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Christopher Fecteau, *Artistic Director*  
PO Box 4526  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

## 2008 SUMMER READINGS PROJECT

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 DELL'ARTE OPERA ENSEMBLE Summer Readings Project. Applications must be received by February 11, 2008. Electronic application submissions will *not* be accepted. In rare circumstances, a taped or private audition will be accepted. All applicants **MUST** audition to be considered. Once you have read the program description and requirements for participation, you may e-mail to inquire about exceptions to the live audition rule. Please direct your inquiry to: [dellarteopera@aol.com](mailto:dellarteopera@aol.com) with subject line "audition exception request".

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Singers should submit the following in ONE envelope:

- 1) current 1-page resume
- 2) headshot (optional)
- 3) completed application
- 4) non-refundable application fee (\$15, check or money order only please\*)  
\*Made out to dell'Arte Opera Ensemble

### AUDITIONS

We will make an effort to hear *ALL applicants* in the first round of auditions, February 22 – 24 in New York City (location TBA). A competent pianist with knowledge of the standard opera repertoire will be provided for all auditions. Singers are *highly encouraged* to use our pianists, but may bring their own. Walk-ins are highly discouraged.

Call-back auditions (for principal and significant supporting roles) will take place March 8 & 9. Singers to be heard for these callbacks will be notified via e-mail.

### THE PROGRAM

Through the Summer Readings Project, DELL'ARTE provides opportunities for emerging opera artists to put complete roles in the context of a full-cast reading. Emerging artists can expect to prepare their roles individually (preferably with the knowledge and guidance of their current voice teacher) and in *free* coachings with DELL'ARTE Artistic Director Christopher Fecteau. Small ensemble and recitative rehearsals will follow, combining talented and motivated cast members. Full cast work and a dress rehearsal with conductor and pianist precede the final concert-style presentation, a culmination of several weeks of work. The readings are attended by family and friends and other invited guests who provide a supportive audience for the singers' first chance at an important role in their repertoire. Dell'Arte endeavors to provide the singer with a tremendously important step in their journey with a new role, and the audience with an intimate look at the process behind opera. The readings are not about presenting a performance of the piece so much as they represent a step on the long journey of process with a new role – from study, to vocal work and coaching, to rehearsal, to actual production. Thus the Summer Readings Project focuses on process rather than on a final production, allowing singers to develop their roles in the supportive company of their peers. In respect of the process-oriented approach of these reading, Artist Managers and Agents are not to be invited to the final presentations.

Dell'Arte Opera Ensemble READINGS PROJECTS are offered *free of charge* to singers and the final presentations are *free and open to the public*.

## REPERTOIRE

Repertoire for the *five* readings to be presented by dell'Arte in the 2008 SUMMER READINGS PROJECT will be chosen from the following operas:

Il barbiere di Siviglia	A Midsummer Night's Dream
La Bohème	Roméo et Juliette
Carmen	La Traviata
Così fan tutte	Il Trovatore
Madama Butterfly	Die Zauberflöte

Repertoire for the readings is chosen very carefully each summer around the needs of singers who are most in need of principal level experience, and usually includes operas which also provide opportunities in supporting and comprimario roles. Covers (*no free coachings* provided) will be selected from singers who audition who *have already sung the role*.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Singers in the project range from those just out of conservatory or graduate school to Met roster artists preparing for upcoming professional engagements. For leading roles, a singer may have performed portions of the role before, but the full role *must* be a debut in that role. Since principals will receive 5 – 6 free coachings, they should expect to be in residence in the New York area for at least 4 weeks. Out of town singers are welcome and encouraged to apply and audition, but travel, housing and meals are *not* provided by DELL'ARTE.

## COST

All costs, including coaching, pianists, venue rental, musical direction and administration are now funded directly by DELL'ARTE. If you wish to make a contribution to these costs, we invite and encourage you to do so. With our recent approval to 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status, any contribution to the company is a charitable tax deduction for you or any other donor.

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

DELL'ARTE provides:

- Supportive, knowledgeable free individual coachings (number proportionate to size of role)
- Small group music rehearsals for recitatives and ensembles, plus rehearsals with full cast
- An experienced opera conductor, knowledgeable of the repertoire
- Talented, experienced pianists for all rehearsals and presentations
- An acoustically satisfying venue and supportive audiences
- Efficient scheduling and logistical support

The SINGER provides:

- Enthusiasm, hard work, commitment
- Thorough preparation of the assigned role, including advanced preparation for each coaching\*
- Collegial attitude

Singers are not required to be strictly "off book," but should be as close to memorized as possible by the time of the first rehearsal with conductor. On occasion, simple staging is added to help the singers and audience with a fuller experience of the opera.

***\*Singers who demonstrate lack of adequate preparation at any point in the process may be removed from the program at the discretion of the Artistic Director.***

## ENSEMBLE

In order to make the experience more enjoyable for the audience, and more realistic for the singers, we are including abbreviated versions of chorus to several of the readings. All singers participating in comprimario and supporting roles are *requested* to volunteer to participate (pending availability) in the ensemble for *one* reading other than their assigned role. While this is not a requirement, participation will be taken into account for casting in lead roles in future projects.



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 dellarteopera.org

## 2008 AUDITION APPLICATION

(Must be received by February 11, 2008)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice type: \_\_\_\_\_

### PREFERRED DATE:

Please rank your preferences for each DATE and TIME by ranking of 1-3

Friday February 22	11:00-2:00 2:30-5:30 6:00-8:00	___ ___ ___	Friday February 29	11:00-2:00 2:30-5:30 6:00-8:00	___ ___ ___
Saturday February 23	10:00-1:00 1:30-4:30 5:00-7:00	___ ___ ___	Saturday March 1	10:00-1:00 1:30-4:30 5:00-7:00	___ ___ ___
Sunday February 24	10:00-1:00 1:30-4:30 5:00-7:00	___ ___ ___	Sunday March 2	10:00-1:00 1:30-4:30 5:00-7:00	___ ___ ___

I would like to be considered for the following level of roles - - please circle all that apply:

Principal                      Comprimario                      Ensemble                      Cover

Current audition repertoire:

Please list 4-5 arias you regularly use for auditions. You will not be limited to these in the audition. Your actual audition repertoire should include at least one aria in Italian and one in a second language, which may be English.

(Please do not offer arias by Menotti)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Artistic Team and References:

Please list your current "team" of teachers, coaches, advisors, etc. (Please provide contact information for one or more)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFLICTS:

Please list any time commitments (work schedule, other singing obligations) during the summer of 2008:

DELL'ARTE OPERA ENSEMBLE'S primary mission is to nurture emerging artists in their pursuit of operatic careers. You must have completed an undergraduate degree (not necessarily in music) to participate in DELL'ARTE'S Summer Readings Project. While there is no upper age limit, DELL'ARTE participants tend to be 21-40 and are poised to launch, or have already begun, operatic careers.

SEND IN ONE ENVELOPE TO:                      DELL'ARTE OPERA ENSEMBLE, P.O. BOX 4526 , NEW YORK, NY 10163

\$15.00 APPLICATOIN FEE                       RESUME / HEADSHOT

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ATTACHED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_