

YOUTH OPERA OF EL PASO



Greetings from the YOEP Opera Academy Team!

We are so thrilled that you've found us! The Youth Opera of El Paso is dedicated to providing young singers in our community with hands-on experience in opera, and its related genres, such as **musical theatre**. Our mission is to inspire and educate young singers, nurturing a lifelong passion for the performing arts!

For our 2026-2027 season, we will present DEAR EDWINA, JR. for our young performers in grades K-6th at the Plaza Philanthropy Theatre, and we want you to be a part of it!

The audition window is from Aug. 1-15, 2026. Please visit our website at yoep.org/Auditions to register and download your Audition Packet.

Everything you need to submit your audition is included in the Audition Packet:

1. Audition Instructions- including audition tips, songs (tracks and sheet music), and monologues
2. Audition Form- *Please fill this out and return it with your audition video.*
3. Synopsis of the show
4. Character Breakdown
5. Full Rehearsal Schedule
6. Call List by Song
7. Attendance Policy & Conflict Sheet- *Please fill this out and return it with your audition video.*
8. Opera Academy Parent/Student Contract- *Please fill this out and return it with your audition video.*

Your audition video and required forms are due by Sat, Aug. 15 at 10:00am using WhatsApp: 915-449-4069. Our production team will review all submissions, and cast the show by Sat, Aug. 22, 2026 at 12:00pm. You will be notified of the results via email, so watch those inboxes! There will be a parents' meeting the next day, Sun, Aug. 23, 2026 at 2:00pm, followed by rehearsal from 3:00-5:00pm.

First time auditioning for a show, or just need some extra guidance through the process? We've got you covered! Call our **AUDITION HELP LINE** at 915-449-4069, Mon-Fri 9:00am-8:00pm, or email us at youthoperaofelpaso@gmail.com. We will be happy to help you!

Sincerely,

David A. Nakamoto
Youth Opera of El Paso, Executive Director

Kimberley D. Wolfenbarger-Nakamoto
Youth Opera of El Paso, Artistic Director

Robyn Pelking-Chavez
Opera Academy Co-Director and Production Manager

Adam W. Zarowski
Opera Academy Stage Director

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

- Register for your audition and download your Audition Packet at yoep.org/Auditions.
- Fill out the **Audition Form** completely.
- Read through the **Synopsis** and **Character Breakdown** to explore which characters you want to audition for.
- Read through the **Rehearsal Schedule** (referencing the **Call List by Song** sheet) and the **Attendance Policy & Conflict Sheet**. Students and parents should discuss the time commitment together to ensure understanding and agreement with YOEP Opera Academy expectations. Attendance will be a major factor in casting decisions.
- Use the Guide Vocals in the Google Drive link below to select and practice your song. *In addition to great vocal preparation, remember to tell us the story!*
- Select one of the monologues listed below to practice. Memorization is not required but is highly encouraged.
- Once you're ready, record a video of yourself performing your song and monologue. Please use the Accompaniment Track to record your song. *Please DO NOT record yourself performing with the Guide Vocal track!*

Your video should contain the following, in order:

1. Slate- State your full name, grade, song title, and monologue title that you are performing.
2. Song Selection using the Accompaniment Track.
3. Monologue

IMPORTANT: All three items should be on one video. Please, no editing software.

- Finally, read through the **Opera Academy Parent/Student Contract** carefully. This is required for participation in Opera Academy's 2026-2027 presentation of DEAR EDWINA JR.
- Want to be considered for a needs-based scholarship? Fill out the scholarship application on our website, and turn it in with your audition!
- **Send your video, completed Audition Form, signed Attendance Policy & Conflict Sheet, and signed Opera Academy Parent/Student Contract to 915-449-4069 via WhatsApp by Sat, Aug. 15, 2026 at 10:00am.**

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR AUDITION

Setup and Equipment

- **Plan to use two devices to record your audition:** You'll need one to play your track, and one to record. We highly recommend recruiting a family member or friend to help!
- **Shoot horizontally:** Always record in landscape mode on your phone or camera.
- **Use a tripod** (if you have one): Keep the camera completely stable and set the lens at eye level.
- **Plain background** (if you have one): Stand a few feet away from a neutral, solid-colored wall to avoid distracting shadows. If you do not have a plain background for recording, please do not worry. This will not cause your audition to receive less consideration.
- **Front lighting:** Use soft, bright light that hits the front of your face; avoid harsh overhead lights or being backlit. (Example- Avoid recording your audition in front of a window.)

Sound and Music

- **Track placement:** Set your speaker playing the accompaniment track off-camera (about 4 to 6 feet away) so it does not overpower your voice.
- **Test audio levels:** Do a test recording to make sure your voice is crisp, clear, and easily distinguished from the accompaniment.

Slate and Performance

- **Remember to "slate" at the beginning of your audition recording:** State your name, grade, your song and monologue title clearly.
- **Act out the song:** Connect with the lyrics, and TELL THE STORY from the very first note!
- **SING OUT:** We are cheering for you! Have fun in your performance, so we can have fun with you!
- **Monologues need energy!** Speak clearly, project, and enunciate those consonants!
- **Editing:** For the sake of fairness, please do not use any editing software. We want to see the raw footage.

HELP LINE: Reach out to us at 915-449-4069, Mon-Fri from 9am-8pm with any questions!

1. THE SONG SELECTIONS

Please choose one of the following song selections to prepare for your audition. There are 5 songs from the show to choose from, and they are each about a minute in length.

PRO TIP: Listen to all of the songs, and try humming/vocalizing along with the tracks before choosing which song to use for the audition. The song that sounds best in your ear may not be the song that fits your voice the best! We want to hear your voice at its strongest, so choose accordingly!

Guide Vocals, Accompaniment Tracks, and Sheet Music are here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K-oMuVOG58wpKsFNqcB3uZrYK4JX-m7a?usp=sharing>

#1 Paw Paw, Michigan

#2 Abigail

#3 Frankenguest

#4 Ziggy Intro/Ziggy – Sing through the Ziggy and Band parts as though it's one, continuous solo.

#5 Sing Your Own Song

THE MONOLOGUES

Please choose one of the following monologues below to prepare for your audition.

PRO TIP: DEAR EDWINA JR is high energy show! GIVE IT YOUR ALL, and remember that there is no such thing as “too much!”

EDWINA #1

Welcome to the DEAR EDWINA advice-giving show, written by, me, Edwina Spoonapple! Musical direction is, of course, provided by my sister, Myra Spoonapple! (And you all will recognize my brother, Joe Spoonapple, who is sitting in with us today on percussion!) And for refreshment, don't forget to visit Kelli's lemonade stand at intermission. And I have just been informed that as a special offer, anyone from Kalamazoo, our great sister city to the West, gets a free refill on his or her Kool-Aid of choice!

EDWINA #2

Hello, Everybody! Places for showtime! Am I talking to a wall here? I said PLACES! Kelli....can you please stay in line with everyone else? Lars, back in line! Kelli, watch Becky's head! And what are you staring at?

BOBBY

Hi! I'm Bobby your new next-door neighbor. We just moved here from St. Louis...(looks around bewildered). I just came to drop off the brownies from my mom. I heard there's a kid my age who lives here?

SCOTT

As a courtesy to the performers, we ask that no flash photography be used. And now, here's that advice giver extraordinaire....able to solve problems of all shapes, sizes and subjects, and undisputed queen of my heart....Here she comes now, our own beautiful, wonderful, DEAR EDWINA!



AUDITION FORM

Full Name: _____ Age & Grade: _____

Email Address: _____ Gender: _____

Vocal Range: _____ Height: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Phone Number(s): _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Email Address(s): _____

Song Selection/Monologue you are performing: _____

Role(s) you are auditioning for: _____

Would you consider another role other than the one listed above? YES NO

Would you consider playing a role of ANY gender? YES NO

Would you accept an ensemble/chorus role if not selected for your desired role? YES NO

Are you willing to serve as an understudy if not selected for your desired role? YES NO

Performance/Theatrical Experience: (Please list production, role, organization, and approximate date. If you need additional space please use the back of this form)

MUSIC & DANCE TRAINING

Vocal Ability: _____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced

Do you take private lessons? _____ YES _____ NO

Dance Style: _____ Ballet _____ Tap _____ Jazz _____ Contemporary _____ Modern _____ Ballroom

(skill level): _____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced

Dear Edwina JR.

synopsis

In beautiful Paw Paw, Michigan, the neighborhood **KIDS** are on their way to **EDWINA SPOONAPPLE'S** house for the *Dear Edwina* Show, a weekly episode where folk from around town send letters to Edwina in hopes of getting her advice on various issues (*Paw Paw, Michigan*).

KELLI informs the kids that a **TALENT SCOUT** from the Kalamazoo Advice-A- Palooza Festival (the biggest advice-giving convention ever!) will see the show; their act might have a chance to fill in an abandoned slot. Alas, right before show time, **LARS** injures his ankle and cannot perform. Just then, **BOBBY**, the new next- door neighbor, arrives with brownies from his mom. Edwina introduces her sister **MYRA** and her brother **JOE**, then drafts Bobby to perform. Bobby, however, is immobilized by stage fright.

Edwina tells Bobby about the wonderful accomplishments of her three siblings, and how much the Festival means to her (*Up On The Fridge*). Bobby decides to join the show and Edwina gives him a big hug, making **SCOTT**, her announcer, jealous.

Edwina pushes a wheelbarrow full of letters onstage to begin the show (*Dear Edwina*) and chooses the first letter (*Here Comes A Letter!*), listing topics that may come up during the performance. She opens a letter (*Aphrodite*), written by **APHRODITE SWENSON**, who is concerned that her brother is a picky eater. Edwina enlists the rock group **SUSIE AND THE NAPKINS** to help with the problem (*Say No Thank You*).

BECKY performs a cheer with the Paw Paw Wildcat **CHEERLEADERS**, and Edwina moves on to the next letter (*Another Letter!*). Scott tries to give Edwina a letter but she chooses a different one (*Abigail*). With the help of her scary uncle **VLADIMIR** from Transylvania, Edwina gives **ABIGAIL** her advice (*Frankenguest*).

Kelli pirouettes across the stage to choose the next letter from **CARRIE** (*Carrie*), who cannot properly set a dining Music Theatre International

The kids take a break by the lemonade stand (*Time For Intermission*). Scott again encourages Edwina to read his letter, to no avail. As the kids look for the Talent Scout, they realize that she's asleep!

The second half of the show begins (*Here Come More Letters*). The letter is from **PERIWINKLE**, who is sad because she is very shy and her family is moving away (*Periwinkle*). Edwina suggests that just saying hello can make anyone feel welcome in a new place (*Hola, Lola*). Becky and the cheerleaders try to wake the sleeping Talent Scout with another cheer.

Again, Scott tries to give Edwina his special letter, but she chooses a different one (Ziggy). **ZIGGY** and a steel drum **BAND** had raised lots of money to go to a parade in Jamaica, but unfortunately spent all of it on Game Boys, so Edwina explains the benefits of saving money (*Put It In the Piggy*). The show wraps up as Bobby thanks his adoring public (*Thanks For Coming - Part 1*), but Scott insists on reading his own special letter about a boy who is in love with a girl who doesn't notice him (*Edwina*). Edwina is impressed (*Thanks For Coming - Part 2*) until the Talent Scout calls she wants Scott to perform the National Anthem at the Kalamazoo Advice-A-Palooza Festival.

Edwina is crushed, despite parting words of support from her exiting cast members (*Up On The Fridge Breakdown*). She is suddenly interrupted by her little sister **KATIE**, who has run away from the Summer Math Olympics. Edwina tells Katie to be proud no matter what other people say, and Katie tells Edwina to take her own advice (*Sing Your Own Song/Up On The Fridge - Reprise*). Billy's Grandma still has room on her video camera, so the kids perform one last number (*Hola, Lola Encore*).



Character Breakdown

Edwina Spoonapple

The creator, director and choreographer of The Dear Edwina Show and is the main-staple of the play. Her character goes through a tremendous arc throughout the series of events in the play; from frustration to relief, anger to joy, horror to happiness & all within one afternoon in her own garage!

Becky

Edwina's enthusiastic friend and the top of the cheerleading pyramid for the Paw Paw Wildcats. Cheerleading consumes her life and creating new cheers for everyday occasions brings her great joy. This girl even cheers her anger!

Scott

A neighbor boy who is helplessly in love with Edwina. He dotes on her every move and is always conniving a way to gain her attention.

Kelli

Edwina's neighbor and Paw Paw, Michigan's resident ballerina who runs the neighborhood lemonade stand.

Bobby

Edwina's new next-door neighbor. He is a friendly and compassionate character who goes out of his way to help others.

Lars Vanderploont

One of the Vanderploont triplets and a neighborhood friend of Edwina. He is incredibly accident-prone and twists his ankle in the first scene. Lars has many prat falls before he actually twists his ankle.

Billy Vanderploont

One of the Vanderploont triplets and a neighborhood friend of Edwina. He works double duty on The Dear Edwina Show by performing onstage and serving as Box Office Manager.

Cordell Vanderploont

One of the Vanderploont triplets and a neighborhood friend of Edwina. He works double duty in The Dear Edwina Show by performing onstage and serving as House Manager.

Annie

Edwina's friend and the Girl Scout of Paw Paw. Annie works for and collects her Girl Scout badges like they were buried treasure. No matter what problem may arise, she is prepared with the know-how and resources to solve it in a flash - A MacGyver for the new generation! She is perky, energetic and helpful & maybe even too helpful.

Aphrodite

One of the 'letter readers' on The Dear Edwina Show.

Carrie

One of the 'letter readers' on The Dear Edwina Show.

Abigail

One of the 'letter readers' on The Dear Edwina Show.

Periwinkle

One of the 'letter readers' on The Dear Edwina Show.

Ziggy & The Marching Band

One of the 'letter readers' on The Dear Edwina Show.

Vladimir(a)

Edwina's scary uncle (or aunt) from afar. Impeccable diction is a must for this character as Vladimir's lines are written with a Transylvanian "Dracula" accent in mind.

Frank(ie)

A rude, self-centered, bratty, offensive, disrespectful, socially inept child and the subject of Vladimir's song, Frankenguest.

Chef Ludmilla

Part of a team to instruct the rest of the company on how to set a table in "Fork, Knife, Spoon." She is very formal!

William and Sonoma

Both characters are part of a team to instruct the rest of the company on how to set a table in "Fork, Knife, Spoon."

Fairy Forkmother

Part of a team to instruct the rest of the company on how to set a table in "Fork, Knife, Spoon."

Susie & The Napkins

Susie and The Napkins are a local band who have just come from a Battle of the Bands concert at the Paw Paw Community Center to sing "Say No Thank You."

Johnny and Queen Of Boola Boola

Johnny and The Queen act out the story in the lyrics of "Say No Thank You."

Lola

New to America, Lola expresses her shyness in the song, "Hola, Lola."

Harry

Lola's cousin and the reason she flies from Lima, Peru, to Honolulu. He is a fun, happy-go-lucky character who just wants to make sure his favorite cousin is having a good time.

Mary Sue Betty Bob

A country girl with a can-do attitude and a twang! She teaches us how to save money in "Put it in the Piggy."

Farmer Jerry, Girls and Pigs

Mary Sue Betty Bob's country backup singers for "Put it in the Piggy."

Katie Spoonapple

Edwina's little sister and a math wiz. Although she arrives at the end of the play, she has the very important role of influencing Edwina's thoughts and feelings. It is Katie that brings about the climax of the play, showing Edwina the "best advice of all."

Ann Van Buren

The Kalamazoo Advice-A-Palooza talent scout. She is represented only by a brief voice-over that may be recorded beforehand. When it comes to casting this voice, think very L.A., "sweetie darling."

Myra and Joe/Jo Spoonapple

Edwina's siblings



Rehearsal Schedule

MUSIC REHEARSALS

Western Hills United Methodist Church, Music Room, 524 Thunderbird Drive (79912)

Please bring your score in a three-ring binder, a pencil, water bottle, sweater, and snack to each rehearsal.

Each cast member is permitted 2 absences, in addition to the holidays listed below.

- Please make every effort to save your absences for illnesses, and emergencies.
- The music team only has 14 rehearsals to teach, and perfect 30 songs. ***Every rehearsal counts!***
- Rehearsals marked in pink will be special sessions with our stage director, Adam Zarowski. Absences are not permitted on these days.
- Cast members are responsible for checking the Call List by Song page to determine when they are called to music rehearsals.
- Cast members with larger roles may be asked to come early, or stay late to work on solos, and other challenging sections in the score (duet harmonies, etc).
- Parents, guardians, and cast members with phones should download the Band app, and enable notifications to receive updated information.
- *If you have extenuating circumstances, please list them on your conflict sheet, and speak with the directors privately, as soon as possible.*

Sun, 8-23-26	2:00-3:00pm	Mandatory Parents' Meeting
	3:00-5:00pm	Songs: 1-5
Sun, 8-30-26	3:00-5:00pm	Songs: 6-9, 17, 23 & 25

Sun, 9-6-26	OFF- LABOR DAY WEEKEND	
Sun, 9-13-26	3:00-5:00pm	Review Songs: 1-9, 17, 23 & 25
Sun, 9-20-26	3:00-5:00pm	Songs: 10-13

Sun, 9-27-26 3:00-5:00pm Special session with Adam- no absences.

Sun, 10-4-26 3:00-5:00pm Songs: 14-15, Becky's Cheers

Sun, 10-11-26 OFF- FALL BREAK

Sun, 10-18-26 3:00-5:00pm Songs: 18-19, Becky's Cheers

Sun, 10-25-26 3:00-5:00pm Special session with Adam/HEADSHOTS. No absences.

Sun, 11-1-26 3:00-5:00pm Songs: 20-22

Sun, 11-8-26 3:00-5:00pm Songs: 24, 26-29

Sun, 11-15-26 3:00-5:00pm Review Songs: 14-29, Becky's Cheers

Sun, 11-22-26 3:00-5:00pm Special session with Adam. No absences.

Sun, 11-29-26 OFF- THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Sun, 12-6-26 3:00-5:00pm FULL CAST Clean Songs: 1-14, Becky's Cheers

Sat, 12-12-26 4:00-6:00pm Kendra Scott Fundraiser Event- 6801 N. Mesa, Space A7, 79912

Sun, 12-13-26 3:00-5:00pm FULL CAST Clean Songs: 15-29

Sun, 12-20-26 3:00-5:00pm Special session with Adam. No absences.

Sun, 12-27-26 OFF- WINTER BREAK

Sun, 1-3-27	3:00-5:00pm	FULL CAST	Review Songs: 1-14, Becky's Cheers
Sun, 1-10-27	3:00-5:00pm	FULL CAST	Review Songs: 15-29
Sun, 1-17-27	3:00-5:00pm	FULL CAST	SING FULL SCORE- ALL SONGS OFF BOOK
Sun, 1- 24-27	OFF- Recital Day for The Studio		

STAGING REHEARSALS

Western Hills United Methodist Church, STEWART FAMILY LIFE CENTER, 524 Thunderbird Drive (79912)
Please bring your script, a pencil, water bottle, sweater, and snack to each rehearsal.

Each cast member is permitted 1 absence.

Sun, 1-31-27	1:00-4:30pm	Staging Kick-Off, Costume Fitting #1, Add Props EVERYONE MUST BE OFF BOOK (SCRIPT & SCORE)
Mon, 2-1-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Tues, 2-2-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Wed, 2-3-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Thurs, 2-4-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Mon, 2-8-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Tues, 2-9-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Wed, 2-10-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Thurs, 2-11-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast
Mon, 2-15-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast, Run Show, Costume Fitting #2
Tues, 2-16-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast, Run Show
Wed, 2-17-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast, Run Show
Thurs, 2-18-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast, Run Show
Fri, 2-19-27	5:00-7:00pm	Full Cast, Run Show in Costume

TECH WEEK - PLAZA PHILANTHROPY THEATRE, 125 W Mills Avenue

Please bring your script, a pencil, water bottle, sweater, and snack to each rehearsal.

NO ABSENCES PERMITTED

Sat, 2-20-27	OFF- MOVE IN DAY FOR PRODUCTION TEAM ONLY	
Sun, 2-21-27	12:00-4:00pm	Cue to Cue- Lights, Set mic levels
Mon, 2-22-27	4:30-8:30pm	Run show with full tech
Tues, 2-23-27	OFF- TECH FOR "INTO THE WOODS" CAST ONLY	
Wed, 2-24-27	4:30-7:30pm	Dress Rehearsal
Thurs, 2-25-27	4:30-7:30pm	Invitational Dress Rehearsal

PERFORMANCES

NO ABSENCES PERMITTED

Fri, 2-26-27	5:00pm 7:00pm	Full Company Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements SHOW #1
Sat, 2-27-27	5:00pm 7:00pm	Full Company Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements SHOW #2
Sun, 2-28-27	1:00pm 3:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm	Full Company Call/Warm-Ups/Announcements SHOW #3 Audience Meet & Greet Strike



Call List by Song

Song numbers are listed by the number they are assigned in the official score, NOT by the track numbers on the Guide Vocal recordings.

1. Paw Paw, Michigan	FULL CAST
2. Bobby's Entrance	orchestra with dialogue
3. Up On the Fridge	Edwina, Bobby
4. Fanfare	orchestra only
5. Dear Edwina	FULL CAST
6. Here Comes a Letter!	FULL CAST
7. Aphrodite	Aphrodite
8. Say No Thank You	Susie, Napkins, Johnny, Queen
9. Another Letter!	FULL CAST
10. Abigail	Abigail
11. Vladimir's Entrance	orchestra only
12. Frankenguest	Vladimir, Frank, Becky, Scott, Frank's Ma, FULL CAST
13. Poshkonozovich Dance	Kelli, orchestra
14. Carrie	Carrie
15. Fork, Knife, Spoon	Edwina, Chef Ludmilla, Fairy Forkmother, William, Sonoma, FULL CAST
16. Time For Intermission	We will not perform this song.
17. Here Come More Letters	FULL CAST
18. Periwinkle	Periwinkle
19. Hola, Lola	Edwina, Harry, Lola, FULL CAST
20. Ziggy's Intro	Ziggy, Kelli
21. Ziggy	Ziggy, Kelli, FULL CAST
22. Put It In the Piggy	Mary Sue Betty Bob, Farmer Jerry, FULL CAST
23. Thanks For Coming (Part 1)	FULL CAST
24. Edwina	Scott, Edwina, Billy, Cordell
25. Thanks For Coming (Part 2)	FULL CAST
26. Up On the Fridge Breakdown	Edwina, Katie
27. Sing Your Own Song/ Up On the Fridge (Reprise)	Edwina, Katie, Scott, Becky, FULL CAST
28. Bows	orchestra only
29. Hola, Lola- Encore	FULL CAST

BECKY'S CHEERS APPEAR AS TRACK 9 IN THE GUIDE VOCALS



Dear
✉ **edwina**
JR.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & CONFLICT SHEET

Please read through the attached attendance policy below. Signatures of parent(s)/guardian(s) and students acknowledging the schedule and policies are required for participation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The performing arts are highly collaborative activities, and attendance of all participants is vital to the success of any production. When one person is absent, the whole group is affected. With each production, YOEP strives to create a preprofessional performance experience, where each student has the opportunity to achieve artistic excellence. This requires individual, as well as team commitment. The expectation is that this production will be a high priority for each student, as well as the student's parents/guardians. *If you have extenuating circumstances, please speak with the directors privately, as soon as possible.*

1. **All absences (including tardies and early departures) must be disclosed on the student's Conflict Sheet. Conflict Sheets are due at the time of audition.** Conflicts that arise after a student has accepted a role may not be accommodated, and may be grounds for dismissal.
2. Please reserve last-minute absences for dire family emergencies only. Every cast member is a vital part of the team, no matter how big or small the role. If you are well, and have not put an absence on your Conflict Sheet that has been approved by the directors, we expect you at rehearsal.
3. Unacceptable absences include, but are not limited to: parties or social gatherings, roles with other productions/teams, activities scheduled after this form has been submitted, and trips. *Reasonable accommodation has already been made in the schedule for Labor Day, Fall Break, Thanksgiving, and winter holidays.*
4. **Music Rehearsals: Only TWO absences are permitted. This includes illnesses.**
NO ABSENCES PERMITTED DURING SPECIAL SESSIONS WITH ADAM ZAROWSKI
5. **Staging Rehearsals: Only One absences is permitted. This includes illnesses.**
6. Tech Week and Performances: **ABSENCES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

CONFLICT SHEET

Please list all conflicts with rehearsal schedule provided: (Be as exhaustive as possible, attach sheets if necessary.)

We agree to uphold and follow the expectations outlined above. Signing signifies that the student has the complete and informed permission of a parent or guardian to participate fully in this program.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____



YOUTH OPERA OF EL PASO OPERA ACADEMY PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

WHAT IS OPERA ACADEMY?

Opera Academy is an initiative of the Youth Opera of El Paso to foster a long-lasting enthusiasm for opera and musical theatre amongst our community's youth by providing hands-on, high-quality performance and educational opportunities. We focus on works written for young performers to present to audiences of all ages. We connect our students to the nation's top working professionals in the fields of music and stage craft, to create college-level, pre-professional experiences through live performances written with them in mind!

Our weekly classes teach the "how-tos" of being an opera or a musical!

- Vocal music: solo, and ensemble singing
- Score preparation
- Acting and movement for the stage
- Light choreography
- Technical elements of stagecraft

Youth Opera of El Paso strives to provide each student with a fun, creative, memorable and safe experience. Each student and parent has a responsibility to act in a way that assures a positive atmosphere for all. Please read the following information carefully, and turn in your completed form with your audition.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students agree to abide by the **Kindness and Respect Policy** stated below.
- Students agree to be responsible for their words and actions, and be respectful of others.
- Students agree to follow directions from directors, and staff members.
- Students are expected to arrive on time to each rehearsal, and performance call, and to fully participate in cast warm-ups.
- Students are expected to keep their hands to themselves.
- Students are expected to help keep all rehearsal and performance spaces clean.
- Please leave all non-essential electronic devices at home, i.e. iPods, iPads, handheld computer games, MP3 players, headphones. Cellphones are allowed, but may only be accessed during breaks, or emergencies. YOEP is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items.
- Please come to rehearsals in clothing you can move in, and is suitable for all ages. Appropriate footwear is a must. Open-toed shoes pose a safety risk, and are not allowed. Students are encouraged to dress in layers.
- Please bring your materials to each rehearsal: a pencil, and 3-ring binder with your score and paper for notes.
- All students are encouraged to bring snacks, and water to each rehearsal. We will have breaks, but do not have access to a water fountain.
- Gum is not allowed in any rehearsal or performance space.
- Students are expected to provide their own costume base. These are foundational pieces that cannot be shared with others, are typically a regular part of a person's everyday wardrobe, and protect privacy during costume changes.
- All production materials provided by YOEP must be returned by the student, in good condition, upon completion of the production. Costume pieces and props provided by YOEP remain the property of the organization.
- All students are required to assist with striking the show at the end of production. Students must help take down set pieces, clean dressing rooms, and help clear the venue of show related equipment.
- Students are expected to practice outside of rehearsals, and to be off book by the designated date.
- **Students must agree to the attendance policies listed on the Conflict Sheet.**

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- Any behavior that violates the **Kindness and Respect Policy**
- Any behavior that might endanger the health and safety of themselves, other students, or staff
- Theft of, or damage to property belonging to others
- Disruption of classes, rehearsals, or performances: i.e. excessive talking, lack of participation, etc

- Inappropriate physical contact
- Using profanity or inappropriate language, or displaying clothing/personal items with offensive content
- Bullying, acts of aggression or violence, or threats of aggression or violence
- Possession or use of controlled or illegal substances, tobacco, or alcohol
- Possession of weapons- any object that may cause harm to another, or cause someone to fear for their personal safety

CORRECTIVE GUIDELINES

- YOEP directors, or staff will guide the student to an appropriate behavior.
- If prohibited behavior persists, staff will discuss the problem with a parent/guardian.
- If the problem escalates to a second phone call, directors reserve the right to dismiss the student from the session, and request a conference to determine the student's ability to continue with the production.
- If a student's behavior threatens their safety, or the safety of others, the student will be removed from the session, and the parent/guardian will be notified and expected to pick up the student immediately.
- Failure to comply with Student Expectations, or displaying Prohibited Conduct may result in removal from Opera Academy, without a refund.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

Parents are expected to support and uphold YOEP's mission, values, policies, and procedures as outlined in the Opera Academy Parent/Student Contract. Parents play an essential role in modeling respect for community standards and organizational guidelines, and must adhere to the same behavioral guidelines as students. Even when they disagree with a decision or outcome, parents are expected to respect YOEP's policies, disciplinary procedures, and the decisions made by its staff.

Parents agree to abide by the Kindness and Respect Policy.

By signing the Opera Academy Parent/Student Contract, parents agree to cooperate with and support YOEP's educational mission and to abide by its policies, standards, rules, procedures, and guidelines. Parents also acknowledge that YOEP reserves the right to dismiss a student at any time during the rehearsal or performance process, and to deny future enrollment, if the conduct of the student or parent is determined to be inconsistent with YOEP's mission, core values, policies, or expectations, or if it disrupts the organization's educational environment or operations.

If a student is dismissed from the program, for any reason, the parent remains responsible for any outstanding tuition balance. Tuition already paid is non-refundable.

STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

It is crucial that students arrive on time for rehearsals. Students who arrive late miss important information, announcements, as well as required warm-up time. Warming up as a group is important to vocal health, and is essential for building a high performing ensemble. When your child joins a cast, they join a TEAM. Every member of the team needs to be present for the time designated.

When rehearsing or performing at any location, each student must remain with a YOEP staff member until they are directly and physically released to their parent or guardian. Under no circumstances will a student be released or left unattended while waiting for a late pick-up. If a parent or guardian is delayed, the student will remain under the supervision of YOEP staff, including transportation to another location, if necessary, until a safe, direct hand-off can be made. Parents are expected to remain in contact with YOEP staff to provide updates on estimated time of arrival, and to receive information should it become necessary to move a student to another location for safety reasons.

Parents need to be advised that late pick-ups impact YOEP in the following ways:

- Increased rental fees due to property owners for security, as well as occupying the rental area past the contracted time.
- Increased pay for YOEP staff members obligated to wait with students to ensure safety, which falls outside of the approved organizational budget.
- Prohibiting staff members from meeting other obligations or attending appointments in a timely fashion that are outside of their contracted time with Opera Academy.
- Some YOEP staff members serve the organization as VOLUNTEERS. Imposing on a volunteer's time and generosity beyond the published student release time is unacceptable.

Parents are expected to make every effort to avoid late pick-ups. A late charge of \$25.00 plus \$1.00 per minute will apply to student accounts for picked ups that occur 10 minutes or more after the designated pick-up time.

KINDESS AND RESPECT POLICY

The Youth Opera of El Paso is committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all students and their families. All types of teasing, harassment, and bullying are objectionable and will not be accepted. *We will treat each other with respect.*

Unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

- Hurting someone physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, or pushing
- Stealing or damaging another person's belongings
- Ganging-up on someone
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way
- Using "put-downs", such as insulting someone's race, gender, appearance, etc
- Spreading rumors or untruths about someone
- Excluding someone on purpose
- Recording a video or taking someone's picture without their permission
- Using social media to do any of the above on school grounds or while attending school trips or events
- Inappropriate displays of affection

Students, Parents, and YOEP Staff will do the following:

- Treat each other respectfully.
- Refuse to "put down" others.
- Refuse to let others be "put down."
- Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being "put down."
- Endeavor to include everyone, especially those who have been left out.
- Report unkind behavior to a director promptly.

Any parent communication to YOEP staff should be done in a private, respectful manner and with consideration of our Kindness and Respect Policy.

TUITION

Monthly tuition for Opera Academy 2026-2027 **DEAR EDWINA, JR:** \$82.50 for August 2026 (prorated), then \$165.00 for September 2026 – February 2027

Tuition is due on the 1st of each month, September 2026-February 2027. The pro-rated August tuition is due on Sun, Aug. 23, 2026. Acceptable forms of payment include check or credit/debit card.

(All credit/debit card transactions include a 3.75% convenience fee, paid directly to the card service provider.)

ONLINE PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT: yoep915.square.site

Please contact David A. Nakamoto, Business Manager, at 915-309-5247 with any questions regarding student accounts.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer a limited number of need-based scholarships. If you would like to be considered for one of these scholarships, please let us know on the **Parent/Student Contract**. Students wishing to be considered for a need-based scholarship should include a copy of the YOEP Scholarship Application form on our website (yoep.org) with their audition packet. All information is kept confidential, and is never released to third-party entities.

MEDIA RELEASE

I hereby grant the YOEP permission to use my child's likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media ("photo") in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration. I understand and agree that all photos will become the property of YOEP and will not be returned.

I hereby irrevocably authorize YOEP to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my child's likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.

I hereby hold harmless, release, and forever discharge the YOEP, its officers and teachers, collectively or individually and/or any of its collaborating entities and/or venues from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.



DEAR EDWINA, JR

Parent/Student Contract

In consideration of the opportunity afforded to **(Student's name)** _____,

to participate in the YOUTH OPERA OF EL PASO's (YOEP) Opera Academy performance projects, and in light of the aims and purposes of the YOEP to provide educational and enriching experiences to young people, I (we), on behalf of my (our) child and myself (ourselves), waive any right or cause of action arising as a result of my (our) child's participation in said activities from which any liability may or could accrue against, YOEP, its officers and teachers, collectively or individually and/or any of its collaborating entities and/or venues. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I (we), on behalf of my (our) child and myself (ourselves), agree that this waiver shall include any rights or causes of action resulting from personal injury to my (our) child or damage to my (our) child's property sustained in connection with my (our) child's activities, to include events during transportation, with YOEP.

I (WE) also hereby authorize any teacher or director associated with YOEP to render first aid to my/our child(ren) in the event of an emergency and/or to call emergency medical services in the event of serious injury. I (WE) understand that the teacher/director at the scene will make every attempt to contact me (us) by telephone in the event of an emergency. In addition, I (we) **DO DO NOT (Please select one)** authorize any teacher/director of or associated with YOUTH OPERA OF EL PASO to administer Children's Tylenol to my (our) child at the child's request, in accordance with label instructions.

I(We) understand that by providing my(our) signature(s) below, I(we) am(are) consenting to allow my(our) child(ren) to participate in rehearsals, instruction and related activities with THE YOUTH OPERA OF EL PASO in accordance with the attached OPERA ACADEMY Policies and above statement.

Performer's Name: _____

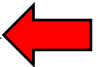
Performer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If performer is under 25, parent/legal guardian must sign below.)



Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____



Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Email Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone #: _____

Emergency Contact 1 (Name/Phone #): _____

Emergency Contact 2 (Name/Phone #): _____

Primary Care Physician (Name/Phone #): _____

Preferred Hospital: _____

Please list any medical conditions, allergies, and/or medications that staff needs to be aware of:

☐ I would like to be considered for a need-based scholarship.

(Please download the Scholarship Application form on our website (yoep.org), and submit it with your Audition materials.)