



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

## A Busy Bee: Florentine Opera Company's Outreach to Local Students



**Florentine Opera Company's partnership with SHARP Literacy shares the art of opera with 16,000 students across Southeastern Wisconsin, through 90 performances of their new children's opera.**

The Florentine's world-premiere children's opera, *A Busy Bee*, brings to life the story of Bella the Honeybee, as she searches to find her purpose and role in the hive. This locally-produced new work was commissioned in conjunction with SHARP Literacy, and is based on their children's book "A Busy Bee: The Story of Bella the Honey Bee."

*A Busy Bee* seeks to nurture the audiences of tomorrow, bolster creative and academic skills, make learning science fun, and expand cultural horizons for the next generation.

Since opera is often written in a different language, Florentine Opera Company has written the lyrics with easy-to-understand English, and the music is tuneful and accessible. Every musical number provides a positive message or theme that students can discuss in language arts and civics classes, as well as fun scientific facts about bees.



"It is so important for kids to see and engage first hand in arts activities. It's one thing to learn about opera in a book or watch a YouTube video, but kids take away so much more when they engage as an audience member live," said a teacher from University School Milwaukee.

Every performance culminates with an interactive talk-back between the artists and students. At a growing number of schools, teachers have signed up for additional residency activities that engage their students directly into the opera's chorus. The Florentine education team visits the schools multiple times to teach the students about opera and music, and to sing the chorus and show any dances that go along with the performance. The student chorus then performs with the Florentine Opera singers.

It is because of donors like you that programs like *A Busy Bee* help students find their passions. *A Busy Bee* shares the magic of opera with children, and it could not be done without your help!

[Click here](#) for more information on Florentine Opera's educational programs.

**Thank you for extending the gift of arts education to schools all over Milwaukee!**

Milwaukee PBS Feature of *A Busy Bee*:  
*The Making of A Children's Opera*

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