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**Opera for the Young to Receive National Endowment for the Arts Grant
Award is among 1,023 Made Nationally**

Madison, WI— Through its grant-making to thousands of nonprofits each year, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) promotes opportunities for people in communities across America to experience the arts and exercise their creativity. In the second major grant announcement of fiscal year 2015, the NEA will make a \$20,000 award to Opera for the Young (OFtY) to support a multistate school tour of *The Magic Flute* ("Die Zauberflöte") by W.A. Mozart (adapted by Jeffrey Sykes and Diane Garton Edie).

The *Magic Flute* is an enchanting introduction to the genius of Mozart. OFtY's space-age adaptation tells the story of the noble Prince Tamino, the heroic Princess Pamina, the birdman Papageno, the evil Queen of the Night, and her assistant, the Three-headed Lady. The *Magic Flute*'s beautiful melodies and comical characters delight youngsters, while thematic points concerning facing challenges and learning to forgive generate thoughtful discussion. Each performance provides a one-of-a kind interactive event where students perform as the Alien Council of Wisdom alongside our accomplished opera professionals.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "The NEA is committed to advancing learning, fueling creativity, and celebrating the arts in cities and towns across the United States. Funding these new projects like the one from Opera for the Young represents an investment in both local communities and our nation's creative vitality."

Opera for the Young's Managing Artistic Director Diane Garton Edie said, "Opera for the Young's adaptation of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is a cornerstone of our repertoire, and will be seen by over 75,000 Midwestern school children during our 2015-16 season. This production was created by Opera for the Young's Resident Artists, Musicians and Designers and will showcase opera's musical storytelling in a way that is accessible and appealing to young audiences and young choristers. This original, space-age adaptation of *The Magic Flute* will bring Mozart's classical opera alive for children through a compelling story, exciting music and interactive performances. We are honored that the National Endowment for the Arts has honored OFtY's *Magic Flute* with this prestigious award and we hope you will be able to join us at one of more than 180 performances next season."

The NEA will make 1,023 awards totaling \$74.3 million nationwide in this funding round. To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use

#NEASpring2015. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov

About Opera for the Young

Opera for the Young, Inc. is a leading provider of arts-in education services in the Midwest, as well as a pre-eminent producer of opera for children in the United States. Each year OFY brings opera to more than 75,000 children. Opera for the Young's award winning programming focuses on arts education (educating children about the value and beauty of the arts) and also arts-in-education (using the arts as a springboard to teach other core curriculum subjects).

Founded in 1970, Opera for the Young's mission is to: Ignite a love for the arts in every child. The organization's artistic vision, in support of that mission:

- Engage and educate children about opera with professional, affordable school-based performances;
- Involve students in all aspects - from design to performance;
- Provide professional opportunities for artists;
- Foster the creation of new operatic works expressly intended for young audiences;
- Broaden access to opera for the entire community.

Since its founding Opera for the Young has performed to more than 2.5 million children throughout the Midwest and it is the only opera company in the United States, funded by the National Endowment of the Arts that deals strictly with educational outreach and opera for children.