**The Crane Opera Ensemble**

The award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble is a significant source for opera and music theatre in the North Country region of New York State. The ensemble is unique as it integrates the College mission of teaching, scholarship and public service, into its performances each year. Participation is through a competitive audition open to any major. One fully staged production is presented each semester in the Sara M. Snell Music Theatre. A variety of styles are presented in rotation to offer students the most diverse experiences. Operas are sung in the original language when appropriate, and our new supertitle system allows audiences to more fully enjoy the performances.

![2009 production of Albert Herring](image)

**Opera Scenes Workshop**

In addition to the main stage production, additional scenes are selected for study and performed informally at the end of the semester. This provides opportunities for students to gain experience that might lead to future main stage performance opportunities or to explore repertoire that would not be typically produced in a main stage production.

**Education Outreach**

The Crane Opera Ensemble is proud of its opera education outreach program which brings North Country school children to campus to experience opera performances and post-performance activities. Cast members, music business interns and students in the Teaching Opera to Children class create study guides and engage school children in activities that will help enrich their operatic experience. In turn, Crane students receive valuable experiences beyond the stage and production venues. To date, over 4,000 children have had the opportunity to experience opera, most for the first time.

**Musical Theatre Collaborations**

The Crane Opera Ensemble regularly collaborates in a variety of ways with the SUNY Potsdam Department of Theatre & Dance. A musical is produced jointly between the departments every three years and has included such productions as *On the Town*, *Cabaret*, *Working*, and *Ragtime*. Crane students are encouraged to participate in theatre and dance offerings each semester that include acting, directing, modern dance, ballet, production techniques, costume design and construction, 10-minute play festival, student choreographer’s concert and main stage plays.

**Affiliations**

The Crane Opera Ensemble is a member of the National Opera Association and OPERA America organizations. The ensemble was the winner of the 2015 and 2003 (Division 3), and co-winner of
the 2009 (Division 2) NOA Collegiate Production Competitions. The spring 2010 production of L’Enfant et les Sortilèges was awarded first place in the American Prize in Operatic Performance competition.

**Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize**

In 2014, Crane presented scenes from three contemporary operas as part of the first ever Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize, with all six composers and librettists in residence. Also on campus were guest panelists and speakers from around the country. The next Pellicciotti Opera will be a world premiere, in 2018, of a new work commissioned from noted composer Tom Cipullo. Cipullo was chosen after four finalist composed 20 minute excerpts from their proposed opera projects; Crane students and faculty had the opportunity to present those excerpts in fall 2016 for a panel of judges and the entire Crane community. Again, the composers, librettists, and judges were in residence at Crane for several days of panels and presentations.

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**Opera Faculty**

- François Germain, Vocal Coach
- Kirk Severtson, Music Director, Conductor of Opera Orchestra and Vocal Coach
- David Ward, Director of Opera

**Voice Faculty**

- Margaret Chalker
- Donald George
- Suzanne Kantorski
- Deborah Massell
- Kathleen Miller
- Jill Pearon
- Coleen Skull
- Jonathan Stinson
- Lorraine Yaros Sullivan
- Lonel Woods

**Recent Productions**

Die Fledermaus; Albert Herring; L’Enfant et les Sortilèges; Gianni Schicchi; Egisto; The Highwayman; Orpheus in the Underworld; The Sailor-boy & the Falcon (world premiere); La Bohème; Threepenny Opera; Dido & Aeneas; Così fan tutti; The Magic Flute; Assassins; The Secret Garden; Into the Woods; L'Incoronazione di Poppea; and The Secret Marriage.

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**www.craneoperaensemble.com**

You can find more information about Opera and Music Theatre by visiting our website.