

## WNO YOUNG ASSOCIATES PROGRAM Teacher Recommendation Form

The **WNO Young Associates** program seeks to support students in the DC metro area who are interested in exploring vocal performance and other potential fields within opera by offering the opportunity to observe and interact with a world-class opera company throughout the process of putting together a professional production. This program is designed for students interested in pursuing opera (or related fields such as classical music, musical theater, etc.) in college or as a career. This program is well-suited to dedicated classical singers interested in vocal performance, but is also appropriate for vocalists of any genre who would benefit from exploring opera and to students who may be interested in other areas of opera.

**We are seeking a small cohort of students who would participate in the first official implementation of this program.** After successfully running a pilot version last spring, we are looking to expand our programming. We ask that you recommend students whom you feel would be dedicated to the program and who would benefit greatly from the components we are able to offer. This year's program will be particularly important in planning and executing future iterations of the WNO Young Associates program.

**WHO: Students of vocal music in Washington, DC and the surrounding metro area in grades 9-12.**

- Students of various levels in terms of ability and prior training are welcome to apply. This includes:
  - Students who are currently advanced singers
  - Students who show potential in the field if given additional learning opportunities
  - Students who may not have experience in opera but are genuinely interested in exploring the genre
- Students with a strong interest in non-singing careers in opera or other relevant fields will also be considered.

**WHAT:** Fall 2014 events will revolve around WNO's new production of *La bohème*. Events will include rehearsal observations and discussions/Q&As with WNO artistic staff.

Additional events may be added throughout the school year. These would include rehearsal observations of one or more of the other WNO 2014-2015 productions, as well as workshops and, for select participants, opportunities to sing for professional feedback.

**WHERE:** Events will take place at the WNO rehearsal studios in Takoma Park, MD, and at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

**WHEN:** Most events will occur during the rehearsal period for WNO's *La bohème* (October 2014), with the potential of additional events held throughout the season.

Events are held on Saturdays and occasional evenings.

**HOW:** Selection will be based on a brief written application and a teacher recommendation. Applications must be received by **October 6, 2014**.

**COST:**           **Application fee: \$6.00**  
                      **Program fee: \$40.00** (includes all events)

Additional opportunities to purchase tickets for WNO performances at a discounted rate may be available. *Need-based scholarships are available.*

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact Ashi Day at (202) 416-8846 or [akday@kennedy-center.org](mailto:akday@kennedy-center.org).

WNO Young Associates Fall 2014 Program:  
*La bohème*

**SCHEDULE**

The Fall 2014 WNO Young Associates program will focus on rehearsal observations of the company's new production of *La bohème*. Additionally, students will participate in discussions and Q&A sessions with WNO staff and creative team members. Additional events and workshops may be added throughout the year.

**Mandatory Events:**

Saturday, October 11, 1-5:30 p.m., WNO Rehearsal Studios

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., WNO Rehearsal Studios

Saturday, October 25, 5-10 p.m., The Kennedy Center

Wednesday, October 29, 7-10 p.m., The Kennedy Center

**Optional Events:**

Thursday, October 23, 6-7 p.m., Millennium Stage Opera Preview

Friday, November 7, 12-1 p.m., Opera Look-In

*All dates, times, and locations are subject to change.*

**WNO Young Associates Program  
 Teacher Recommendation**

*Please complete this recommendation form and submit it no later than **Monday, October 6**. Forms can be emailed to [akday@kennedy-center.org](mailto:akday@kennedy-center.org), faxed to (202) 416-4843, or mailed to: Education/WNO Young Associates, The Kennedy Center, P.O. Box 101510, Arlington, VA, 22210. The student may send your recommendation along with his or her application or you may submit it directly.*

**Student Information**

Name of Recommended Student:	Years Known:
Voice Part:	Grade Level:
How do you know this student?	

**Teacher Information**

Name:	
Preferred Phone Number:	Email Address:
Title/Occupation:	

**What is this student's background in music? In opera?**

**Why is this student a good candidate for the WNO Young Associates program?**

**What obstacles does this student face in terms of his or her future success?**

**What do you feel this student needs to work on most?**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation/expression/interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Diction         | <input type="checkbox"/> Breath support/breathing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musicianship (pitch, rhythm, etc.)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Professionalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Study and practice habits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____               |

Comments:

**How do you feel this student would benefit from this program?**

**Do you have confidence that this student will attend the program faithfully, comply with WNO policies, and behave with professionalism at WNO rehearsals?**

Yes       No       Unsure      If no or unsure, please explain:

We expect to have a mixture of experience levels in the program, with some students ready for more intensive opportunities, such as singing in a master class, and others benefitting more from observation at this point. **Do you feel this student is ready to participate in a master class with a WNO professional as a singer?**

- Yes, this student is ready to sing in front of others for professional feedback  
 No, this student would benefit most from observation at this time  
 Unsure

Comments:

**How strongly do you recommend this student?**

- Recommend with reservation       Recommend       Strongly recommend       Very strongly recommend

**Additional comments:**

Signature:

Date: