

SEATTLE OPERA.

YOUTH OPERA PROJECT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Seattle Opera is accepting applications for the position of Music Director for the 2019/20 Youth Opera Project. This is a part-time, seasonal position that runs from Thursday, September 12, 2019 through Sunday, February 9, 2020. This position is responsible for teaching and interpreting the music for a fully staged, fully produced youth opera, and preparing our young performers musically for four public performances of the chosen production. This contract position reports to the Youth and Family Programs Manager.

SEATTLE OPERA'S MISSION

By drawing our community together and by offering opera's unique fusion of music and drama, Seattle Opera creates life-enhancing experiences that speak deeply to people's hearts and minds.

SEATTLE OPERA'S PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS DEPARTMENT enhances the company's mainstage productions, and extends the company's civic impact by providing a relevant cultural service to communities throughout Washington State through education and community engagement programs. Through these programs and services, Seattle Opera serves communities for whom opera has been largely irrelevant or inaccessible; collaborates with cultural and community service organizations throughout the region; and advances the development of opera, providing a variety of ways for the art form of opera to resonate with people of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, and interests. These programs are generally designed to engage individuals, families, and groups in discovering and exploring the many facets of opera by reflecting and inspiring creativity, fostering lifelong learning, providing multiple entry points to the world of opera, and facilitating meaningful dialogue.

SCOPE AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Seattle Opera's Programs and Partnerships Department is seeking a music director for the 2019/20 Youth Opera Project. Youth Opera Project is an opera training program open to ages 7 – 18 that seeks to guide youth through the process of rehearsing and performing a fully staged, fully produced youth opera. The music director is responsible for teaching and interpreting the production score, and working weekly with youth performers to prepare all music for the final performances.

Additionally, the music director is responsible for imparting strong, age appropriate vocal, musical foundation for all cast members. This music director position will share instruction and responsibilities with another co-music director, who will also function as the conductor for all dress rehearsals and performances. This is a contract position that reports to the Youth and Family Programs Manager. Rehearsals take place Thursday evenings from 4:30 – 8:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM from Thursday, September 12, 2019 through Thursday, January 30, 2020. Technical and dress rehearsals will take place every day from Saturday, February 1 – Thursday,

February 6, 2020. The program culminates in four public performances at Cornish Playhouse from Friday, February 7 – Sunday, February 9, 2020.

The ideal candidate will possess extensive experience working in a musical or performance setting with youth of multiple ages as well as a strong background teaching and conducting both choral and/or operatic music. They must also have a strong understanding of vocal technique and pedagogy and the ability to translate this information to young voices of various stages of vocal development. Success in this position requires strong leadership and communication skills, flexibility, and a passion for music education and opera.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead most if not all music rehearsals for Youth Opera Project.
- Learn and prepare production score in advance of rehearsals.
- Work collaboratively with all other teaching artists and artistic staff to plan and prepare for each rehearsal.
- Work collaboratively with fellow music director and conductor to teach and prepare the score.
- Available and present for all Thursday and Saturday rehearsals as well as all tech rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances.
- Available and present for all casting and callback auditions on Thursday, September 12 and Saturday, September 14.
- Attend all meetings and consultations, dates for which will be mutually determined between SO and music director.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in music education, music performance, choral conducting, or equivalent experience
- Knowledge of opera and classical and contemporary vocal music
- Successful experience teaching classroom or private study preferred
- Piano proficiency
- Collaborative individual with strong inter-personal skills
- Excellent presentation skills
- A commitment to arts advocacy and providing equitable access to the arts

CONTACT

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail to sara.litchfield@seattleopera.org. No phone calls, please.