



Cinderella



OPERA Iowa
InfoPac

Presenting Sponsor
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IOWA ARTS COUNCIL 



Welcome!

What an exciting year for OPERA Iowa it will be! We are thrilled to present Joshua Borth's adaptation of Gioachino Rossini's *Cinderella* as part of the 2025 OPERA Iowa season.

In this new adaptation of the classic fairytale, Cinderella overcomes her circumstances and transforms into the person she was always meant to be...which is who she was all along! Featuring new twists, this timeless tale of kindness, love, and self-realization is sure to enchant young—and young at heart—audiences of all ages.

Programs and posters will be sent approximately four weeks before OPERA Iowa is scheduled to arrive. You are welcome to add your own insert to these programs. The tour runs from February 24-April 25.

If you are one of the early performances on the tour, these materials may arrive closer to your scheduled date due to printing constraints.

We recommend that you keep this InfoPac readily available and refer to its contents before our visit. It should answer most questions you have, but if you find yourself in need of assistance, please feel free to call 515-961-6221 or email Bridget Anderson at banderson@dmmo.org.

We cannot wait to visit your community and look forward to all that the 2025 tour has in store!

Before the Performance

BOOK YOUR PERFORMANCE DATE After you have read through this packet, begin the booking process by filling out the [Performance Request Form](#). DMMO staff will then reach out to confirm an available performance date and add you to the tour schedule.

SIGN YOUR CONTRACT AND PAY YOUR DEPOSIT Shortly after booking your performance date, you will receive a contract and invoice for deposit. Returning your signed contract and deposit will confirm your spot on our tour calendar.

ADVANCE SHEET We will send out Advance Sheets in January to collect specific information about your visit (this is previously the Info Sheet). This will include details for our technical staff so they know what to expect on arrival and how many students are attending the workshops and performances.

FINAL PREPARATIONS DMMO staff will reach out about a week before your performance to confirm final details. Please pay careful attention to this communication to update any last minute changes.

Before the Performance

It is important to begin promoting your OPERA Iowa event as soon as details are finalized. The press releases on the following pages will assist you in early promotion. Feel free to customize the information to suit your individual needs. If you have any questions regarding publicity, please call Scott Arens at 515-961-6221 or email sarens@dmmo.org. Approximately four weeks before OPERA Iowa arrives, Des Moines Metro Opera will send a news release and photos of the troupe to the media contacts you specified on the Concert Information Sheet. You are highly encouraged to give these media contacts a follow-up call to ensure coverage of your event.

Des Moines Metro Opera will also send you publicity posters as well as programs to distribute before the concert.

THE SYNOPSIS

A little girl named Cinderella is being subjected, as she tries to get through life, to the cruel and unrelenting oppression of her stepmother, who forces her to do the most menial household tasks and to wear old, ragged clothing. One day, she is invited to a ball at the palace, but she is unable to go because she has no dress. Her fairy godmother appears and gives her a magical dress and carriage. She goes to the ball, where she meets the prince. The prince falls in love with her, and she becomes his queen.

ABOUT THE TROUPE

Headed by Artistic Director, **SCOTT ARENS**, the troupe is a diverse group of talented performers. The troupe includes vocalists, instrumentalists, and dancers. The troupe is committed to providing a high-quality performance experience for all audiences.

CAST

CINDERELLA: [Name] (Soprano)
PRINCE: [Name] (Tenor)
STEPMOTHER: [Name] (Mezzo-soprano)
FAIRY GODMOTHER: [Name] (Soprano)
STEPFATHER: [Name] (Bass)
STEPBROTHERS: [Name] (Tenors)
GUARD: [Name] (Bass)
CHORUS: [Name] (Mixed)

CONCERT SPONSOR: haggard-twoood CHARITABLE TRUST

OPERA IOWA PREMIER SPONSOR: The Coons Foundation

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BY: [Logos for various sponsors]

desmoinesmetroopera.org/operaiowa | 515-961-6221

*Design may vary by year

CHECKLIST

- ON-SITE COORDINATOR** (this may be you) to answer any questions.
- CUSTODIAL STAFF** for questions concerning power sources to the performance site and to help unload/load and set up scenery. (1 hour when troupe arrives and 1/2 hour before troupe leaves.)
- STAGE CREW:** At least four (4) adults, each capable of lifting at least 50 pounds, to help load and unload scenery from DMMO vehicles. Five (5) or six (6) responsible high school students aged 15 and older may also assist with the load-in and load-out if an adult is provided to supervise their activities.
- PERFORMANCE SPACE:**
 - An auditorium, theater, gym or cafeteria that is at least 25 feet wide by 15 feet deep with an overhead clearance of at least 13 feet.
 - Two (2) 20-amp circuits.
 - Wi-Fi access.
 - Microphone for introductions.
 - Floor and/or chair seating for students/audience members.
- ADDITIONAL SPACES:**
 - At least two (2) dressing rooms (restrooms reserved for DMMO are acceptable).
 - An area that is secured where personal belongings can be stored (office or lockable room).
- TUNED PIANO** for the performance.



About the Opera

CAST

Cinderella

MEZZO-SOPRANO

Stepsister/Fairy Godmother

SOPRANO

Don Magnifico/King

BARITONE

Prince

TENOR

PRODUCTION

Music

GIOACHINO ROSSINI, JULES MASSENET

Libretto

JOSHUA BORTHS

Music Director

TBA

Stage Director

JOSHUA BORTHS

Technician

TBA

Scenic Designer

TBA

Costume Coordinator

TBA

Don Magnifico lives with his two stepdaughters in a splendid house at the edge of a kingdom. He dotes on the eldest girl, but the youngest is treated as a scullery maid. She is even nicknamed Cinderella due to always being covered in soot.

Meanwhile, the royal family has run out of money. To preserve the façade, the King has made a secret deal: the Prince will marry Don Magnifico's eldest daughter in exchange for funds. It is a win-win situation for both fathers—Magnifico becomes the power behind the throne, and the royal family continues living in luxury. To make it seem fair, the King has decided to hold a ball for his son to choose his future queen from—and if the Prince just happens to choose Don Magnifico's daughter...

On the day of the ball, Cinderella is busy helping her stepsister prepare. Amid the flurry of activity, a beggar knocks on the door. Cinderella wants to show the stranger kindness, but Don Magnifico is appalled and kicks him out of the house.

After her stepsister leaves for the palace, Cinderella longs to go to the ball, but not to marry the Prince. Instead, she wants to discuss with him the kingdom's problems and how to make it a better place. At that moment, a Fairy Godmother arrives to grant her wish—and after Cinderella promises to leave the ball by midnight, her tattered rags transform into a beautiful gown with glass slippers.

At the palace, the beggar is revealed to be the Prince in disguise! As he pines for the girl he met at Magnifico's house, he learns his bride has already been chosen. The Prince vows to foil the King's deal with Don Magnifico.

When the ball begins, Cinderella's stepsister does her best to win the Prince's favor. The festivities stop when a mysterious woman wearing a beautiful gown and glass slippers arrives. The Prince is smitten with her, but their conversation is cut short as the clock strikes midnight. She immediately flees the palace, leaving behind one glass slipper. He resolves to find her, no matter the cost.

At the house, Cinderella is back in her tattered clothing and reflecting on her adventure while Don Magnifico awaits his eldest stepdaughter's return. When she finally arrives, he learns his plan has been dashed by the mysterious woman.

They are interrupted by a knocking on the door—it is the Prince again, this time as himself. He has been searching for the woman who fits the glass slipper. Seeing a chance to salvage the deal, Don Magnifico and the stepsister insist she try it, confident it will fit her, but to no one's surprise it does not. However, when Cinderella tries the slipper on for herself...



Sample Press Release

Date _____

Organization _____

Contact _____

Phone _____

Experience World-Class Opera Without Leaving Town!

Area residents of _____ (your town, state) _____ will have the chance to see one of Iowa’s premier performing arts organizations when OPERA Iowa, Des Moines Metro Opera’s educational touring troupe, arrives on _____ (date) _____ to present Rossini’s *Cinderella* (sung in English), at _____ (place/time) _____. The performance is sponsored by _____ (sponsor) _____. To purchase tickets (insert information here on where to purchase tickets, prices, etc. If concert is free, make sure to let everyone know!).

Over the past 39 years, the OPERA Iowa Educational Touring Troupe has performed in 10 states throughout the region and even in Japan and China, spreading the joy of opera to more than one million students and adults. OPERA Iowa is an Education Division program of Des Moines Metro Opera, which is located in Indianola, Iowa, just south of Des Moines. Des Moines Metro Opera will be celebrating its 53rd Festival Season, featuring Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman*, Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress* during its Summer Festival which will run from June 27 through July 20, 2025. For more information on Des Moines Metro Opera’s upcoming season, visit our website at desmoinesmetroopera.org.

For more information on the OPERA Iowa performance, contact:

_____ (your contact person)

_____ (name of your organization)

_____ (phone)

The OPERA Iowa troupe is available for interviews and photos while at schools and concerts. Please arrange through Scott Arens (sarens@dmmo.org) at Des Moines Metro Opera. For a complete tour schedule, please call 515-961-6221.

Be sure to like us on Facebook and Instagram!





After the Performance

You can help Des Moines Metro Opera by sending a few thank you letters, colorful drawings, postcards, or other interesting works of art to our leading corporate supporters. Sponsors have told us that letters of appreciation from students and teachers mean a great deal to them. We also include these examples when we apply for grants which support OPERA Iowa in the future. We love to see these in our office as well. The OPERA Iowa troupe members especially like to receive mail sent by the students they have met on the tour.

You can send your thank yous to Des Moines Metro Opera by mail or email, and we'll take care of the rest!

Presenting Sponsor The Coons Foundation

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In memory of C. Robert Brenton
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After the Performance

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN IOWA!

Why? Because cultural programs like OPERA Iowa are important to the state of Iowa. Please send a letter to your local Representative, Congress member or Senator to invite them to support arts and culture in Iowa. Your input is invaluable to helping maintain the level of support Iowa currently invests into the arts. Past letters from grateful OPERA Iowa students were included within the U.S. Congressional Record as part of the National Endowment for the Arts' request for renewed funding.

To contact your Iowa State Representative or Senator to share your support of programs like OPERA Iowa, visit:

WEBSITE: www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators

To contact Iowa's elected leadership to encourage continued support of arts funding to programs like OPERA Iowa: www.legis.iowa.gov/contacts/federallinks

Senator Charles (Chuck) Grassley

135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3744
<http://www.grassley.senate.gov>

Senator Joni Ernst

260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 712-352-1167
<http://www.ernst.senate.gov>

District 1: Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks

1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6576
<https://millermeeks.house.gov>

District 2: Representative Ashley Hinson

1717 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2911
<https://hinson.house.gov>

District 3: Representative Zach Nunn

1232 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5476
<https://nunn.house.gov>

District 4: Representative Randy Feenstra

1440 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-4426
<http://feenstra.house.gov>