

The Lionel Hampton School of Music
at the University of Idaho and the Palouse Opera Project
present selections from
“Corps of Discovery”
an opera portraying the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Opera in the Schools

The entertaining 50-minute school presentation will introduce students and teachers to opera and the historical journey of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from Missouri to Oregon in search of the passage to the Pacific Ocean.

The opera performance captures the drama of the 33 people of varying cultures who trekked 4,000 miles cross country in 2 1/2 years, building bonds of survival with each other.

Performers include University of Idaho music faculty members

- Pamela Bathurst as Sacagawea, the Shoshone Indian;
- Catherine Schulhauser as George Shannon, the youngest member of Corps of Discovery;
- Rager Moore as Meriwether Lewis;
- Chris Thompson as William Clark;
- Theodore Sipes as Toussaint Charbonneau, French trapper and Sacagawea's husband;
- and Erica Sipes, pianist.

The opera was composed by Michael Ching, artistic director of Opera Memphis, with lyrics written by Hugh Moffatt, songwriter from Pullman.

This presentation includes the songs:

- "The River,"
- "Write It Down," referring to copious journaling of all the members;
- The pow-wow song "Reel du Voyageur";
- "Let Us Go Forth Now," the riverbank departure from Fort Mandan on the Missouri;
- "Lullaby to Baptiste," the child born on the trail;
- "Fort Clatsop Carol," sung at Christmas time at the end of the trail in Oregon; and
- The finale chorale "Land of Freedom," remembering the mistakes, accomplishments and lessons.



The Palouse Opera Project

Founded in the fall of 1998, the Palouse Opera Project was created as an extension of the voice division at the University of Idaho. The program was designed to provide accessible chamber works geared for students early in their music education, helping them form positive attitudes about the expressive power of one of music's oldest performing genres.

One of opera's most persuasive powers is its immediacy. Even though opera has celebrated the completion of its fourth century, it continues to evolve, as does the art of singing and live theatre presentation. The Palouse Opera Project strives to bring these presentations to areas which might not have the opportunity to see or hear live opera in performance — to bring its message “to the people.”



An accompanying booklet of activities and CD with information will help prepare teachers and their students about the opera and the events in the lives of the Corps.

Appointments for school performances may be made by contacting the Lionel Hampton School of Music, (208) 885-7412, or by e-mailing Chris Thompson, christ@uidaho.edu.