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.

Recent productions include *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.*

**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 and other students involved with the opera 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.

**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.

Musical Theatre

The Crane Opera Ensemble periodically produces a musical theatre production in lieu of an opera. These are produced in collaboration with the SUNY Potsdam Department of Theatre & Dance. Recent musical theatre shows have included On the Town, Cabaret, Working, and Ragtime. Crane students may also participate in theatre and dance course offerings each semester.

In 2018 SUNY Potsdam approved a Musical Theatre Minor. To elect the minor, students must be music, dance, or theatre majors, and must pass an audition in the areas outside of their major. Most of the coursework in the minor is in the two areas outside of your major. For example, music majors who are selected for the Musical Theatre minor take a number of courses in dance and theatre. All minors regardless of their major, take the Directing Musical Theatre course as well as a capstone musical theatre production.

SUNY Potsdam is also the home to the Musical Theatre Organization (MTO), a campus student organization. Typically, the MTO puts on a different musical each semester.

SUNY Potsdam is also the home to the Musical Theatre Organization (MTO), a campus student organization. Typically, the MTO puts on a different musical each semester.

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.

Opera Faculty

- François Germain, Vocal Coach
- Kirk Severtson, Music Director, Conductor of Opera Orchestra and Vocal Coach
- Dean Anthony, Director of Opera

Voice Faculty

- Margaret Chalker, Soprano
- Donald George, Tenor
- Nicholas Kilkenny, Bass-Baritone
- Deborah Massell, Soprano
- Kathleen Miller, Soprano
- Jill Pearson, Soprano
- Colleen Skull, Soprano
- Lorraine Yaros Sullivan, Mezzo-Soprano
- Lonel Woods, Tenor

www.craneoperaensemble.com