



INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

TEACHER GUIDE



Inn of the Seven Dwarves

Music from: *The Barber of Seville* – Gioacchino Rossini
Faust – Charles Gounod
The Tales of Hoffman – Jacques Offenbach
Die Fledermaus – Johann Strauss
The Mikado – Gilbert and Sullivan
The Pirates of Penzance – Gilbert and Sullivan
Don Pasquale – Gaetano Donizetti

Story adapted by Denise Page Caraher



THE CAST

Mean Queen Esmerelda (mezzo)	Meaghan Sands
Snow Drift (soprano)	Rachel Sparrow
Boss (baritone)	Adam Piper
French Chef (tenor)	Joseph Diehl
Landscaper (mezzo)	Meaghan Sands
Italian Maid (baritone)	Adam Piper
Stage Director	David Mannell
Coach/Accompanist	Miyeon Choi
Costumes	Indianapolis Opera
Set	ExpoDesign



Study guide written and produced by
Indianapolis Opera, Education Department
Carol Baker, Denise Page Caraher

EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORTED IN PART BY



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THE STORY



The great, great granddaughter of the famous Snow White is under the thumb of Queen Esmerelda, who is a mean queen just like her ancestor. The beautiful, young Snow Drift works in the palace. There is no longer a Magic Mirror on the Wall. That object was consigned to the closet long ago. Instead, the queen asks, “IPad, IPad in my hand, who’s the fairest in the land?” She doesn’t like the answer.

Determined to get rid of the lovely Snow Drift once and for all, the queen sends her on a mission. She must go into the deep, dark woods very far away to get a special mud for use in the queen’s beauty treatments. Of course, Snow Drift gets lost, but not being able to return to the palace probably isn’t the worst of fates. Snow Drift finds herself at a quaint cottage. It has a sign that says, INN OF THE SEVEN DWARVES. Sure enough, it is the very place that housed the seven dwarves when her great, great grandmother ran from the palace all those years ago. Now, it is a “Boutique” Inn/Bed and Breakfast owned by the obnoxious Boss.

Business hasn’t been very good, but the Boss has several employees—a landscaper, a chef and a maid. Each of them has come to the United States from a different country. Each of them has faced the struggles of becoming acclimated to a new culture. Each of them has left family and friends behind. Each of them has learned how difficult it can be to learn everything new in a new language. None of them speak the same language, but they are able to understand one another because they are open minded and caring. When things get too confusing, they bring out “The Shoe”. “The Shoe” is an oversized version of their own Converse All Star sneakers. Using the Converse, they are able to converse.

The Boss doesn’t like anything that isn’t “American”. He doesn’t realize that America is a melting pot of traditions and ingredients from other countries and cultures. The chef tries to explain that pizza, spaghetti, nachos, rice dishes all originated elsewhere. There are many successful athletes, politicians, business people and other individuals in our country who were born on other continents. Snow Drift is quick to understand that everyone has something to contribute if given a chance.

Snow Drift also understands that she needs a job. She likes her new friends. Because the maid has gone on an errand which will take several days, opportunity knocks. The Boss needs a maid and he needs one immediately. He needs one because a famous visitor will be coming to the Inn. She’s coming soon, and the Boss thinks this will be his big break. Unfortunately for Snow Drift, the famous visitor is Queen Esmerelda. Snow Drift will have to disguise herself if she wants to fool the queen.

The Queen is not fooled for a minute. She would recognize that beautiful skin tone anywhere. Realizing that Snow Drift did not get lost in the woods, the mean queen goes to Plan B...the poisoned apple. Hey, it worked with Snow White. Snow Drift happens to love apples and she is mesmerized by the big apple offered by the queen. The Chef is frantic. He realizes that it will be

the death of her and he does all he can to warn Snow Drift. Finally, she listens to him and avoids the fatal fruit.

Snow Drift now realizes she is not afraid of the queen. The Chef and Snow Drift chase the queen away, and the Boss chases after them trying to get the queen to stay. He wants to be on TV! When the queen is gone for sure, the Boss is pretty low. His spirits are lifted when he sees the gigantic apple. As he reaches for the instrument of his doom, Boss is saved by the Chef.

The Boss cannot believe that the Chef actually saves his life. The Boss knows he has been unkind to the Chef and everyone else. The Boss realizes it is time to change. He learns about “The Shoe”. There are cultural differences as well as similarities because of the melting pot and kaleidoscopic nature of our country. Differences and similarities both need to be appreciated and appreciation comes with being open minded and nonjudgmental.

The INN OF THE SEVEN DWARVES will be famous after all. The Boss, the landscaper, the chef and Snow Drift will make it a destination for people who want to learn about other cultures, savor international cuisine and learn other languages. Understanding, acceptance, respect and appreciation of others will be a part of their lives. Will it be a part of yours?



The Mikado, Indianapolis Opera

WHAT IS AN OPERA?

An opera is a drama that is sung. In some operas, all the words are sung. In others, there are spoken words between the songs or musical numbers. Opera started in Italy more than 400 years ago and later developed in countries all over the world. There are many American operas, and they are often based on well-known plays or novels.

WHAT’S IT LIKE TO BE AN OPERA SINGER?

Opera singers will tell you that what they do is very similar to playing a sport. Just like professional athletes, they have to train for a long time to develop the muscles they need. It usually surprises people to learn that opera singers do not use microphones when they perform. It takes years of studying proper breathing and singing techniques for them to be able to project their sound all the way to the back of a large hall over a full orchestra.

Living a healthy lifestyle with regular exercise and consuming good foods is important for all of us. Opera singers also need great discipline and excellent study skills. Practice, practice, practice.



*Lucia di Lammermoor,
Indianapolis Opera*

Opera is a part of many world cultures, so in addition to taking voice lessons, opera singers must study foreign languages such as Italian, French, German, and Russian.

THE AUTHOR OF *INN OF THE SEVEN DWARVES*

Denise Page Caraher, the creator of *Inn of the Seven Dwarves*, is an Indianapolis attorney, author of children's books, and mother of two. She has written several productions for the Indianapolis Opera Ensemble. Her stories combine well-known children's fairy tales with music from popular operas, and they always include one or more important life lessons. *Inn of the Seven Dwarves* explores the issues surrounding immigration, understandings and acceptance.



THE AUTHORS OF THE ORIGINAL *SNOW WHITE*

The original story of *Snow White* was an oral history, or a traditional tale passed down through many generations. The Brothers Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm collected many of these stories from people around Germany in the early 1800s, including *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rapunzel*, *Cinderella*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Rumpelstiltskin*. Some of the stories were much more gruesome than the ones we know. For instance, in the original version of *Snow White*, the Evil Stepmother must dance in red-hot shoes until she dies as punishment for her jealousy. The Brothers Grimm were also scholarly academics who published one of the first German dictionaries (it is 33 volumes long!).

THE MUSIC IN THE OPERA

This opera contains music from several famous operas. Queen Esmerelda sings the first section of "Una Voce Poco Fa" from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. The French chef sings from a French opera, *Faust*, Gounod. Other music is from Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffman*, Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Bizet's *Carmen* and *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan. When the Boss sings that he needs, "A Modern Maid That's General", he is singing the famous "Modern Major General" from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Just like the characters in *Inn of the Seven Dwarves*, the music selection is diverse---Italian, French, British and German Austrian, but it is sung in English for you!

OPERA VOCABULARY

Aria - a composition for solo voice, usually with accompaniment, or a musical background. In most operas, each principal singer sings at least one aria.

Chorus – a group of people who perform together as characters on stage. The term “chorus” also refers to any musical number in the opera that is sung by this group.

Composer – the creator of a musical work.



Aida, Indianapolis Opera

Designer – a person who creates the look of stage scenery, costumes, or lighting.

Duet – a composition for two performers.

Finale – the last part of an act or opera, usually sung by all the main characters.

Libretto – the complete text of the opera; the words that are to be spoken or sung.

Premiere – the first performance of a work for the stage.

Props (short term for properties) – the smaller, movable articles used as part of the setting on stage.

Quartet – a composition for four voices.

Set or Scenery – painted screens, backdrops or hangings used on the stage to represent places and surroundings in a play or opera.

Stage director – the person who decides what the opera will look like on stage.

Trio – a composition for three voices.

OTHER VOCABULARY

Beethoven – a famous German composer

Bonjour – hello or good day in French

Carnival – celebration; a four day festival observed in Brazil

Ciao – Good bye or hello in Italian

Euros – the money or currency used by the countries who are members of the European Union

Farfalle – pasta shaped like bow ties

Fiesta – Spanish for party

Les Framboises – French for ‘the raspberries’ which the chef plans to use in his *crepes*, a very thin pancake usually rolled up to form a tube

Grazie – thank you in Italian

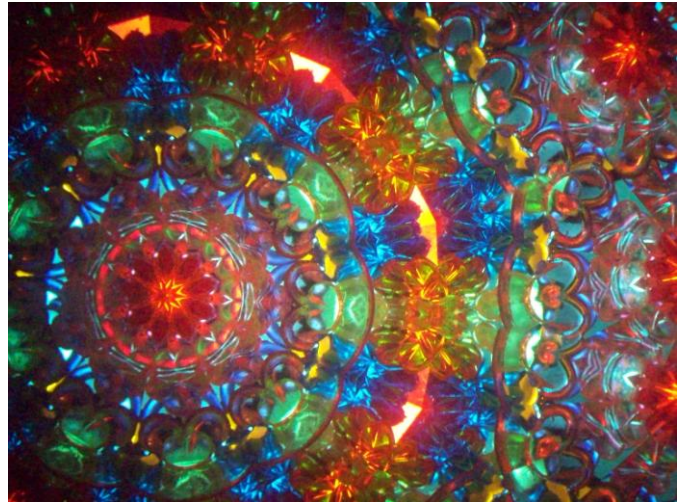
Hola – hello in Spanish

Immigrants – people who move from their home country to another country to take up permanent residence

Intervention – to come between two things or people; to help someone

Kodaly – a Hungarian composer

Melting pot – The United States has been called a melting pot because it is a society where individuals “melt together” into a harmonious whole with a common culture. The expression is used particularly to describe the assimilation of immigrants to the United States. After 1970, the desirability of assimilation and the melting pot model was challenged by proponents of multiculturalism who assert that cultural differences should be valued and preserved. Now, *mosaic*, or *American kaleidoscope* is the preferred expression.



An American Kaleidoscope

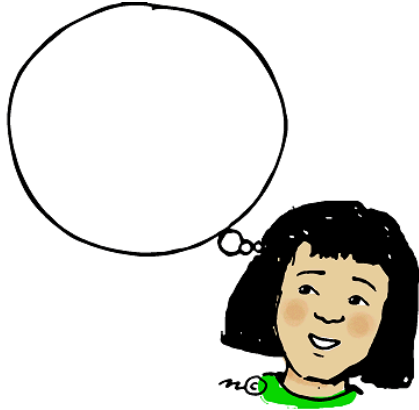
Petite oiseau – little bird in French

Sari – a draping female garment from South Asia

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Being culturally competent means having a working knowledge of the cultural values, norms, behaviors, traditions, etc. that are different from our own. In our story, *Inn of the Seven Dwarves*, the Boss didn’t take the time to understand others without the help of the *shoe*. Being aware of our own personal perceptions contributing to unintended bias mistakes is the first step to making better decisions based on that understanding. We are reminded to examine cultural assumptions and look beyond race, ethnicity, gender, disability etc. In our growing global society, cultural competence is becoming increasingly necessary for work, home, community and in our social lives.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION AFTER THE OPERA



What do you think melting pot means? What other words could you use to describe the mixing together of people from different cultures? Some people prefer to use terms like “mosaic” or “salad bowl” or “kaleidoscope”. Why would they prefer those? How are those terms different from melting pot?

Have you ever felt like an outsider? What was that like? Do you know anyone who might feel like an outsider because they are from another country? How can you make them feel more welcome?

Who are the people referred to in the opera? Albert Einstein, Madeline Albright, Jackie Chan, Antonio Banderas, Manu Ginobili, Yao Ming, Tony Parker, Roy Hibbert... What do you know about them? Do you know what the Huffington Post is? Arianna Huffington is one of its founders. She moved here from Athens, Greece. Do you know what the company PepsiCo makes? Indra Nooyi is Chairman and CEO of it. She moved here from India.

CLASS ACTIVITY IDEAS

Talk about voice types with your students: soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and baritone. Ask why do you think it was appropriate that Snow Drift was played by a soprano, the Mean Queen by a mezzo, etc. Play with the ideas of different sound colors for different voice types and how they corresponded to the characters. Talk about traditional opera parts for the voice types: soprano and tenor as princess and prince, and mezzo-soprano and baritone as comical characters or villains.



Read excerpts from the original story of *Snow White* by the Brothers Grimm with your students. Compare and contrast the story with the opera as a class. Have the students research the several alternate endings to the story (and/or research alternate endings to any of the other Brothers Grimm fairy tales). Ask these questions to the class: have you ever seen a movie that has alternate endings on the DVD menu? Is there one ending to these stories that makes the most sense? Why? Write your own fairy tale that has several endings. (Extension: Act out or read the stories and pause before the endings occur. Let the class choose which ending they want performed/read.)



Create a kaleidoscope picture of things from your daily life that originally came from another country. Maybe it's different kinds of food, clothing, art, music, sports related, etc. Share your “kaleidoscope” with the class.



Using the book, *The Crayon Box that Talked* by Shane Derolf and Michael Letzig, explore the concepts of understanding, appreciation and respecting similarities and differences. Read book and discuss the following questions: What makes a family a family? How can someone who is different be the same as me? Visit the following webpage for a circle group activity that can be modified for grades k-2 and 3-5.

<http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/every-family-same-every-family-different>



Read *Two Bad Ants* by Chris Van Allsburg. Imagine you are ant-sized. What obstacles might you encounter walking around in your own home/school/garden/street? Write about it.



Explore points of view asking children to write (or draw) a “Dear Diary” entry about characters in the Opera. For example, “Snow Drift meeting new friends at the Inn” or “The Boss learning that the Queen is coming for a visit.”



Ask students about story elements from *Inn of the Seven Dwarves*:

Character: What makes the characters interesting? What makes them believable? Are their actions, words, thoughts consistent?

Conflict: What is conflict and how is it established? How are the conflicts resolved?

Climax: To what climax does the conflict lead?

Conclusion: How well does the conclusion work? Is it consistent? Satisfying? Believable?

Context: What are the historical, physical, and emotional settings? Sets and costumes?



Retell the opera story through drama. Review the story from the synopsis on pages 2-3. Choose a scene and select one student to portray each character. Act out the scene as a narrator reads the select synopsis passage.



Opera is a singing story. Since the Shoe in *Inn of the Seven Dwarves* was such an important part of the story, ask students to break into groups and write a description of what their magical show might look like. Class presentations of their descriptions should be improvised as an opera – a singing story about their magical shoe.



LISTENING ACTIVITY: Compare and Contrast - Musical pieces from seven operas were borrowed to create *Inn of the Seven Dwarves*. Here are just two pieces: “Una Voca Poco Fa” (PRON: OO-nah VOH-chay POH-coh FAH) from Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville* and the Trio from *Die Fledermaus* (PRON: DEE FLAY-der-mouse).

“Una Voce Poco Fa”	Fledermaus Trio
From <i>The Barber of Seville</i> by Gioacchino Rossini	From <i>Die Fledermaus</i> by Johann Strauss
Sung by one person, this is a solo or ARIA (AR-ee-ah). An aria is an expressive solo found in an opera. The aria is sung in Italian.	This is a TRIO found in an operetta called <i>Die Fledermaus</i> sing by three people. An operetta is a music form with singing and spoken word. It is sometimes described as light opera.
The aria is sung in Italian.	Originally composed in German, it is often performed in English.
From the original opera, the aria is by Rosina who has just read a letter and is lovestruck. She sings of this love and sings how she will play a trick on her guardian, Dr. Bartolo.	In the original opera, the trio is sung by Rosalinda, her husband Eisenstein and the maid, Adele. The trio begins with the words “To part is such sweet sorrow” as Eisenstein is about to leave for prison. In reality, each of them wants to say goodbye quickly so they can do something much more fun. Listen to the sad beginning as it accelerates to an excited ending.
<p>“My Beauty is Well Known” - In <i>Inn of the Seven Dwarves</i>, “Una Voce Poco Fa” was sung by the Mean Queen as she speaks to her IPAD about how lovely/beautiful she is. Snow Drift comes in every once in a while during the aria singing “Ah, life is lovely” which irritates the Mean Queen.</p>	<p>In <i>Inn of the Seven Dwarves</i>, the <i>Die Fledermaus</i> Trio was sung by Snow Drift, Chef, Sophia and Landscaper – “Sometimes It’s Tough to Understand.” It starts out serious with some of the characters talking about how difficult it is to travel to a new place and not know how to ask for things you need or to find a friend. As the song continues, they find a way to communicate and understand that it is up to each of us to open our minds and hearts to one another.</p>
<p>Source material can be found here: As Rosina from <i>The Barber of Seville</i>, Beverly Sills sings “Una Voce Poco Fa” (1976) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmEFfeYRWel</p> <p>Joan Sutherland featured in the Trio from <i>Die Fledermaus</i> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jEBbOOiTZ8</p>	

CHILDREN'S READING LIST

Everyone Cooks Rice

By Norah Dooley, Carolrhoda, 1991

A child is introduced to a variety of cultures in his neighborhood by encountering the many different ways rice is prepared.

Mexican Immigrants In America: An Interactive History Adventure (You Choose: History)

By Rachel Hanel, Capstone Press, 2009

A choose your own adventure book featuring real people.

My Diary From Here To There

By Amada Perez, Children's Book Press, 2002

Amada overhears her parents whisper about moving from "here to there."

My Name Is Yoon

By Helen Recorvits, Douglass and McIntyre, 2004

Yoon is a little girl finding her place in a new country.

The Sneetches

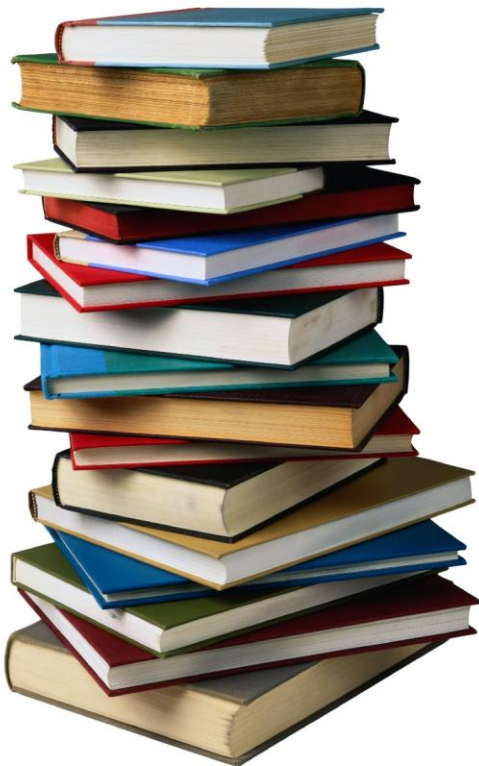
By Dr. Seuss, Harper Collins, 1961

The story of a group of yellow creatures called Sneetches, some of whom have a green star on their bellies.

Two Bad Ants

By Chris Van Allsburg, Houghton Mifflin, 1988

The tale of two ants who decide to leave the safety of the others to venture into a danger-laden kitchen.



- Books About Opera -

The Bantam of the Opera

By Mary Jane Auch, Holiday House, 1997

The Great Poochini

Gary Clement, Groundwood Books, 1999

Operantics with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

By Mary Neidorf and Daniel Stevens, Sunstone Press, 1999.

Bravo! Brava! A Night at the Opera

By Anne Siberell, Oxford University Press, 2001



IMMIGRATION: DID YOU KNOW...

- Approximately one million people immigrate per year to the US.
- In 2006, immigrants made up over 12% of our population; the number is higher now.
- There are at least 9 million illegal immigrants in the US.
- The US is a nation of immigrants with the main waves of immigration being 11,000 years ago when American Indians came from northern Asia; the period beginning in 1492 when EuroAmericans came from Europe; the time period during the 1800s when slaves were shipped from Africa; the time period from the Napoleonic Wars until the Great Depression; and, the present.
- Factors influencing immigration: jobs, location, war (such as in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Congo...)
- Children of immigrant parents are the fastest growing segment of the youth population.
- 20% of young people growing up in the US have immigrant parents.
- By 2040, 1 of every 3 children will be in a household of immigrants.
- There is intense disorientation upon arriving in a new country
- Every crisis is a challenge, especially when children act as translators for their parents

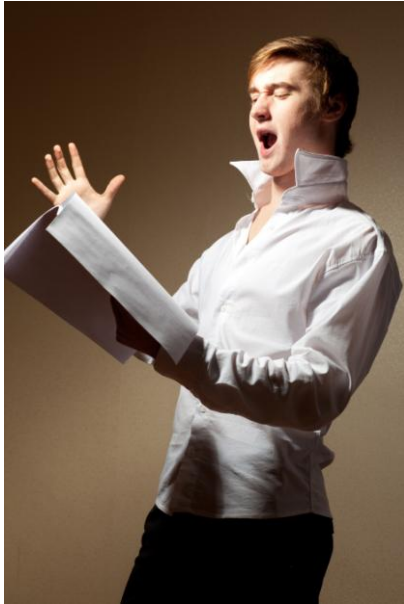
Worldwide, school is the surest path to well being and status mobility.

School is the primary source of exposure to a culture.

Learning a new cultural code is stressful and exhausting.

SINGING, A SPORT?!

Many people do not realize that singing is much more than opening your mouth and making sounds. Opera singers typically train for many years before they give their debut performance in a mainstage opera production. As in sports, opera singing requires you to be physically active and make healthy choices to keep your body in top condition. If you make poor choices, your voice or breath are going to feel it first.



Things To Know:

- Fruits and vegetables are the foundation of a healthy diet. They are low in calories and packed with nutrients (vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fiber.) Try to eat a rainbow of fruits and vegetables every day and with every meal—the brighter the better.
- The better your cardio-respiratory fitness, the easier it is for your lungs to keep your heart and muscles supplied with oxygen.
- Say no to drugs. Tobacco use is the single most important cause of preventable disease and early death. Each day in the United States, approximately 4,400 youths try their first cigarette. One-third of these young smokers are expected to die from a smoking-related disease.
- Friendships can have a major impact on your health and well-being. Friends can help you celebrate good times and provide support during bad times. Great friends are great for your health and overall well-being. Choose them wisely.
- Drinking lots of water helps energize muscles, helps keep skin looking good and helps maintain the balance of body fluids.




**KEEP
CALM
AND
SAY NO
TO DRUGS**



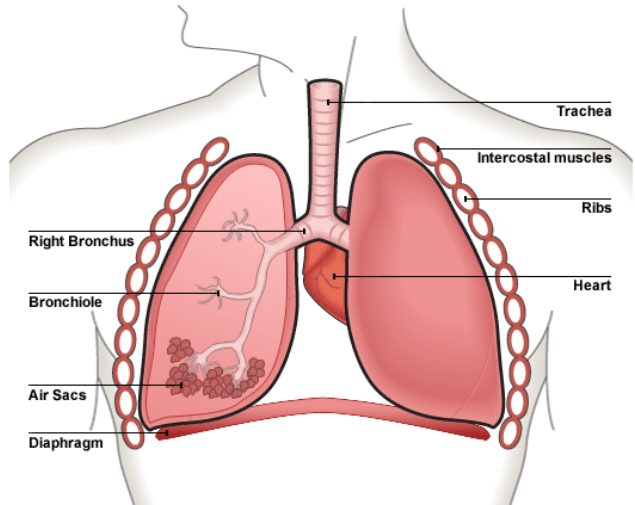
Taking care of your body helps you do amazing things!

About the Lungs and Smoking:

Your lungs make up one of the largest organs in your body, and they work with your respiratory system to allow you to take in fresh air, get rid of stale air, and even talk. As we breathe air in, the muscles of our rib cage and especially the major muscle called the **diaphragm** (Pron.: DY-uh-fram) to pull air into our lungs. The diaphragm and rib cage muscles relax and air is expired/exhaled passively.

Air, containing the oxygen our bodies need, is inhaled through the mouth and nose. The mucus membranes in our mouth and nose warm and moisten the air, as well as trap particles of foreign matter. The air passes through the throat into the trachea or windpipe.

The **trachea** divide into the left and right **bronchi**. Like a branch, each bronchus divides again and again becoming narrower and narrower. The smallest airways end in the **alveoli**, small, thin air sacs that are arranged in clusters like bunches of balloons that inflate and deflate as you breathe. The Oxygen we inhale is distributed to the rest of the body. Carbon dioxide (or waste gas) passes from the blood system and out of the body through exhaling.



Smoking is extremely harmful to your body, your lungs, your voice, etc. Opera singers and athletes avoid harmful choices to make sure they can continue doing the things they love. Did you know...

- Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer caused by smoking. More than 80% of cases of lung cancer are due to smoking.
- The chemicals from cigarette smoking interfere with the body's method of filtering air and cleaning out the lungs.
- Cigarette smoke is one of the best known triggers of asthma.
- Damage to lung tissue is irreversible.

Simple choices can lead to most harmful effects. Choose wisely!

Choices are around us everywhere. Food, Friends, Behaviors, Actions... Can each of these influence your health? YES!

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: Our opera singers make choices every day so they can continue performing at the top of their game. Ask students to make a list of the things they love doing. These can be activities with friends, family or alone. Then ask students what choices to they have to make in order to get to do the things they love. Discuss in small groups or as a class.

STANDARDS RELATED TO OUR PRODUCTION

Music Standard 6: Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

Music Standard 7: Evaluating music and music performances.

Music Standard 8: Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

Visual Arts Standard 8: Experience the integrative nature of visual arts, other arts disciplines, and disciplines outside the arts, and understand the arts as a critical component of learning and comprehension in all subject areas.

Language Arts Standard 3: Literary Comprehension and Analysis: Response to grade-level-appropriate literature includes identifying story elements such as character, theme, plot, and setting, and making connections and comparisons across texts.

Language Arts Standard 5: Demonstrate Different Types of Writing and Their Characteristics

Language Arts Standard 7: Listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication.

History Standard 2: Civics: Roles of Citizens: Describe group and individual actions that illustrate civic virtues, such as civility, cooperation, respect and responsible participation; Americans are united by the values, principles and beliefs they share rather than by ethnicity, race, religion, class, language, gender or national origin.

Other Core Competencies:

- Working with others and contributing to the overall effort of a group
- Working well with diverse individuals and in diverse situations
- Displaying effective interpersonal communication skills
- Maintaining a healthy self-concept
- Nurturing 21st Century Learning: Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, and Communication and Collaboration



RESOURCES

Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth. *Listen To The Children*. Judson Press, 2011.
Hernandez, Roger. *Immigration*. Mason Crest Publishers, 2007.
Olson, Laurie. *Made in America: immigrant students in our public schools*. W. W. Norton & Co., 2008.
Ouellete, Jeannine. *A Day Without Immigrants*. Compass Point Books, 2008
Weber, Valerie. *I come from India; I come from South Korea; I come from Chile; I come from Ukraine; I come from Afghanistan*. Weekly Reader Early Learning Library, 2007.
Wittbod, Maureen. *Let's talk about when your parent doesn't speak English*. PowerKids Press, 1997.
Zurio, Tony. *The Japanese Americans*. Lucent Books, 2003.
IO Production Photos: © Denis Ryan Kelly, Jr.

Website Resources:

Lung.org
Tolerance.org
oneworldoneheartbeating.com
www.operaamerica.org

Students are welcome to send letters and drawings following their Indianapolis Opera visit. We will share them with artists and sponsors.

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ABOUT THE INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

Indiana Opera Society, Inc., best known as Indianapolis Opera, was founded in 1975 and is the only professional opera company in the state. The 2013-2014 season marks the Opera's 39th year of service to Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. We strive to present balanced programming of both grand opera at Clowes Memorial Hall on the campus of Butler University and more intimate programming representing the whole repertoire at our new home, the Basile Opera Center. Ambitious programming is coupled with innovative education and outreach work that improves the quality of life for the region.

Serving Indianapolis, the state of Indiana and the Midwest, Indianapolis Opera's mission is *to entertain by creating the passion, excitement and art of opera and to develop the widest possible audience for opera through educational, cultural and community activities.*