



DES MOINES METRO OPERA

Job Title: Lead Sticher
Reports To: Costume Director
Supervises: Costume Shop Stitchers
Works closely with: Costumes, Hair & Wigs, Stage Management, Designers.

Summary:

Located in Indianola, Iowa the company will produce three exciting new productions in a summer repertory schedule, within the intimate 467-seat theatre at the Blank Performing Arts Center. Our 54th season consists of 3 mainstage productions with 2 new productions being built specific for DMMO's stage and the third built as a major co-production. DMMO is one of America's boldest Opera Companies (as reported by the New York Times) and was nominated for its 2024 season for an International Opera Award. Join our team in this a critical role to work on some of the most challenging, bold, intense, visually stunning, complex and rewarding productions of your career!

Des Moines Metro Opera is looking for a Lead Sticher to join our team. This position is not a member of the run crew and departs after the final production opens.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Des Moines Metro Opera celebrates diversity and inclusion. We do not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, age, veteran status, political affiliation or philosophy. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:

The below responsibilities are in no means a complete list of tasks/responsibilities.

- Work with the Costume Director/Designer to make sure all costumes are built or altered to the designer's specifications.
- Support the Costume Shop Supervisor in the preparation and running of all Mainstage and 2nd Stage Series Productions. This includes building, altering, fitting, repairing, washing and general maintenance of costumes used by DMMO.
- Complete the more difficult alterations or builds.
- Clearly communicate instructions to the stitchers and interns when they need guidance to complete a note or task.
- Act as the workroom supervisor when the Costume Shop Supervisor is needed in a fitting.
- Assist the Costume Shop Supervisor with delegating notes and instructions to stitchers and interns.
- Comply and enforce safe working techniques, safety policies and procedures and all rules.
- Strive for a workplace that is; team-focused, creative, positive, professional and solution based – encouraging all members of the team.

Dates of In-Person Employment:

Arrival Date:	Monday, May 25, 2026 by 5:00pm
First Work Day:	Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Last Work Day:	Saturday, July 4, 2026 (opening of King Roger)
Departure Date:	Sunday, July 5, 2026 by Noon

*Some flexibility can be afforded to the right candidates.

Compensation:

Base pay rate, per hour:	\$15.00/hour based on experience
Overtime pay rate, per hour (after 40):	1.5x the hourly rate

\$350 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned room in dorm-style housing during the festival season.



Skills and Knowledge:

Any combination of education and experience providing the required skill and knowledge for successful performance would be qualifying.

Typical qualifications would be equivalent to:

- 2+ years of experience working in a costume shop.
- Proficiency in hand and machine sewing.
- BA/BFA in Theatre or equivalent professional experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Willingness to try new things and learn.
- Ideally, OSHA 10 or greater qualifications.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

- Ability to sit, stand, traverse a working stage/shop environment which includes ladders, uneven floors and workspaces typically in use by a costume shop.
- Work includes extended periods of standing, working in low light, climbing stairs/ladders.
- Ability to lift heavy objects properly/safely
- Ability to wear eye protection, hearing protection, respirator and any other safety equipment that may be needed.

Application Process:

Submit resume, with three (3) references and a cover letter via email to production@dmmo.org.

Please include “**Lead Stitcher**” as the subject line.

For more information on this position, contact sjoiner@dmmo.org

Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applicant screening process expected to begin in mid-January of 2026