

Bellissima Opera & Song's In-the-Classroom Hispanic Heritage Bilingual Concert at Your School

Bellissima Opera and Song bring together music, poetry, drama, and visual arts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Join us for a powerful and inspiring way to support the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of young people.

Since 2008, Bellissima's In the Classroom program has brought live music to more than 24,000 students, from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our diverse and experienced performers regularly appear with some of the nation's top opera companies and contemporary ensembles.

This 40-minute program features unamplified vocal music accompanied by piano, presented in both Spanish and English across a range of musical genres. Each song is introduced in both languages, enhancing comprehension and cultural connection.

Performances take place in either classroom or assembly settings and are followed by an engaging Q&A session, encouraging students to reflect and interact with the artists.

A study packet will be emailed to schools in advance to help prepare students for the experience.

Sample Program

Estrellita by Manuel Ponce
Mexican Song

De Colores
made famous by Joan Baez

Mariá La O by Ernesto Lecoua
Cuban Zarzuela

Vienes Y Te Vas
Peruvian Folk Song

E que quisiera amando by Fernando Sor
Spanish composer

El Tortillero
Chilean Folksong

Dos Oruguitas by Lin-Manuel Miranda
from Encanto

Our Prestigious Singers

Christine Steyer, soprano, has distinguished herself as an artist of great versatility. The 2020 recipient of The American Prize for outstanding contributions to the arts and winner of the Johnny Mercer Award, Steyer has received acclaim for her portrayals of the title role in *Madama Butterfly* and Violetta in *La Traviata*. Since 2000, she has sung in over 40 productions at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Steyer is an avid recitalist and producer, showcasing unique works by contemporary women poets and composers. In 2021, she premiered the role of the Rio de Janeiro Health Care Worker in *On Call: COVID-19*, and in 2022, she debuted as Flanna in *Future Perfect*. Steyer also served as the librettist for both award-winning operas. Since 2024, she has maintained an active performance schedule, singing in *Elijah*, *Speed Dating Tonight!*, recitals of songs by Florence Price and Ernst Bacon, and as the Elf Queen in the Chicago premiere of Pauline Viardot Garcia's *Le Dernier Sorcier*.

Steyer is the founder of Bellissima Opera & Song's *In the Classroom* program and co-founder of the vocal alliance Working in Concert and serves as Artistic Director of its Bellissima Opera initiative. Steyer is also on the music faculty at Concordia University.



Tenor Luis Antonio Galvez-Alcantara, praised by *Sun-Times* critic Hedy Weiss as "the golden tenor," is the Director of Music at Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish. A native of Lima, Peru, he is the Founder and Executive Director of North Shore Opera Hour and serves on the voice faculty at both the Old Town School of Folk Music and Columbia College Chicago.

In 2013, Mr. Galvez-Alcantara received the prestigious Peruvian Tumi Award, honoring Latin American immigrants who demonstrate cultural influence, entrepreneurial leadership, and a commitment to building a prosperous and democratic America. He is a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts and completed the Chicago Series in Liturgical Music at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Most recently, he earned certification in the Neuro-Vocal Method for Contemporary Commercial Singing.



Upcoming engagements include performances as guest soloist with the Falconaires Orchestra, *The Tenors Three* concert series across Chicagoland, Peruvian Independence Day celebrations at the Daley Center, and an appearance in England with the Christ Church Choir of Winnetka, Illinois. He is also a passionate mentor and educator, inspiring young musicians to explore and grow through the transformative power of music.

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Sample Program

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Mexican Song

The Moon Bridge by Florence Price
American Song

Mariá La O by Ernesto Lecoua
Spanish Zarzuela

The Colors/De Colores
made famous by Joan Baez

Vienes Y Te Vas
Peruvian Folk Song

Shenendoah
American Folk Song

Dos Oruguitas by Lin-Manuel Miranda
from Encanto

Swinging on A Star
American Song