

The New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera Children's Chorus offers children who love to sing, the opportunity to perform in a professional setting and participate in each fully staged opera production each season. Under the supervision of Chorus Director, **Mara Waldmann**, the children, who come from public and private schools from the Bergen County and New Jersey area, are exposed to a rich and varied musical curriculum as well as an authentic theatre environment.

The children take part in mainstage Verismo Opera productions where they work with professional directors, singers, actors and musicians. The children's musical experience is further enhanced by activities such as trips to the Bergen PAC productions of theatre, opera and ballet which encourage them to be an interested and appreciative audience. As a result of all these experiences, they learn teamwork and discipline as well as respect for their own talents and those of their fellow performers. Many have gone on to further their drama and musical talents; all have deepened their appreciation of the performing arts.

Performance History

Since Verismo Opera was founded in 1989 a number of Bergen County resident children as well as a number of established children choruses from New York and New Jersey have taken part in many productions. From Bizet's Carmen to Puccini's Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Suor Angelica to Verdi's Aida. In addition to singing, Verismo Opera offers as well opportunities for young dancers to perform in all professional opera productions.

Registration

Auditions for the Verismo Opera Children's Chorus take place in January and September. Applicants should be between the ages of eight and sixteen. While no previous formal training is required, children should have a desire to sing, the ability to stay on pitch and a willingness to be part of a cooperative effort. Registration fees are modest and are used to cover the supplies and production costs for the musical productions. In addition to the registration fee, parents are asked to purchase two tickets to each performance in which their children participate. Weekly rehearsals are held in at the Bergen Family Center, 44 Armory Street, Englewood, NJ on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with additional staging rehearsals scheduled on Saturday' afternoon as the date of the performance nears.

For more information:

Call **Mary Ellen Rohon**
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