

Education

Opera for the schools, sponsored by Oxford Learning Centres

Has your child experienced opera? In a world of television, slapstick comedy and electronic games, not too many children and even adults get to experience opera. The Oxford Learning Centres along with Opera York is sponsoring a program that will make it possible for public school children to experience the magic of opera at a subsidized rate.

Starting at the end of January, hundreds of public school children in York Region will have the opportunity to discover the beauty of opera. Children from participating schools will take part in classroom discussions before and after the opera performance so they can have a chance to expand their knowledge of this genre of music.

Why is music so important for young minds? According to the Coalition of Music Education in Canada, the teaching of music results in advancement in areas such as math, sciences, as well as improves social skills. Additionally, worldwide research indicates that

music directly effects the development of children's learning capabilities. In fact, research has also shown that students involved in music have a lower drop-out rate.

Music is a part of our lives, it is what memories are made of. Whether it be classical music, the oldies or your child's favourite pop group, music makes us feel. This program will provide children with the opportunity to experience the richness of this art form, perhaps it may even spark in your child a passion for opera.

This new year, when you children bring home their field trip forms or newsletters inviting them to experience opera, hurry, fill in the forms, get them excited, and don't miss this opportunity to expand your children's mind with music.

Naheed Yusef
Oxford Learning Centre

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