

# Lyric Opera of Kansas City 2022-2023 Student Dress Rehearsals



**Not certain which opera to attend with your students?** The table below may be helpful in narrowing your choice. Synopses are available on the second page. Feel free to reach out to Neal Long, Director of Education and Community Engagement, at [nlong@kcopera.org](mailto:nlong@kcopera.org) for recommendations and more information.

	<i>Carmen</i>	<i>La traviata</i>	<i>The Shining</i>	<i>Sondheim on Sondheim</i>
<b>Date/Time</b>	9/22/22 at 6pm	11/3/22 at 6pm	3/9/23 at 6pm	5/4/23 at 6pm
<b>Length</b>	~3 hours	~3 hours	~2 hours	~2.5 hours
<b>Language</b>	French	Italian	English	English
<b>Composer</b>	Georges Bizet	Giuseppe Verdi	Paul Moravec	Stephen Sondheim et al.
<b>Librettist</b>	Ludovic Halévy and Henri Meilhac	Francesco Maria Piave	Mark Campbell	Stephen Sondheim et al.
<b>Source Material</b>	<i>Carmen</i> (novel) by Prosper Mérimée	<i>La Dame aux Camélias</i> (novel) by Alexandre Dumas fils	<i>The Shining</i> (novel) by Stephen King; the opera is not based on the film	Includes video interview footage of Stephen Sondheim
<b>Premiere Date</b>	1875	1853	2016	2010
<b>Musical Period</b>	Romantic	Romantic	21 <sup>st</sup> Century	20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Century
<b>Listening Sample</b>	<a href="#">"Habañera"</a>	<a href="#">"Brindisi"</a>	<a href="#">Trailer</a>	<a href="#">Highlights</a>
<b>Cultural Connections</b>	<i>Up, Carmen: A Hip Hopera</i> (Beyoncé), <i>The Muppets</i> , <i>Sesame Street</i>	<i>Pretty Woman</i> , <i>Moulin Rouge!</i>	<i>The Shining</i> (Stanley Kubrick film), <i>The Shining</i> (Stephen King novel)	Includes 24 songs from 18 shows showcasing Sondheim's career over a period of more than 60 years
<b>Curricular Connections</b>	<b>History, Government, and Social Studies</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> century European history, Roma culture, geography, women's issues), <b>English Language Arts</b> (literature), <b>World Languages</b> (French), <b>Fine Arts</b> (dance, music, theater, visual art), <b>Religion</b>	<b>History, Government, and Social Studies</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> century European history, Parisian culture, geography, women's issues), <b>English Language Arts</b> (literature), <b>World Languages</b> (Italian), <b>Fine Arts</b> (dance, music, theater, visual art), <b>Science &amp; Health Education</b> (infectious diseases)	<b>Science &amp; Health Education</b> (addiction, mental illness, generational trauma), <b>English Language Arts</b> (literature, creative writing), <b>Fine Arts</b> (music, theater, visual art, film, composition)	<b>History, Government, and Social Studies</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> century American history, significant cultural figure), <b>Fine Arts</b> (dance, music, theater, visual art, film, composition)

## ***Carmen***

In one of the most popular operas of all time, Bizet's free-spirited femme fatale, Carmen, is the kind of woman your mother warned you about. We meet Carmen as the soon-to-be-smitten soldier, Don José, is arresting her. So powerful and potent is Carmen's beauty and passion that he impulsively leaves behind a career in uniform and follows her into a new life among her people: smugglers and fortune-tellers. But their budding romance ends as abruptly as it started when Carmen takes up with a bullfighter named Escamillo. Fueled by jealousy and obsession, Don José tracks her down and confronts her at a bullfight, where we'll find out if she has one last trick up her sleeve.

## ***La traviata***

Violetta is a far-famed courtesan whose skills in seduction and savoir-faire attract admirers from the cream of the aristocratic crop. From this host of hedonistic heathenry emerges a youthful hopeless romantic, Alfredo. Soon swayed by his professions of love, Violetta forsakes her Parisian life of luxury and settles countryside with the love of her life. But Alfredo's father, filled with preconceived notions about her scandalous past, pressures Violetta into leaving her one true love. With Verdi's goosebump-inducing melodies serenading the star-crossed couple, a betrayed and broken-hearted Alfredo learns that Violetta has become bedridden with tuberculosis. He goes to her, and once in each other's arms, love is rekindled, and redemption is swift. But is this happy reunion the first step toward a second chance or their last chance to say goodbye?

## ***The Shining***

Deep in the shadows of the Colorado Rockies and miles from where anyone can hear you scream; the Overlook Hotel awaits. For its new caretakers, the Torrance family, the only thing more unnerving than their profound seclusion and solitude is the realization that they are not the hotel's only guests.

While the young son with a sixth sense endures this house of horrors, his father faces demons - past and present, real and remembered - that ultimately turn him into a monster. What started as a desperate search for financial (and marital) sanctuary now spirals and sinks into a terrifying struggle for sanity and survival. With music as haunting as the story is horrifying, only through opera does *The Shining* discover more frightening and fulfilling depths than ever before.

## ***Sondheim on Sondheim***

Hailed as a "revelatory revue full of wonderful moments" and a "funny, affectionate and revealing tribute to musical theater's greatest composer and lyricist," *Sondheim on Sondheim* is an intimate portrait of the famed songwriter through his beloved songs and words. With exclusive interviews interspersed among favorite songs, audiences get an inside look at the renowned composer's personal life and artistic process. This production is a tribute to Stephen Sondheim who passed away in 2021.