



For Immediate Release
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OPERA COLUMBUS TO HOLD COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR ARTIST-TRAINING RESIDENCY

(Columbus) – Opera Columbus, in partnership with Columbus City Schools, will host a district-wide competition for high-school age children (grades 9 – 12), to select two to five students to participate in a six-week residency, including a featured role in an Opera Columbus production in March of 2020.

The competition, which will be held at East High School on Thursday, October 24, 2019, is open to all performance-based artforms: vocal, instrumental, spoken word, rap, dance, acting, etc. The students selected will receive a cash prize and a high-quality music and arts training program for the duration of a six-week residency. Professional artists who are part of the artistic and production team for Opera Columbus' production of *The Journey: Civil Rights* will provide training for the students. The program will culminate in a featured role in Opera Columbus's presentation of *The Journey: Civil Rights*.

In addition, participating students will study the Civil Rights Movement through its history and art, in conjunction with the production of *The Journey: Civil Rights*.

"I created the *Opera Columbus Youth Performing Arts Competition* to partner with civic organizations and create inclusive programming that celebrates and represents the culture and voices of our diverse community, said Destiny Coleman, Director of Education and Artistic Administration for Opera Columbus. "Our goal is to form new and stronger relationships with local cultural and community organizations – including Columbus City Schools – that serve Columbus' diverse communities, to create programming that will integrate fresh perspectives and cultural traditions with opera."

Deadline for submitting applications to the *Opera Columbus Youth Performing Arts Competition* is Friday, Oct. 4. The competition will be held at East High School on Thursday, Oct. 24.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our high-schoolers who are interested in the performing arts to learn, create, and participate with artists and teachers at the highest professional standards," said Betty J. Hill, Supervisor of Unified Arts K-12 for Columbus City Schools. "These kids will immerse themselves in the production of a top-level opera presentation, learn a great deal about the civil rights movement in a language and format that they understand, and develop and build their performance skills and confidence."

Set for Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the Lincoln Theatre, *The Journey: Civil Rights* will highlight gospel, jazz, and works from the Civil Rights Movement. Opera Columbus' production will explore prominent figures in the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks; pivotal events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington; and issues such as segregation, integration, and more.

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About Opera Columbus

Under the vision of General and Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus is redefining the concept of regional opera with world-class, original productions that celebrate extraordinary young talent and artistic collaboration, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of art forms. Opera Columbus is currently engaged in a collaboration with the Artist Diploma for Opera Studies (ADOS) program at The Juilliard School which brings exceptional Juilliard ADOS artists to perform in Opera Columbus' mainstage productions. Opera Columbus' Opera Goes to School program reaches more than 13,000 students each year, and its community engagement programs serve the community each season with multiple productions infusing local artists. In addition, Opera Columbus' annual Cooper-Bing Competition draws top vocalists from around the world to Columbus to compete for a grand prize of \$10,000. Opera Columbus and Capital University have also announced a new One of a Kind partnership with the launch of the Opera Columbus Capital University Resident Artist Program. For more information, visit www.OperaColumbus.org.

Columbus City Schools – About

Columbus City Schools, established in 1845, is Ohio's largest school district, serving the needs of more than 51,000 students in 110 schools. The District is under the leadership of [Dr. Talisa Dixon](#), and a seven-member [Board of Education](#). The District's Mission is that Each student is highly-educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.