

TIP SHEET

for Arizona Opera's
Cinderella

All-Access Opera Education

Arizona opera has joined with Nashville Opera to implement a revolutionary program, All-Access Opera Education, to make opera inclusive for ALL students—providing special evidence-based toolkits (designed in collaboration with the Treatment and Research Institute of Autism Spectrum Disorders at Vanderbilt University) to bolster accessibility for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other disabilities. This collaboration will create exciting new learning opportunities and audience experiences for students through opera, and is the first program of its kind in the country to be documented for replication in communities across the United States.

Supports

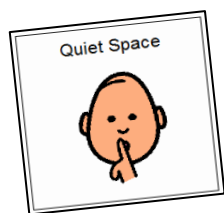
1. Social Story™

We have developed and provided multiple versions of a **Social Story™** for children to use prior to the opera. Social Stories™ describe a situation or experience in order to provide children with an idea of what to expect. Creating predictability can be reassuring for children entering a new situation and can allow children to respond to challenges in an adaptive way. We recommend reviewing this social story with your child or students prior to attending the opera. Social Stories™ are an evidence-based practice identified in the autism intervention literature review, *Evidence-Based Practice for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder* (2014) by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

2. Story Board

We have developed and provided a **story board** that can be projected or printed out for use before and/or during the performance. A story board is a visual schedule that outlines the sequence of events. Visual Schedules can be used to outline what might happen at a doctor's visit, the sequence of events occurring over a whole day, or, as in this case, the sequence of events occurring within the plot of the opera. Reviewing the story board prior to the performance will also familiarize your child or students to the story and prepare them for what to expect, both of which may enhance their experience at the opera. Visual schedules are an evidence-based practice as identified in the autism intervention literature review, *Evidence-Based Practice for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder* (2014) by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

3. Quiet Space



If your child or student needs to take a break from the noise and/or commotion, it is highly effective to have a designated room or area as a "Quiet Space" to visit. It can be a hallway outside of the performance space, a classroom, or any other place conveniently located near the performance.

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Resources

- **VKC-TRIAD Community Engagement Initiative:** <http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/triad/community/>
The Community Engagement Initiative Includes the Families First and Organizational Engagement Programs. Families First is a free workshop series for caregivers of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Organizational Engagement Program focuses on supporting organizations in building capacity for inclusion by providing training, developing supports, and collaborating on modified events.
- **Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line:** Local 322-7565 or Toll-Free (877) ASD-VUMC (273-8862)
A toll-free helpline for families and professionals to access information about autism-related clinical, research, and outreach services at Vanderbilt University.
- **Tennessee Disability Pathfinder:** 1-800-640-4636 or tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu
The Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is a free, statewide, information and referral service for persons with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates.
- **National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders:** <http://autismpdc.fpg.edu>
The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders is a multi-university center to promote the use of evidence-based practice for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.
- **Mayer-Johnson:** www.mayer-johnson.com
DynaVox Mayer-Johnson is the leading provider of speech generating devices and symbol-adapted special education software used to assist individuals in overcoming their speech, language, and learning challenges.



VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER
TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

The opera is a place where people wear costumes and sing songs to tell a story. When I go to see *Cinderella*, I might go with my family or I might see the show at my school.

When I get to the performance, there will be a lot of places to sit. My family or teacher will help decide where we should sit. Before the show begins, people might be talking a lot and it might be noisy. That is okay. There will be quiet spaces where I can go to get away from the noise. If I need a break from the noise, I can ask to go to the quiet space.

People might talk to us before the show. An adult might come to the front and start talking loudly. This means that the play is about to start and everyone in the theatre should finish their conversations and be quiet. I will try to finish my conversation and be quiet when an adult starts talking loudly on stage. If I get scared, I can hold my teacher or family member's hand or ask to take a break. I will try to be respectful to the performers and others watching the performance by staying in my seat, sitting quietly, and watching the performance.

When the show starts, there might be music playing and sometimes the people might sing. Some of the people might be wearing costumes and some might play more than one part. The people in the audience will try to stay quiet to listen to the show. I will try to stay quiet and listen to the show also. If the music or the singing gets too loud, I can ask to go to the quiet space.

The people in the opera are called characters. Sometimes the characters might pretend to be happy and sometimes they might pretend to be angry or sad. When the characters are angry, they might yell or growl or stomp around. I might get scared. If I am scared, I can ask my teacher or family member to hold my hand or go to the quiet space to take a break. I might need to go to the bathroom during the show. If I need to go to the bathroom, I can ask my teacher or family member to take me to the bathroom.

At the end of the show, people might clap if they liked the show. I might want to clap, too. The characters will bow and ask the audience if there are any questions. If I want to ask a question, I can raise my hand and wait for them to point to me to ask my question. If they point to me, I will try to talk loudly so everyone can hear my question.

When it is time to leave, everyone will stand up and walk to the exits. It might be crowded with everyone trying to leave at the same time. I will try to wait my turn to walk out of the performance and out of the door. If I am respectful during the show by staying in my seat, sitting quietly, and watching the performance, my family will be so proud of me. I might like going to the opera!

The opera is a place where actors wear costumes and sing songs to tell a story.

Before the show begins, people might be talking a lot and it might be noisy. That is okay. There will be quiet spaces where I can go to get away from the noise. If I need a break from the noise, I can ask my family or teacher to take me to the quiet space.

When the show starts, people will come onto the stage. Some of them might be wearing costumes. Some of the people may play more than one part. There might be music playing and sometimes the people might sing. The people in the audience will try to stay quiet to listen to the show. I will try to be respectful to the performers and others watching the performance by staying in my seat, sitting quietly, and watching the performance.

I might need to go to the bathroom during the show. If I need to go to the bathroom, I can ask my family or teacher to take me to the bathroom.

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A Story Board for Cinderella



ARIZONA OPERA





Meet the singers who will perform the opera, *Cinderella*! Some of the singers may play more than one part.



Cinderella has to do all the chores by herself.
She even has to fix her stepsister's hair for the
Prince's ball!



Cinderella's father hopes the Prince will marry the stepsister. Cinderella's father wants to be part of the royal family.

He wants to own the kingdom!



Suddenly, there is a knock at the door.
It's the Prince pretending to be a beggar! No one knows
it is really the Prince and Cinderella is the only person
who is nice to him.



The Prince helps Cinderella with her chores. This makes Cinderella happy and the stepsister mad. The stepsister doesn't like the beggar. She doesn't know he's really the Prince!



Father thinks the Prince is a stranger
and makes him leave their house!



Cinderella is sad when the Prince leaves. She thinks her family acted selfish and mean. They only care about themselves and don't want to help others.



Cinderella is left alone. She wishes she could go to the ball, too. Just then, her Fairy Godmother appears!



The Fairy Godmother turns Cinderella's old clothes into a beautiful dress so she can go to the ball! The Fairy Godmother tells Cinderella she must be home by midnight. After midnight, the magic will end and Cinderella's dress will turn back into rags.



The Prince is already at the ball. He wants to marry Cinderella! The Prince's father, the King, wants the Prince to marry the stepsister because she is rich.



Cinderella goes to the ball!

She tries to keep her stepsister away from the
Prince.

She doesn't want her mean stepsister to marry him,
or her greedy father to own the kingdom.



Cinderella runs away from the ball because it is almost midnight. The Fairy Godmother's magic will end soon!

When Cinderella runs away, she drops one of her shoes which is made of glass. The Prince wants to look for the girl who lost the shoe!



The stepsister is unhappy because the Prince doesn't want to marry her. Cinderella's father is happy because he thinks he will own the kingdom. The Prince is sad because the beautiful girl ran away. He doesn't know the beautiful girl is really Cinderella!



The Prince arrives at Cinderella's house. He is looking for the girl who fits the glass shoe. The shoe fits Cinderella's foot and the Prince finds out she was the beautiful girl at the ball!



The Prince wants to marry Cinderella, but she loves the nice beggar she met before. Cinderella doesn't know that the Prince is the beggar! The Prince tells Cinderella he was the beggar who came to the door. They are both very happy and decide to get married!



Because the Prince and Cinderella treated others with kindness, they found true love. They will help their families to be kind, too. We should all be good to each other and use the magic of kindness!
THE END!