

# ANN NORIEL

## *Vocal Music Workshops*

### MEET THE ARTIST:

**Ann Noriel** tours nationally as an opera singer throughout the U.S. as well as internationally. She has worked with California companies like: Los Angeles Opera, Opera Pacific, Opera a la Carte, Ballet San Jose, and several local and national orchestras.

Education outreach is Mrs. Noriel's first love, which led to her co-founding Southland Opera in 1997. She is currently the General Director of Southland Opera, a company that performs nearly 1200 workshops and performances in Southern California each year. Mrs. Noriel's energy and enthusiasm along with her love of learning creates an exciting, open, creative environment for her workshop students. The most frequent feedback from teachers is, "I never knew my students could do so much in such a little amount of time." She believes that the work with her students is a partnership and she learns as much from them as they do from her.



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### ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Students will create their own musical masterpiece. They will develop their own story line and characters from either material they are studying in class or something from their own imagination. They will take these ideas and create a poem, which will then become a song. The song will be performed both as a play, with speaking narrators and actors who mime the action, and then as a choral piece, with all of the students singing together in unison.

This series is a great way to teach creative writing and to get the students excited about writing stories and reading literature.

Students will learn about the basics of good vocal production: breath support and singing in a comfortable range with good projection and articulation. They will be given vocal exercises, which will make their vocal production easy as well as beautiful and strong.

Students will also be introduced to character development and how to take their original created characters and act them out through narration and mime. Creating expression by using their imagination, their body and their voice. They will be encouraged to not judge themselves when they make mistakes, because mistakes are how we learn.

Students learn how to work as a team working off of each other, and problem solving together. The students are truly in charge of their project and they will be encouraged to bring their character, their ideas and their imagination into the mix. Ann Noriel will be there to guide them and keep them on track, always keeping the focus on the student's ideas.

Students will gain confidence as performers; they will have a strong feeling of success and will be encouraged to take stories they are studying in class and to create songs.

### **BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:**

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshops. It saves time if they are made beforehand.
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Discuss the structure of a story: beginning, middle, and end, the need for a conflict or problem, and different character types (hero, villain and sidekick). This will help set up what we will be doing in the workshops.
- Ask students who have ever been in a play or musical to share their feelings about the experience. Were they nervous? Did they worry about their part? How did they feel about taking on the role of "someone else?" Was it fun or scary? Was it easy or hard?
- Have the children talk about stories they know, either from literature they've read in class or from their own backgrounds. Which stories do they think would be fun to bring to life on stage? Make a list of the most popular stories so the students might be able to use one as a class project after the workshops.

### **AFTER THE WORKSHOP:**

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn? What did they learn about themselves?
- Take the taped accompaniment from your song you created, this would be the accompaniment without any singing, and write a new song. Or you can edit the song you created in class. Often the kids have more ideas on editing, it is a great way to teach how to revise a written piece.
- Take familiar tunes, like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, and write songs with the kids using those familiar melodies. Take something you are studying and turn it into a song.
- Play music in your classroom, sing to your kids, sing with your kids, they do not care how well you sing; they only care if you sing.