

TULSA OPERA AND SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP



A scene from *The Pirates of Penzance*, 2018.

Artistic entrepreneurship program expands Tulsa Opera’s community service and educational programming

TULSA, OK, December 5, 2025 — **Tulsa Opera** and **Spotlight on Opera** have announced an exciting partnership starting in Summer 2025. Spotlight, a 23-year-old artistic entrepreneurship and training program for aspiring opera artists, conductors, stage directors, and theatrical technicians joins Tulsa Opera to expand its educational initiatives in its “cradle to grave” community service philosophy. **Tulsa Community College** will host the program at the School of Visual and Performing Arts on its Southeast Campus.

From July 12 – August 11, approximately 40 aspiring opera singers aged 15 and up and a faculty of more than 15 professional singers, coach pianists, conductors, and stage directors will convene this opera intensive. Participants will spend a minimum of ten hours a day immersed in opera training: singing, acting, diction coaching, master classes, mock auditions, and attending a variety of classes on the business of being a professional freelance artist in the modern marketplace. The company will also present public performances throughout the month-long season, including a touring children’s opera, the classic American opera *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Act I of **Verdi’s** popular *La traviata*, and a gala concert of **Puccini’s** *Tosca*, along with other concerts and events.

“This partnership represents a thrilling move and a logical next step in our growth,” says **Cindy Sadler**, Founder and Executive Director of Spotlight on Opera and Tulsa Opera’s Director of Marketing and Communications. “For the past 23 years, we have been fortunate to be hosted by educational institutions in Texas and Louisiana. Now our students and faculty will enjoy all the benefits of association with Oklahoma’s preeminent professional opera company. Tulsa Opera is so deeply engaged in and committed to the community, and the artists of tomorrow who we serve appreciate that focus. We are also grateful to Tulsa Community College for providing a home for our classes and performances. Tulsa is an amazing city for arts and culture. We know our students and faculty will love exploring and experiencing everything Tulsa has to offer, while contributing to the city’s vibrant culture with the best summer opera program in the region.”

“We are excited to bring Spotlight on Opera to Tulsa,” says **Lori Decter Wright**, General Director and CEO of Tulsa Opera. “This new partnership enables us to better serve our community. Through this summertime expansion of our entertainment, engagement, and educational programming we are providing more access to opera not only for participants but also our patrons of all ages. Spotlight also offers local employment opportunities to students as well as seasoned professionals, introducing many from across the nation to Tulsa. We hope some of them may end up joining our **Filstrup Resident Artist Company**, our mainstage productions, or technical theater team.”

Spotlight on Opera will run from July 12 – August 11. The program is open to aspiring opera singers aged 15 and up. Tuition is \$2,500 (housing, meals, and transportation are not included). Applications are open until all roles are filled. Tickets to attend performances range from \$10 - \$25 and many events are free. More details, applications, and tickets are available at spotlightonopera.com and tulsaopera.com.

ABOUT SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA

Spotlight on Opera was founded in 2007 by current Executive Director **Cindy Sadler**, answering a need for emerging artist training that encompasses not only artistic but entrepreneurship. From a one-week “opera camp” on the campus of **St. Edward’s University** in Austin, TX, Spotlight quickly grew to a five-week program nationally renowned for its unique curriculum of business and entrepreneurship training offered alongside more traditional performance and singing courses, its rejection of age limits, and its emphasis on self-realization and ownership of individual talent. Distinguished alumni include sopranos **Elena Villalón** (2015), **Sarah Tucker** (2007), **Zuly Inirio** (2015), Founder and Executive Director, **Afro-Latinx Song and Opera Project** and 2024-25 Mentee, **Opera America**

Mentorship Program for Opera Leaders of Color, **Lyanne Alvarado** (2020), Philanthropy Officer of Corporate Partnerships at **Houston Grand Opera**, and **Andréa Ochoa** (2020), Director of Education & Community Impact, **Austin Opera**, and mezzo-soprano **Claudia Chapa** (2008), Associate Director of Artistic Administration Curator of Hispanic and Latinx Programming at **Austin Opera**.

ABOUT TULSA OPERA

Established in 1948, **Tulsa Opera** is the first professional performing arts organization in the state of Oklahoma and the twelfth oldest opera company in North America. Since its inception, it has hosted the greatest artists of the day on the mainstage and in concert, including **Luciano Pavarotti, Leontyne Price, Beverly Sills, Renata Scotto, Samuel Ramey**, and many others. Its repertoire spans a rich mixture of traditional favorites and modern masterpieces.

Tulsa Opera is known for its bold, fresh, and innovative mainstage productions and community-centric initiatives. Outstanding programs such as the **Tulsa Youth Opera**, the **Raise Your Voice Tour**, and the **Filstrup Resident Artist Program** celebrate local talent and serve Tulsans where they live, while **Aria Yoga** and **Songs by Heart**, a program serving those living with dementia, bring the healing power of vocal music into the health and wellness space. Tulsa Opera's engagement and education programs reach over 50,000 Tulsans annually.

Driven by its mission to enrich the community through high-quality cultural entertainment, education, and engagement, Tulsa Opera is proud to help drive the artistic vibrancy that makes Tulsa a world-class city. Subscriptions for the 2024-25 Season are on sale now. For more information, please visit www.tulsaopera.com.

WHO: Spotlight on Opera, Tulsa Opera's newest education program

WHAT: Spotlight on Opera brings its 24th Summer Season to Tulsa as a partner of Tulsa Opera, hosted by Tulsa Community College

WHEN/WHERE:

Welcome Concert

Sunday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Baden Hall at the Tulsa Opera Offices, 1610 S. Boulder

Free and open to the public

Must RSVP to info@spotlightonopera.com

Aria Extravaganza Concert

Friday, July 25, 7 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Location: TBA

Tosca in Concert

Saturday, July 26, 7 p.m.

Location: TBA

\$25 general admission; reception included

***The Hiding Tree* children's opera**

Touring July 28 – August 8

Dates and Locations TBA

To book, contact sbriggs@tulsaopera.com

La traviata, Act I

Aria Extravaganza Concert

Friday, August 1, 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 2, 3 p.m.

Location TBA

\$15 general admission

\$10 students, seniors, and military with ID

The Ballad of Baby Doe

Saturday, August 9, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m.

Location TBA

\$15 general admission

\$10 students, seniors, and military with ID

WHY: Tulsa Opera is partnering with Spotlight on Opera, an established national opera training program, to provide more post-high school through post-graduate educational opportunities and increase access to opera performances throughout our community.