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YOUTH OPERA OF ELPASO
"Where Opera is Young Again!"

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#### **SEARCHING THE PAINTED SKY**

Music by Martha Hill Duncan
Story and Libretto by Janet Windeler Ryan

#### **CAST**

**LEDA** age 17 to 19 (a beautiful young woman of a proud nature)

LULU age 7 to 9 (Leda's sister)

JACK, THE DAD age 40 to 50

JAMIE, THE BEST FRIEND age 17 to 19

**TOM/TAM, THE FORTUNE -TELLER** (of indeterminate age & gender, unkempt in appearance, wearing a tattered tail coat and top hat)

SNORT, THE CRAB and his entourage of "legs" (a "crab" in every sense of the word; the villain)

**THREE FOUR** 

**FIVE SIX** 

**SEVEN EIGHT** 

NINE TEN (smallest of the crab leg entourage, the day-dreaming lagger behind)

ELLEGÉE, THE GRANDE DAME OF THE ISLAND (puts on airs, but has a tender "mothering" side)

ROSIE, THE WAITRESS (young adult, sweet and loving, looks after Leda and Lulu)

FLORA- THE FLOWER LADY (street vendor, duets with Rosie)

**WAITERS AND WAITRESSES** 

**TOWNSPEOPLE** 

**BEACH PEOPLE** 

NOTE: This show will be double cast. We are looking for two performers for each character. Performers cast in leading roles will sing with the ensemble/chorus when their double is performing the role. There are solo lines scattered throughout the score for ALL members of the cast. Everyone performs in every show, and everyone shines!

#### **SYNOPSIS**

#### Act 1

A chilly autumn morning on a bustling street of a city or town. People come and go while street vendors-- a flower lady, a fortune-teller-- set up their stations. Waiters and waitresses serve patrons at a small cafe on the same street. We can see into the interior of a small street-level apartment: its bare, cold, dimly lit kitchen with a small, basic table, three chairs, a stove, and a tiny refrigerator. Colors in the home are drab, there are no decorations, but there is an empty goldfish bowl on the table. The kitchen branches onto a small room with one torn easy chair, windows, and a door that faces the busy street. On the wall is a portrait of a beautiful woman in her thirties, the wife of the dad, and the deceased mother of Leda and Lulu, the two sisters. Alternatively, the kitchen can serve as the focal point of the home, where all action takes place and where the portrait of the mother hangs. And for staging on a smaller scale, the kitchen might be transformed into the café.

#### 1:1. As Morning Opens

Street vendors set up their stations, the café opens, and the townspeople greet one another on a cool autumn morning. Soloists, small groups, and a mixed chorus of townspeople and vendors sing "a song of hope and a song of promise" to begin the day.

#### 1:2. Holiday

In the family kitchen, Lulu, the younger of the two sisters, sings about her dream of going on a holiday with her family.

#### 1:3. Beans and Mustard

Jack, the dad, sings to Lulu about his current shortage of money, establishing himself as an easy-going optimist. Lulu and an "out of scene" chorus join in with Dad's attitude of "taking things in stride". The older sister, Leda, expresses rage about the family's poverty and what she sees to be her father's irresponsible behavior. She turns to leave, observes the portrait of her deceased mother, then exits, slamming the door. The chorus sings a brief reprise.

#### 1:4. Searching the Painted Sky

Leda joins her best friend, Jamie, at Rosie's café. She reveals her frustrations and conflicting emotions about her family and her life. Jamie affirms that she/they must hold on to their dreams. Jamie and the others in the café join Leda singing "Searching the Painted Sky".

#### 1:4a. Deep Winter Snowfall

As Jamie and Leda leave the café, it begins to snow. Jamie tries to cheer Leda up by focusing her attention on the beautiful things around them.

#### 1:5. Money Talks

A lively street scene begins with two townswomen sharing gossip that Tom (Tam), the magician and fortune-teller, is reputed to be a fraud. Tom (Tam) suggests to Leda that she allow them to read her palm and look into her future. Leda is interested, but she has no money. The townspeople pass a hat and collect enough money to have Tom (Tam) tell Leda's fortune.

#### 1:6. Fortune-telling Soft-shoe

As Tom (Tam) reads Leda's palm, Jamie and the townspeople ask questions about what they see in her future. Leda expresses a sense that there are going to be changes in her life. Tom (Tam) sings with increasing alarm that Leda has "gotta read the letter". The townspeople, and then Leda, get caught up in a kind of emotional frenzy, and echo Tom's (Tam's) statement without understanding its meaning. Tom (Tam) surprises everyone by leaving very suddenly. Only then do they ask one another, "What letter?" Leda and Jamie say goodbye to the townspeople and Jamie offers to walk Leda home.

#### 1:7. To Home

Duet between Rosie and Flora, who are joined by an onstage chorus of townspeople and sing about the many possible meanings of the concept of "home". As the day winds down, the townspeople pack up their work stations, and mothers call their children home for the night. The stage gradually empties.

#### 1:8. Under the Painted Sky

A group of children returns to the stage wearing pajamas, each carrying a pillow and either a small blanket or a stuffed animal. The children sing a lullaby based on the recurring theme of the sky before they lie down and go to sleep.

#### 1:9. Working Hard

There is an informal gathering of visitors at the family home. Jack sings, alternating with Lulu and the visitors, and then all sing together and laugh about Jack's happy-go-lucky lifestyle and his idea of "workin' hard". Jamie and Leda return from their day in town, and her father suggests to the guests that it might be time to quiet things down. Leda is once again annoyed by her father's apparent lack of a responsible work ethic. Leda and Jamie say goodnight and make plans to meet the next morning.

#### 1:10. For My Mother

Believing herself to be alone, Leda studies the portrait of her late mother which hangs on the wall. Lulu watches and listens from the other room as Leda sings a song of tribute and lamentation. Unseen and unheard to Leda, Lulu joins her sister in a duet for the second verse.

#### 1:11. Identity Crisis

Early the next morning on the street, Tom (Tam) the fortune-teller nervously paces back and forth across the stage, apparently waiting for someone. When Leda and Jamie appear, Tom (Tam) confesses to the two friends that since having read Leda's palm the previous day, they have had the fear that they may actually possess some magical powers. This is upsetting to Tom (Tam) because their personal sense of identity is based on having been raised to be a fraud. They ask Leda to make a wish so that they can feel relief when they are unable to grant it.

#### 1:12. If I Made a Wish

Leda's solo reveals her strong desire to "spread her wings" and to "reach the sky". Tom (Tam) is relieved when for a second or two everything seems to be just as it was. There is a sudden explosive sound and the air fills with a blinding cloud of brightly colored smoke. Tom (Tam) calls out for Jamie and Leda, but no one is to be seen.

When the brightly colored smoke from the explosion has cleared away, Leda and Jamie find themselves standing on the sandy shore of a tropical beach: the sky is blue, seagulls and the gentle sound of waves are heard, children in beach wear play happily by the seaside.

#### Act 2:1. Beach Walk

Leda and Jamie find themselves on a sandy tropical beach. At first they are shocked to be in this inexplicable location, and yet Leda remarks that it seems oddly familiar. She wonders if she might have had a dream about it, and she and Jamie wonder if Tom (Tam) really does have magical powers. A group of children gather around them and sing a welcoming song while they all dance along the beach. A visibly happier Leda joins in the song and in the spirit of celebration. The mood suddenly changes when a very large land crab (consisting of one larger body surrounded by four smaller bodies), moves slowly and awkwardly towards the group. The smallest of the five trails slightly behind. The children recognize the creature and his entourage as Snort, and they run away in fear.

#### 2:2. Crab Tango

Leda and Jamie ask the human-size, five-headed crab who he is. Snort, (he is also One Two), the leader and the largest of the group, demands a leg count, and the remaining four obediently jump to attention and sing their numbers individually (Three Four, Five Six, Seven Eight and Nine Ten.) Snort establishes himself as a greedy and feared dictator, while Nine Ten, the smallest of the crab legs, is the day dreamer of the group who often lags behind the others, admiring the beauty of his surroundings. Snort asks Leda and Jamie why they have come to the island, and Nine Ten finds it hard to imagine why they might have left a home. Snort shouts that he is hungry, but as he and the legs begin to leave, the group is approached by a "woman of a certain age" who carries herself with an aristocratic air, and dresses in floating layers of billowy green satin.

#### 2:3. Ellegée

Ellegée requests that Snort pronounce her name in the French fashion, and she wonders aloud-- with unspoken accusation-- whether Snort and his "little army of crustaceous limbs" have come across her grand-maman's missing pearl necklace. She inquires about the newcomers, Leda and Jamie, and introduces herself to them, announcing that she will take them home with her and serve them a proper dinner. Ellegée and Snort have a tiff over the pronunciation of her name, and when Snort insults Ellegée, she calls his bluff by announcing that the evening's dinner menu will include soft-shell crab with drawn butter. In terror, Snort orders the legs to move away quickly, until he realizes that Nine Ten has lingered behind, once again lost in a daydream. Snort shouts for a leg count, and he and the four pairs of legs sing a reprise. Snort announces that he is tired and that he and the legs will now take a nap. He is still smarting from the indignities delivered by Ellegée, but finally he falls asleep and begins to snore.

#### 2:4. Sunset Song

When Nine Ten is certain that Snort is in a deep sleep, he rises and looks out of the crab hole to the sky. Nine Ten sings a solo tribute to the beauty of the sunset that reflects on his imagined living room wall. The less imaginative Three Four and Five Six clarify that they live in a crab hole, but Nine Ten continues to sing and is joined in duet by his friend, Seven Eight. Finally Three Four and Five Six sing along in harmony. The beauty of the evening proves to be irresistible to Nine Ten and he decides to take a walk. Nine Ten makes his way out of the crab hole and the other legs lie down to sleep.

#### 2:5. Nine Ten's Adventure

Nine Ten wanders along the beach as he watches the sky with a kind of rapture. At the same time, unseen to Nine Ten, Leda, Jamie, and Ellegée enter the opposite end of the stage. Nine Ten begins to sing a reprise of Searching the Painted Sky. Although she cannot see him, Leda hears Nine Ten's "Searching", and unheard by Nine Ten, she replies by singing "Soaring". As Nine Ten joyfully glides along the beach, entirely unaware that Leda is close by, the duet between the two continues. When Leda realizes that it is Nine Ten's voice they are hearing, she calls out from the distance in an effort to attract his attention. Nine Ten mistakes Leda's "Yoohoo!" for a threatening call, perhaps that of a wild animal, and he becomes frightened. Lost and alone, he begins to cry, at first quietly, and then dramatically, so that it attracts many people who are close to the beach. Leda, Jamie, and Ellegée soon catch up to Nine Ten and the group that has gathered around him, and all attempt to console him.

#### 2:6. Lullaby

Those closest to Nine Ten tuck him into a bed of sand and soft vegetation, and the chorus sings him a calming and affirming lullaby. Nine Ten falls asleep in his beach bed surrounded by his new found friends.

#### 2:7. Beach Morning

Nine Ten wakes up to be startled by Snort's distant shouts for him to come at once. Nine Ten runs as quickly as he can in the direction of Snort's demands, and in his hurry, he trips face first into a pile of.....something. The commotion awakens the others who have stayed through the night to keep watch over Nine Ten. Snort and his entourage arrive, and a beach person notices that Nine Ten has stumbled upon a hidden treasure chest. Chorus and soloists sing in turn about the lost goods discovered in the treasure chest, including Ellegée's pearl necklace from her grand-maman. Finally, a beach person comes across a letter addressed to Leda and sings that Leda has "gotta read the letter". The chorus and then Leda join in. When Leda opens the letter, she is astonished to find that her late mother had written it to her nine years earlier at the end of the family's final holiday together on the same island. She wonders aloud how the letter might have ended up here, and everyone turns to look at Snort who casually comments that the legs must have done it. Ellegée and then the chorus are quick to publicly shame the guilty crab.

#### 2:8. The Letter

Pianist plays For My Mother while Leda reads her mother's words aloud. The letter reveals that the girls' mother was to return to the hospital the next day for treatment of a grave illness. This time, however, the dad was to enter the hospital along with his wife, apparently for a surgery that would offer her a chance to live. Jamie suggests that perhaps Leda's father had not been well enough to work as a result of an incomplete recovery from surgery. Leda agrees, and she regrets having been so hard on her father. Emotionally overwrought, yet still wanting to know the contents of the letter, Leda finds comfort in Jamie's arms while Ellegée offers to continue the reading. With a sudden gasp, Ellegée reads the words, "lung transplant", and the mother's advice that Leda go to her Aunt Dorothy for help if ever needed. Leda informs Jamie that Aunt Dorothy had died two years earlier. The letter ends with Leda's mother's request that Leda always be kind to her dad, that he is a true hero. Needing a quiet moment to herself, Leda sings a peaceful and contemplative solo. At the end of the song, Lulu and Dad enter, dressed in beach wear.

#### 2:9. Finale

Lulu runs to her sister, who is astonished to see Lulu and her father. Jack explains that he knew where to find Leda because "that business about the letter was the talk of the town". He says that he has never forgiven himself for having lost such a treasure, and that he still can't understand how it happened. Everyone on the beach turns once again to look at the guilty Snort. Snort states that he is feeling kind of hungry, and he and all of the legs but Nine Ten exit. Dad reveals that Aunt Dorothy's considerable estate had been held up in legal technicalities since her death, but that her entire fortune has been left to the two girls and himself. Leda asks her father if he can forgive her for having been so hard on him and she tells him that she loves him. Dad replies that she has nothing to apologize for, that for a very long time they have all been searching. Chorus and all soloists join in a grand reprise of Searching the Painted Sky. After the song, Snort shouts for Nine Ten to come for leg count. Nine Ten turns his head when he hears Snort's shouts, but then turns back again. He remains behind.

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## **MONOLOGUES FOR CHILDREN (Ages 10 & under)**

From Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theatre

A MONOLOGUE is a dramatic conversation or presentation, spoken by a single character (play, musical, tv show, or movie), usually either to someone else or to the audience. Here are a few monologues that you can use for auditions. When you go on an audition, you should learn the text to the best of your ability, but it is also important to attempt to tell a story along with your lines. Be creative!

#### 101 DALMATIANS: Cruella DeVille

Well, just be sure the puppies don't do it again! I don't want the yowls and growls of spotted little furry creatures.....Spotted little furry creatures.....Why, I don't think I've quite seen anything like them. Look at the depth! Look at the patterns! Why, they're practically works of art! And just what I need to complete my collection! You know what? I've changed my mind. I've been without a pet long enough. No one to play with. I can't wait to wear.....I mean, care for all the little puppies. I'll buy the whole litter! How much?

#### **ARISTOCATS: Duchess**

Now kittens, you must not fight. Toulouse! Aristocats do not fight. Aristocats behave like ladies and gentlemen. Now it's time for your music practice. It's important to have a well rounded education. You never know when a knowledge of music might come in handy.

#### **ALADDIN: Aladdin**

But I do like Jasmine. I mean, "The Princess!" Ugh! I must've sounded so silly! Then again, what does it matter? I'm never going to see her again. Me, the "street rat!" Besides, she deserves a prince. Or at least someone better than me. Oh, why did I ever meet her? Boy, I'm glad I met her! Look at this junk! I bet no one's been in here for years. Something's written on this thing. Let's see here.....

#### **FINDING NEMO: Dory**

No. No, you can't. ...STOP! Please don't go away. Please? No one's ever stuck with me for so long before. And if you leave... I just, I remember things better with you! I do, look! P. Sherman, forty-two... I remember it, I do. It's there, I know it is, because when I look at you, I can feel it. And...and I look at you, and I...and I'm home! Please...I don't want that to go away. I don't want to forget.

#### **CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY: Slugworth**

I congratulate you, little boy. Well done. You found the fifth Golden Ticket. May I introduce myself. Arthur Slugworth, President of Slugworth Chocolates, Incorporated. Now listen carefully because I'm going to make you very rich indeed. Mr. Wonka is at this moment working on a fantastic invention: the Everlasting Gobstopper. If he succeeds, he'll ruin me. So all I want you to do is to get hold of just one Everlasting Gobstopper and bring it to me so that I can find the secret formula. Your reward will be ten thousand of these. (he flips through a stack of money) Think it over, will you. A newhouse for your family, and good food and comfort for the rest of their lives. And don't forget the name: Everlasting Gobstopper.

#### THE WIZARD OF OZ: Dorothy

But it wasn't a dream. It was a place. And you and you and you...and you were there. But you couldn't have been could you? No, Aunt Em, this was a real truly live place and I remember some of it wasn't very nice, but most of it was beautiful--but just the same all I kept saying to everybody was "I want to go home," and they sent me home! Doesn't anybody believe me? But anyway, Toto, we're home! Home. And this is my room, and you're all here and I'm not going to leave here ever, ever again. Because I love you all. And... Oh Auntie Em! There's no place like home!

## Searching the Painted Sky Rehearsal Schedule

#### **MUSIC REHEARSALS**

Western Hills United Methodist Church, Music Room, 524 Thunderbird Drive (79912)

Please bring your score in a three-ring binder, a pencil, water bottle, and snack to each rehearsal.

Each cast member is permitted 3 absences, in addition to the holidays listed below. If you have extenuating circumstances, please list them on your conflict sheet, and speak with the directors privately, as soon as possible.

Sundays, beginning Sept. 8, 2024 through Jan. 26, 2025

3:00-4:30pm Full Cast (5<sup>th</sup> grade and under will be released at 4:30pm)

4:30-5:30pm Leads, plus grades 6 & above only

We will NOT meet on the following Sundays:

Sun, 10-6-24 OFF- FALL BREAK

Sun, 12-1-24 OFF- THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Sun, 12-29-24 OFF- WINTER BREAK

#### **STAGING REHEARSALS**

Western Hills United Methodist Church, Music Room, 524 Thunderbird Drive (79912)
Please bring your score in a three-ring binder, a pencil, water bottle, and snack to each rehearsal.

Mondays-Thursdays, Feb. 3-20, 2025, 5:30-8:30pm, Full Cast

#### Fri-Sun: OFF

Fri, 2-21-25	5:30-8:30pm	Sitzprobe: Full Cast
Sat, 2-22-25	1:30pm 3:30pm	Cue to Cue: Cast A Cue to Cue: Cast B
	5:30pm	Notes & Dismissal
Sun, 2-23-25	1:30pm	Cue to Cue: Cast A
	3:30pm	Cue to Cue: Cast B
	5:30pm	Notes & Dismissal

#### **TECH WEEK**

## Plaza Philanthropy Theatre, 125 W Mills Ave (79901) NO ABSENCES PERMITTED

Mon, 2-24-25	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements Cast to Costuming Tech Rehearsal: Cast A Notes Cast dismissed/Production Team meeting
Tues, 2-25-25	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements Cast to Costuming Tech Rehearsal: Cast B Notes Cast dismissed/Production Team meeting
Wed, 2-26-25	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements Cast to Costuming Dress Rehearsal: Cast A

	8:00pm 8:30pm	Notes Cast dismissed/Production Team meeting
Thurs, 2-27-25	5:00pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements
	6:00pm	Cast to Costuming
	7:00pm	Dress Rehearsal: Cast B
	8:00pm	Notes
	8:30pm	Cast dismissed/Production Team meeting

#### **PERFORMANCES**

## Plaza Philanthropy Theatre, 125 W Mills Ave (79901) NO ABSENCES PERMITTED

Fri, 2-28-25	5:30pm 6:00pm	Crew Call/Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements Cast to Costuming
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	•	Pre-Show Music Chat with the composer SHOW #1
	7:30pm	
	9:00pm	Curtain
Sat, 3-1-25	12:30pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements
	1:00pm	Cast to Costuming
	1:30pm	Pre-Show Music Chat with the composer
	2:30pm	SHOW #2
	4:00pm	Curtain/Full Company Break
	5:30pm	Full Company Call/Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements
	6:00pm	Cast to Costuming
	6:30pm	Pre-Show Music Chat with the composer
	7:30pm	SHOW #3
	9:00pm	Curtain
Sun, 3-2-25	12:30pm	Cast Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements
	1:00pm	Cast to Costuming
	1:30pm	Pre-Show Music Chat with the composer
	2:30pm	SHOW #4
	4:00pm	Curtain
	5:00pm	Strike
	6:30pm	Company Celebration
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#### **MEDIA EVENTS (TO DATE)**

Our PR representative, Monika Acevedo (KISS FM, Sunset PR), is working hard to put together a five month campaign to advertise our show! The following events are already in place, and select students will be invited to appear to perform, and/or give interviews. Students will be selected for these featured opportunities based on their level of experience, as well as their performance in rehearsals.

Oct 12 & 13, 2024	Amigo Airshow- singing the National Anthem and select songs from the show
December 7, 2024	Media Party at Sunset Parlor with Hal Marcus,
February 8, 2025	A Night at the Opera, 6-9pm, The Woman's Club of El Paso



#### YOUTH OPERA OF ELPASO

"Where Opera is Young Again!"

### **CONFLICT SHEET**

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please read through the attached rehearsal schedule, and attendance policy stated below. Signatures of parents and cast members, in agreement, with the schedule and policies is required for participation.

Purpose: The performing arts are highly collaborative activities, and attendance of all participants is vital to the success of any production. When one person is absent, the whole group is affected. With each production, YOEP strives to create a winning team, where each participant has the best opportunity thrive in their role. This requires individual, as well as team commitment.

- 1. All absences (including tardies and early departures) must be disclosed on the participant's Conflict Sheet so that directors can plan rehearsals accordingly. Conflict Sheets are due at the audition. Directors can pivot for the good of all, but only with your cooperation!
- 2. Please reserve last-minute absences for illnesses, or family emergencies only. Every cast member is a vital part of the team, no matter how big or small the role. If you are well and have not put an absence on your Conflict Sheet, we need you at rehearsal.
- 3. Music Rehearsals: We ask that you miss no more than three music rehearsals.
- 4. Staging Rehearsals: We ask that you miss no more than one staging rehearsal.
- 5. Tech Week and Performances: Absences are not permitted.

If you have extenuating circumstances, please speak with the directors privately, as soon as possible.

ALL conflicts must be COMPLETELY disclosed at the time of audition.
CONFLICTS
Please list all conflicts with rehearsal schedule provided (be as exhaustive as possible, attach sheets if necessary:)

We agree to uphold and follow the expectations outlined above.

Signing signifies that the participant has the complete and informed permission of a parent, or guardian to participate fully in this program.

Parent/Guardian Name:	Date:	
Parent/Guardian Signature:		
Participant Name:		
Participant Signature:	Date:	

#### **OPERA FOR YOUTH**

#### WHAT IS OPERA FOR YOUTH?

Opera for Youth is an initiative of the Youth Opera of El Paso to foster a long-lasting enthusiasm for opera amongst our community's youth by providing hands-on, high-quality performance and educational opportunities. We focus on works written for young performers to present to audiences of all ages. We connect our students to the nation's top working professionals in the fields of music and stage craft, to create college-level, pre-professional experiences through live performances of operas written with them in mind!

Our weekly classes teach the "how-tos" of being an opera!

- · Vocal music: solo, and ensemble singing
- Score preparation
- Acting and movement for the stage
- Light choreography
- Technical elements of stagecraft

#### OUR 2024-2025 MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION:

#### SEARCHING THE PAINTED SKY by Martha Hill Duncan and Janet Windeler Ryan

Directed by Adam Zarowski, Music Direction by Kimberley Wolfenbarger-Nakamoto and Dr. Esequiel Meza, Jr. PLAZA PHILANTHROPY THEATRE, Feb. 28-March 2, 2025

SEARCHING THE PAINTED SKY is the story of two sisters: Leda (an older teenager) and Lulu (the little sister) who have lost their mother to illness and are now living in poverty with their father. Although their laid-back dad loves his kids, he struggles to parent his two daughters. After a run-in with an exotic fortune teller, Leda's life takes a fantastical turn, complete with funny characters, as she makes a heartwarming discovery.

SEARCHING THE PAINTED SKY was written for and premiered by Youth Opera of El Paso at the National Opera Association Convention in New York City, followed by the Canadian premiere in Toronto at the Aki Studio Theatre. Now, we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of El Paso's original opera by bringing it to our hometown audiences!

#### STUDENT CONTRACT

Youth Opera of El Paso strives to provide each student with a fun, creative, memorable and safe experience. Each student has a responsibility to act in a way that assures a positive atmosphere for all. Please read the following information carefully, and turn in your completed form at your audition.

#### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- This production is double cast. When a student is not performing their leading role, they are expected to support the other cast as a member of the chorus/ensemble.
- Students agree to be responsible for their words and actions, and be respectful of others.
- Students agree to follow directions from instructors, and staff members.
- Keeping your hands to yourself is always a good policy!
- Students are expected to help keep all rehearsal and performance spaces clean.
- Please leave all non-essential electronic devices at home, i.e. iPods, iPads, handheld computer games, MP3 players, headphones. Cellphones are allowed, but may only be accessed during breaks, or emergencies. YOEP is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items.
- Please come to rehearsals in clothing you can move in, and is suitable for all ages. Appropriate footwear is a must. Opentoed shoes pose a safety risk, and are not allowed. Students are encouraged to dress in layers. Our rehearsal space gets chilly!
- Please bring your materials to each rehearsal: a pencil, and 3-ring binder with your score and paper for notes.
- All students are encouraged to bring snacks, and water to each rehearsal. We will have breaks, but do not have access to a water fountain.
- Students are expected to provide their own costume base. These are foundational pieces that cannot be shared with others, are typically a regular part of a person's everyday wardrobe, and protect privacy during costume changes.
- All production materials provided by YOEP must be returned by the student, in good condition, upon completion of the
  production. Costume pieces and props provided by YOEP remain the property of the organization.
- Students agree to the attendance policies listed on the Conflict Sheet.

#### PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- Any behavior that might endanger the health and safety of themselves, other students, or staff
- Theft of, or damage to property belonging to others
- Disruption of classes, rehearsals, or performances: i.e. excessive talking, lack of participation, etc
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Using profanity or inappropriate language, or displaying clothing/personal items with offensive content
- Bullying, acts of aggression, or violence
- Possession or use of controlled or illegal substances, tobacco, or alcohol
- Possession of weapons- any object that may cause harm to another, or cause someone to fear for their personal safety

#### **CORRECTIVE GUIDELINES**

- YOEP directors, or staff will guide the student to an appropriate behavior.
- If prohibited behavior persists, staff will discuss the problem with a parent/guardian.
- If the problem escalates to a second phone call, directors reserve the right to dismiss the student from the session, and request a conference to determine the student's ability to continue with the production.
- If a student's behavior threatens their safety, or the safety of others, the student will be removed from the session, and the parent/guardian will be notified and expected to pick up the student immediately.
- Failure to comply with Student Expectations, or displaying Prohibited Conduct may result in removal from Opera for Youth, without a refund.

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

YOEP, its producers, and staff reserve the right to photograph, and record any/all students and instructors during rehearsals, and performances for use in promoting the Opera for Youth program and final production, on all known social media, radio, television, and print platforms. The student, and/or their representative(s), grant permission for YOEP to use any/all still and moving pictures; writings; music; and all other images and sounds for the express purpose of promoting the work of the organization, and its students. YOEP warrants that any such materials will only be used for this express purpose.

#### **TUITION**

Monthly tuition for Opera for Youth 2024-2025 SEARCHING THE PAINTED SKY: \$125.00 Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, Sept 2024-Feb 2025.

Acceptable forms of payment include check or credit/debit card.

(All credit/debit card transactions include a 3.75% convenience fee, paid directly to the card service provider.)

#### ONLINE PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT: yoep915.square.site

Please contact David A. Nakamoto, Business Manager, at 915-309-5247 with any questions regarding student accounts.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

We offer a limited number of needs-based and merit-based scholarships. If you would like to be considered for either of these scholarships, please let us know on the **Parent/Student Acknowledgement and Signature Form.** 

- Students wishing to be considered for a merit-based scholarship should include a performer's resumé with the audition form. The quality of your audition, and your previous experience will be important.
- Students wishing to be considered for a needs-based scholarship should include a copy of their 2024-2025 CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) Meal Application from their school campus with the audition form. All information is kept confidential, and is never released to third-party entities.

#### Parent/Student Acknowledgement and Signature Form

#### Please fill out, sign, and bring this form with you to your audition.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules, and provisions set forth by the attached Student Contract, to include Media Release, required for participation in Opera for Youth.

Student's Signature:	Date:
If student is under 21, parent/	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Parent's Printed Name:	
Address:	
Parent(s) Email Address:	
Phone #:	
Emergency Contact 1 (Name/Phone #):	
Emergency Contact 2 (Name/Phone #):	
Primary Care Physician (Name/Phone #):	
Preferred Hospital:	
Please list any medical conditions, allergies,	and/or medications that staff needs to be aw
☐ I would like to be considered for a needs-I	pased scholarship. (attach performer's resumé)
<ul> <li>I would like to be considered for a merit-b</li> <li>Application)</li> </ul>	ased scholarship. (attach 2024-2025 CEP Meal