Green Eggs and Ham
A Children’s Opera

Educator Guide
Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education

About the Program

Have you ever seen the ever-popular and timely story of Green Eggs and Ham acted out live? Now you can! The wonderful world of Dr. Seuss is brought to musical life through this interactive performance, which includes beautiful singing, zany acting, and crazy props. Soprano Lara Troyer and her friends perform the one-act opera Green Eggs and Ham by composer Robert Kapilow. The program includes a 10-minute warm-up with the students where they will explore the Expressive Voice through games and activities, discuss different aspects of opera, and learn a couple of Italian words thrown in for good measure. Students leave the program singing in their own "opera voices!"

Content Standards

English Language Arts

With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.

Music

Form and express opinions about music they hear in formal and informal live and recorded performances.

Recognize the use of music for various purposes by performers and listeners in a variety of cultures.

Describe how music communicates feelings, moods, images and meaning.

Objectives

1. Perform different vocal inflections, facial expressions and gestures to demonstrate different emotions.

2. Experience a children’s opera performed by three professional musicians.

3. Evaluate what they saw and heard with comments and questions following the performance.
Teachers can discuss briefly what opera is, and ask the children if they have ever seen a live opera. Introduce children to opera music and the sound of an operatic singing voice, so that they will have a context in which to understand when they see the live performance.

Teachers can also read the book by Dr. Seuss, Green Eggs and Ham to the children to remind them about the story and discuss the moral of the story.

Listen to operas with children’s choruses so that they can hear children’s voices in opera.

Discuss professional musicians and if they know any and if they want to be a professional musician when they are adults.

They can also listen to other children’s operas, or think about writing/composing their own opera. What would the story be? What kind of music would they want?

**Vocabulary**

**Soprano:** A high-voiced female singer

**Opera:** A performance in which actors sing all or most of the words of a play with music performed by an orchestra

**Libretto:** The text of the opera

**Composer:** The person who writes the music

**About Lara Troyer**

Described as singing with an engaging, robust tone (clevelandclassical.com), Lara Troyer is a versatile soprano, at home on the opera stage as well as concert and recital stage. Most recently she performed the Ohio premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Nightingale Opera. This season has also included solo engagements with Heights Chamber Orchestra and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. Lara Troyer has toured with the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra as their soprano soloist throughout the Midwest and Southeastern United States. She also spent four years as an Associate Artist with Cleveland Opera. She performs regularly under the auspices of the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and Children’s Concert Society. She has performed the children's opera, Green Eggs and Ham hundreds of times throughout the Midwest.

**Resources**

*Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss

Hansel and Gretel Learning about Opera  

The Official Dr. Seuss Website  
[www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)

Video of the music from *Green Eggs and Ham*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiJT9z- BeU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiJT9z- BeU)

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

*Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.*