

**2017 Music that Tells a Story**  
**Opera Experience for All**

**Fact Sheet**

Program Name Purpose	<i>Music that Tells a Story</i> This is a free two-part program presented by the Princeton Festival and its Guild to share a love for opera, particularly with young people and those new to opera, though it welcomes all who are interested.
Part I – Workshop: Where and When	Two-hour Workshop (You must pick one location when you register). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawrence Branch of Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike (Bus. Rte 1 &amp; Darrah Ln), Lawrenceville Wednesday, June 7: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm</li> <li>• Turning Point United Methodist Church, 15 S. Broad St., Trenton Saturday, June 10: 10 am to Noon,</li> <li>• Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon St., Princeton Wednesday, June 14: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm</li> </ul>
Part II – Live Opera performance and backstage tour: Where and When	[ <i>Limited to the workshop attendees</i> ] Beethoven’s opera <i>Fidelio</i> (2 hours 40 minutes with one intermission), with optional Backstage Tour. Place: Matthews Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton Dates & Time: Friday, June 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backstage tour with the Stage Manager (5:30 pm) (Optional)</li> <li>• Supper at 6:15 in West Lobby</li> <li>• The final dress rehearsal of <i>Fidelio</i> (7:00 pm – 9:45 pm)</li> </ul>
Leader	Rochelle Ellis, Doctor of Musical Arts, Voice
Program Contents	Part I – The workshop is an enjoyable and interactive orientation to opera in general and this season’s Princeton Festival production of Beethoven’s opera, <i>Fidelio</i> . Dr. Ellis, a professional singer and renowned teacher, leads the workshop, bringing in local young singers to illustrate her presentation. The workshop will include a brief overview of Beethoven’s vocal music, both solo and choral, and his main contributions to vocal literature, and demonstrate some characteristics of his music. Part II – The participants will attend the final dress rehearsal of the Princeton Festival production of <i>Fidelio</i> , conducted by Maestro Richard Tang Yuk and directed by Steven LaCosse. A backstage tour is offered before the performance to give attendees an insider's view of the production (optional)
Attendee Ages	Intergenerational – middle schoolers and up
Projected attendees	50-60/Lawrence; 50-60/Trenton; 50-60/Princeton
Cost to attendees	The entire program is free of charge
Requirements	Registration is required. Registrants must provide contact information. Registration may close when the workshops are full. Please register early.
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We particularly encourage young people (middle schoolers and up) and those who are new to opera to participate with family and friends.</li> <li>• Refreshments will be served at the workshop</li> <li>• Box meals (for those who filled out an order ticket at the workshop) will be provided before the opera performance at McCarter.</li> </ul>

## 2017 *Music that Tells a Story*

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is *Music that Tells a Story*?

- *Music that Tells a Story* is an “opera workshop.” It is one of the Princeton Festival’s Education and Community Engagement initiatives. It is presented by the Princeton Festival and its Guild, and is funded by Janssen Pharmaceuticals and other donors
- The “opera workshop” is a two-part program consisting of a two-hour interactive learning session on opera, and a live opera experience at McCarter Theatre at the final dress rehearsal of the season’s featured opera. The 2017 season will present *Fidelio* by Beethoven, produced by the Princeton Festival, conducted by Maestro Richard Tang Yuk and directed by Steven LaCosse. Their Princeton Festival productions have received nationwide accolades over past twelve seasons. The attendees will experience professional opera from the best seats in the house. The live theatre experience will also include backstage tour guided by the stage director.

#### What is opera like?

- Opera is a spectacular performing art in which a story is told through acting and singing, accompanied by a full orchestra, fully staged as a theatrical drama. It has something for everyone: theater goers, lovers of solo and choral singing, and concert goers as well.

#### What is *Fidelio*?

- *Fidelio* is the story of a brave young woman named Leonore who attempts to free her husband, Florestan, from prison, where he is being held by an evil tyrant. She disguises herself as a man and calls herself “Fidelio” to get a job at the prison, where her plan is complicated when the jailer’s daughter falls in love with the handsome Fidelio. It is a drama involving disguise, unwelcome love, intrigues, despair, and the triumph of justice and true love. *Fidelio*, the only opera Beethoven wrote, is filled with beautiful and moving music. To learn about this dramatic “rescue” opera, visit the Princeton Festival’s website <http://princetonfestival.org/event/2017-opera/>; also see NPR’s introduction to the opera: <http://www.npr.org/2011/01/07/132712125/strife-and-salvation-beethovens-fidelio>.

#### Who leads the workshop?

- Dr. Rochelle Ellis, a seasoned and personable singer and voice teacher, leads the program in a relaxed atmosphere. Her warm personality and professional expertise ensure an enjoyable and inspiring experience for the participants, as proven in the past two seasons. She teaches voice at Rider University and Princeton University. She holds a doctoral degree in voice from Mason Gross School at Rutgers University.

### Who is this program for?

- We particularly encourage young people (middle schoolers and up) and others who are new to or unfamiliar with opera to take part. We also welcome all others who are interested in and curious about this art form. The program is intended to share the joy of this spectacular stage art with people from nearby communities.

### I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, not yet in middle school, but interested in participating. May I attend?

- If you are especially interested in music and are comfortable with extended theatrical presentations, do get in touch with us. Email [education@princetonfestival.org](mailto:education@princetonfestival.org) about your interest in the program. We may ask your adult family member or friend to also register to accompany you.

### Does it cost anything to attend?

- No. *Music that Tells a Story* is totally free of charge to those who register to attend.
- Box meals for the evening of the performance are provided to participants who fill out the meal order tickets at the workshop. You are welcome to brownbag if you have food allergies or special preferences.

### What do I need to do to participate?

- **Pre-registration is required.** You **must** fill out a registration form and submit it. You can choose one of three ways to do this:
  1. Register online by visiting <http://princetonfestival.org/event/2017-opera-workshop/> and follow the link to register, or
  2. Ask for a registration form by emailing your request to [education@princetonfestival.org](mailto:education@princetonfestival.org) – you will receive a form attached to email which you can fill out and send back via email, or
  3. Ask for a paper registration form from our partner organizations (where you heard about our program) and hand in the filled-out form as instructed.

***Registration may close when the workshops are full. Please register early.***

### When and where is *Music that Tells a Story* offered?

- Part I: The two hour interactive learning session is offered in three locations. At the time of registration you **must** choose one of the following.
  1. The Lawrence Branch of Mercer County Library  
**Wednesday evening June 7, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
  2. Turning Point United Methodist Church, Trenton  
**Saturday morning June 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - noon**
  3. The Princeton Public Library  
**Wednesday evening June 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm -8:30 pm**

- Part II: Backstage tour and live performance at Mathews Theatre in the McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton.  
Friday June 16, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Backstage tour  
7:00 pm – 9:45 pm (run time: 2 hours 40 minutes with one intermission)
- ***These programs start promptly at the designated times. Please make sure to check in to receive materials at least 10 minutes before the start. The Check-in Desk will be open 30 minutes before the program starting time.***

Can I attend just the performance at McCarter without attending a workshop session?

- No. You must attend one of the workshops. Attendees receive their admission tickets to the performance at the end of the workshop. You must present your ticket to be admitted to the theatre. If you have a particular hardship that makes it difficult to meet this requirement, please contact us, or speak with the contact people at our partner organizations.
- Before you leave the workshop, please make sure you receive your theatre admission tickets for the final dress rehearsal performance of *Fidelio* at McCarter Theatre, Princeton.

Is there public transportation available?

- Bus stops are conveniently located near the workshop locations. Check bus schedules to find a bus route near your home.
- To McCarter Theatre: There are regular shuttle trains from NJ Transit's Princeton Junction station to Princeton station. The theatre is walking distance (10 minutes) from the Princeton train station. Limited shuttle bus service is available from the Princeton train station to the theatre.

If you take a bus to Princeton on, you could walk to McCarter Theatre which is on University Avenue off Nassau Street or off Alexander Road.

My English is limited. Should I sign up anyway?

- Absolutely yes. Even if your language abilities are limited, our Teaching Artist's talk is illustrated with visuals and live singing that will greatly increase your enjoyment of opera. Appreciating music does not require fluency in English. For the theatre performance, reading a summary of the opera before the performance will help you understand what you will see and hear on the stage. The words of the songs in the opera will be projected above the stage in English as they are sung to help you follow the action.