

Pulling Out All the Stops

STUDENT MUSICIANS AND SINGERS TAKE CENTER STAGE AS CAPA'S RISING STARS



CAPA NAPLES PHILHARMONIC
YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

From the first solo to the last standing ovation, Southwest Florida's most gifted young talent has their chance to shine in CAPA's Rising Stars series.

"Providing performance opportunities for our community's young musicians and vocalists is an important part of this mission," said Steve Kutler, CAPA board member and Rising Stars Series coordinator. "It is vitally important to nourish, honor and showcase the talents of these growing young stars."

The Rising Stars Series kicks off at the Wang Opera Center on March 23 as Opera Naples Youth takes center stage in "From Operettas to Pop" — a fast-paced, high-energy evening of kaleidoscopic performances. These talented members of the Opera Naples Student Apprentice Program will present classical songs, folk songs, arias, operettas and musical theater for an evening that is sure to entertain and delight.

The Opera Naples Student Apprentice Program provides local students, ages 7 to 21, with training and public performance opportunities in main stage operas, where they hone their skills with private vocal coaching, chorus training and group master classes, without worrying about the cost. They also participate in the Opera Naples Summer Youth Program, a two-week intensive training program that culminates in the performance of an operetta for its public.

"I am incredibly grateful to CAPA for including the Opera Naples Youth in its Rising Stars concert series," says Opera Naples Director of Educational Outreach Robin Shuford Frank. "The students truly look forward to this particular concert. Many have had their first public solo at a CAPA concert."

Shuford Frank continued, "I recall one girl who was so shy that I could hardly hear her sing when she was right in front of me. She sang her first solo at a CAPA concert and more in the following

years. Now she is a voice major on scholarship at Indiana University. While training is important, it is performing that promotes confidence, pride and motivation to continue working on the discipline. The CAPA organization, its leaders, and its patrons have consistently been amazingly supportive of these talented young people."

The second concert in the Rising Stars Series takes place on April 28 with the Naples Philharmonic Youth Chorus in "Happy Music from Talented and Trained Young Voices" — a vibrant range of choral music from classical to pop. Youth Chorus Director James Cochran tells how the Youth Chorus was born.

"When Eric Kunzel was first appointed as principal pops conductor of the Naples Philharmonic, he asked, 'Where is the youth choir?' Of course, we immediately went to work to establish one!" Cochran said.

The Youth Chorus was formed in 2001 and, today, Cochran directs the 100-voice-strong Naples Philharmonic Youth Chorus

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COURTESY OF OPERA NAPLES

that includes elementary, middle and high school students. These young singers perform alongside the Naples Philharmonic at Artis-Naples' Hayes Hall and at selected community events.

The curtain will rise on May 2 for the third and final Rising Stars concert of the season when the Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra presents "Fresh Sounds of Jazz." At this performance, the audience will hear a traditional big band with four trumpets, four trombones, five saxophones, clarinet, piano, guitar, two upright basses and two drums.

Each year, students from Lee and Collier counties audition to be accepted into this three-year-old jazz education program that is comprised of top high school-age musicians. Students focus on learning the repertoire and arrangements of the great jazz masters and their big bands. They also study music theory and jazz improvisation.

Program leader, Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra member and trumpet player Dan Miller, has toured the world performing with many of the greats in music, including Harry Connick Jr., Maynard Ferguson, Tom Jones, the Woody Herman Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis Big Band and others.

"I am happy to be working with such a wonderful group of highly talented and motivated young student musicians, Miller said. "They have an incredible passion and desire to play jazz music and study improvisation..."

OPERA NAPLES YOUTH SINGERS L-R: ELIZABETH FEINS, ALEXANDRA TAYLOR, VICTORIA WOODCOCK, RYDELL SCHNEIDER AND FRANCESCA MARTIN WITH PIANIST ROBIN FRANK



It is through the infusion of new, young jazz musicians that America's only true original art form can carry on. These young people swing with authority and you will be astonished by their musical maturity." ❁

Paula Robertson, of Paula Robertson & Associates marketing and public relations, has an extensive background in the arts and has written for publications throughout the country.

IF YOU GO ...

All three CAPA Rising Stars Concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Wang Opera Center, 2408 Linwood Avenue, Naples. Series tickets for the three concerts are \$120 for adults, \$30 for students/children and \$150 VIP, which includes preferred seating and a meet-the-artists after-party. For tickets, visit CAPAcenter.org or call (239) 775-2800.

MARCH 23: From "Operettas to Pop" with Opera Naples Youth

APRIL 28: "Happy Music from Talented and Trained Young Voices" with the Naples Philharmonic Youth Chorus

MAY 2: "Fresh Sounds of Jazz" with the Naples Philharmonic Youth Jazz Orchestra



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