

Professional Rehearsal Protocols

Attendance and Punctuality

Both are expected at all services. See: **Opera Program Grades & Opera Institute Professional Review**.

Preparation

First musical coaching of assigned material

(including scene assignments, and principal, comprimari roles and ensemble for staged productions)

Artist is responsible to arrive comfortable and familiar with the assigned music (able to sing all notes, rhythms, and language while holding a score).

Final musical rehearsal before staging

Artist may hold score for taking coach or conductor's notes, but music must be memorized and translated.

First Staging rehearsal

Artist must be off book, know the language word for word, and be ready to "play" and integrate stage direction.

Cover artists must be off book by the first run-through of the entire opera, and also are expected to know the staging by that time.

Staging and Technical Schedules

All principal artists are expected to reserve regular opera times, plus nights and weekends during the staging period for mainstage and fringe or satellite shows.

- Mainstage: Staging usually begins 5 weeks before opening.
- Fringe and Satellite productions: Staging begins 2-3 weeks before opening.
- Technical rehearsals at the theater generally begin one week before opening, and can require up to 10 hours per day.

Ensemble rehearsals are generally held within normal opera times until 2 weeks prior to opening, when weekend and evenings are the general rule. Scenes rehearsals are all held during opera designated afternoon times, except on tech/dress weekend. (Special rehearsals may be arranged by advance agreement of all parties).

Every effort is made on the part of the artistic faculty, stage management, and the opera manager, to provide timely notification of schedules. A Master Schedule for each time period will be released at least one month prior to the start of staging. This schedule will include expected time frames that all must save for rehearsal, but weekly and daily schedules will take precedence. Artists are responsible for keeping in touch with stage management schedules on a daily basis.

Professional Releases

It is expected that all professional release requests for any of the extended production rehearsal times will be turned in at least two weeks prior to the start of rehearsals. In the event that special circumstances arise (family tragedy, unusual career opportunities) after this deadline, artist should seek immediate counsel with the faculty and stage management involved, along with filling out a release form.

When accepting a role (or a cover role), it is assumed that the artist does not have prior commitments (unless release has already been granted), and untimely requests could result in being removed from a role.

Responsibilities of Cover Artists

Professional release

The cover artist is expected to use the same protocols as a principal artist in obtaining release for rehearsal.

Musical preparation and music rehearsals

While every effort will be made by the coaching faculty to provide coachings for the covers, it cannot be promised nor expected. Therefore, the onus is on the cover to learn and memorize the music to the best of their ability. Further, the covers are invited to attend any and all coachings of the principal artist they are covering.

Covers are expected to attend all music rehearsals as indicated on the master calendar. *For Fringe Festival, these rehearsals generally occur during the first 3-4 weeks of the Fall semester. For mainstage production 1, these rehearsals usually occur in the final days of semester one, and in the week preceding the commencement of semester two. It is essential to plan your holiday travel accordingly. For mainstage production 2, these rehearsals usually occur during the week preceding spring break and the days immediately after spring break. See **Staging and Technical Schedules**, below.*

Staging, tech and dress rehearsals

The cover artist is expected to attend the following staging rehearsals:

- The initial staging of a given scene
- The review/run through of an Act
- All "run-through" rehearsals in the 808 rehearsal space (usually during the final week before moving to the Theatre.)
- All technical rehearsals at the Theatre
- One piano dress rehearsal (except on a stand-by basis in the case of illness)
- One orchestra dress rehearsal (except on a stand-by basis in the case of illness)

In the event that a principal artist is ill or has obtained a professional release, the cover artist may be requested to attend and work in additional rehearsals as necessitated by the absence of the principal artist. Every effort will be made to give timely notice to the cover should they be needed.

Performances

Covers are expected to attend the opening night of each cast, and check in with Stage Management the morning of each show, providing accurate emergency contact information for each night of the run. Whether or not a cover will be asked to perform the role in performance is at the discretion of participating faculty.

If a cover artist is also in the ensemble of the production, the calls for the ensemble will be in addition to the above.