



Roger Weitz, General Director

Contact: Brad Watkins
Opera Omaha Communications Director
bwatkins@operaomaha.org
402-346-4398 x204



Erika Overturff, Artistic Director

Contact: Erika Overturff
Artistic Director, Ballet Nebraska
erika.overturff@balletnebraska.org
402-541-6946

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Omaha, NE • August 25, 2011

Ballet Nebraska and Opera Omaha Announce Auditions for New Collaboration.

Ballet Nebraska and Opera Omaha are pleased to announce a new collaboration. The Opera Omaha Children's Chorus will be featured in Ballet Nebraska's December production of "The Nutcracker".

Auditions will be held for Ballet Nebraska's Chorus in conjunction with Opera Omaha Children's Chorus on Sunday, September 18, 2011 between 2p & 5p at Motion 41 Dance, 2819 S. 125th Avenue, Suite 256 (near 125th & Center). These auditions are open to girls ages 12-16 and must be scheduled in advance.

Ballet Nebraska will present "The Nutcracker" on December 2, 2011 at the IWCC Arts Center and on December 4, 2011 at the Omaha Music Hall. Ballet Nebraska is looking for 12 young girls to sing as the "North Wind Chorus" during the Land of Snow scene in the production.

"Opera Omaha is excited to collaborate with Ballet Nebraska and give our Children's Chorus another performance opportunity", said J. Gawf, Opera Omaha Resident Music Director. "We have had a longstanding commitment to community partnerships as a key to our mission."

Opera Omaha is developing the Opera Omaha Children's Chorus with a series of auditions over the next year. J. Gawf, Opera Omaha's Resident Music Director, will help assemble the chorus for Ballet Nebraska.

Audition requirements:

Girls ages 12-16

One song (w/sheet music for the accompanist) to be performed with piano accompaniment. An accompanist will be provided.

Audition space is limited and scheduled on first come basis.

Must be available for all rehearsals/performances Nov. 21, 22 & Nov. 29 - Dec. 4.

Auditions must be requested through e-mail. E-mail Cammy Watkins, cwatkins@operaomaha.org, to schedule an audition.

Visit: http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/17824173_MCfQv9#1263133677_KGmH6z8 for a high resolution photo of “The Nutcracker”

About Opera Omaha

Opera Omaha, the only professional opera company in Nebraska, began in 1958 as the Omaha Civic Opera Society, a volunteer association, and with tremendous community support became fully professional by 1970. Opera Omaha produces a season of original mainstage productions, presented at the historic Orpheum Theater, and smaller productions and musical events throughout the community. Opera Omaha is internationally known for its productions of eight world premieres and four American premieres of classical masterpieces, and is highly regarded regionally for an extensive education and outreach program that annually reaches as many as 15,000 people from elementary school through adulthood.

About Ballet Nebraska

Ballet Nebraska is the state's professional dance company -- the only arts organization of its kind in the region. Performing at home and on tour, its mission is to enrich Nebraska and Iowa communities through programs of the highest quality: professional dance performances, educational programs, and community outreach. Ballet Nebraska's talented professional dancers hail from around the nation and abroad, making Omaha their home to share the excitement of dance with others. As expressive artists, powerful athletes, and skilled teachers, they play a key role in the cultural vitality of the region.

- #### -