICTURES OR VIDEOS DURING THE REHEARSAL WHEN I CAN'T?**

The Austin Opera takes photos and videos during the Access Opera dress rehearsals for promotional use. If you do not want to be photographed in the crowd, please sit in the upper balcony (it's still a great view!).

**6. WILL THE OPERA BE IN ENGLISH? HOW WILL I FOLLOW THE STORY?**

*The Flying Dutchman* will be in German. *The Daughters of the Regiment* will be in French. *Madame Butterfly* will be in Italian. Don't worry if you don't speak the language – every performance features supertitles (English translations of what's sung, projected above the stage), visible from every seat.

You can also learn about the opera before the dress rehearsal by downloading a synopsis on the Austin Opera website. A study guide is also available, which includes background information about the opera and composer, vocabulary and some lesson ideas to explore to prepare you to have a memorable experience at the opera.

Most people are unaware of what really goes into producing an opera. In fact, there is a large network of opera professionals, stagehands, and craftsmen, who all work together to put on an opera performance. We hope that by the end of the season, you will have a full understanding of how all of the elements of opera work together to put on the brilliant productions you see on the stage!

**7. WHEN SHOULD I APPLAUD?**

You should applaud whenever you want to show your appreciation for the performers. Some examples of when the audience usually applauds include when the conductor enters the orchestra pit, after the overture, after an aria, and at the end of each Act. If you really like the performance, at the end you can give the artists a *standing ovation*, where you stand and applaud, during the curtain call at the end of the performance. You may also shout "Bravo!" for a male performer, "Brava!" for a female performer, and "Bravi!" for the ensemble.