NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact Information

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Opera Scenes Event

*Come See the University’s Finest Talent with More Than Just Great Singers*

REXBURG, Idaho—Come enjoy the singing talent of Brigham Young University-Idaho students in Opera Scenes, an upcoming event to be held March 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in room 181 of the Eliza R. Snow Building.

“Opera Scenes is a performance of various selections from operas, with staging and costuming as appropriate to each scene,” said David Olsen, director of the event. “The students are able to participate in performing a variety of different styles and periods of music, ranging from early classics to more modern operas.”

Scenes from six operas will be presented, including Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Verdi’s *Macbeth*, Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief* and Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti.*

Unlike other musical ensemble performances, an opera has a storyline with stage directors and actors.

“One of the wonderful things about opera is how it brings together many of the arts,” Olsen said. “If opera were without the visual impact of lights, costumes and scenery, or the dramatic impact of an interesting story supported by engaging acting, all that would be left is some great singing. And while great singing lies at the heart of opera, it is the combination of all of those elements that make opera so wonderful.”

Christi Jones, a senior studying music and ensemble member, shares her excitement about the event. “It will be a fun night with laughter and excitement,” Jones said. “The Opera is exciting ... it's not just a bunch of fat woman singing really high! It's funny, it's entertaining and it's something that we love to share with other people.”

This event is free of admission and counts as an FA100 event.

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OPERA SCENES PERFORMANCES

**Fact Sheet**

* The Opera Scenes event will be held March 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the Eliza R. Snow Building, room 181 (Also known as the Ensemble Hall) ­­­­– free admission, and counts as an FA100 event.
* Quotes from David Olsen, professor and director of this performance.

-“Opera Scenes is a performance of various selections from operas, with staging and costuming as appropriate to each scene. The students are able to participate in performing a variety of different styles and periods of music, ranging from early classics such as Mozart's *Così fan tutte* to more modern operas like *Trouble in Tahiti* by Leonard Bernstein.”

-“The Opera Scenes class is an ensemble itself. Many of the students involved are also participating in the choir courses at the university.”

-“Scenes from 6 operas will be presented, taken from the following shows: Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Verdi’s *Macbeth*, Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief*, and Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti.”*

-“While many of the leading roles are played by students who are indeed music majors, as a whole the students encompass the range from music majors to music minors and non-majors.”

-“One of the wonderful things about opera is how it brings together many of the arts. If opera were without the visual impact of lights, costumes and scenery, or the dramatic impact of an interesting story supported by engaging acting, all that would be left is some great singing. And while great singing lies at the heart of opera, it is the combination of all of those elements that make opera so wonderful.”

-“The Opera Scenes program this semester is sure to both entertain as well as educate. The wide variety of scenes to be performed will appeal to any audience. There is also a wonderful synergy in live performance between the audience and the performers — both of them come away with so much more than that with which they began. That's something that just doesn't happen when watching or listening to a recording.”

* Quotes by Christi Jones, BA in Music, senior
* An opera is “aplay that is made up of just singing.”

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* Her experience in singing Opera “has made me appreciate it more because of how hard it is, but I have always loved … opera.”
* She is singing "The Elixir of Love" Finale by Gaetano Donizetti and "Macbeth" by Giuseppe Verdi.
* Students should come to this event “to support all of our hard work, but also because it will be a fun night with laughter and excitement. The Opera is really something that is exciting ... it's not just a bunch of fat woman singing really high! It's funny, it's entertaining and it's something that we love to share with other people.”

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Email Update:

Come see the music department’s finest talent with Opera Scenes this Friday, 5 March and Saturday, 6 March at 7:30 p.m. in room 181 of the Snow building. Students will perform a variety of different styles and periods of music, ranging from early classic operas to more modern operas. The Opera Scenes event is free of charge and counts towards an FA100 credit. Bring your friends and enjoy the musical talents of the Opera Scenes ensemble!