

Performance Guide

Welcome to Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' New Works Collective at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center!

Accessibility information is available on [OTSL's website](#).

Here's what you may expect at the opera:

Parking:

Handicap-accessible parking is available in the parking lot and on the street. For more information on parking or public transit, visit OTSL's accessibility page, which is linked above. Plan to arrive around 6:30 p.m. for the best opportunity to secure a handicap-accessible parking space.

Times:

The KPAC opens at 6:30 p.m., seating in the theater begins at 7:00 p.m., and the performance starts at 7:30 p.m.

Before the performance:

- Drinks will be sold at the concession stands. Outside food and beverages are not permitted. Only cups with lids purchased at KPAC are allowed in the theater.
- Limited seating is available in the lobby spaces.
- A DJ will be spinning in the lobby before the performance.
- Plan to arrive early to avoid a crowded lobby. There is limited lobby seating on the second floor, which should be less crowded and a little quieter.

Tickets:

If you don't already have your tickets, you can pick them up at the Box Office in the lobby, closest to the east entrance.

Assistance:

- If you need assistance or have questions at the opera, please ask anyone in the Box Office or an usher. You can identify an usher by their nametag.
- Different Dynamics will have a Sensory Station in the lobby with noise-canceling headphones, ear plugs, fidgets, and weighted lap pads.

Wayfinding:

If you'd like to see the space before you go, visit OTSL's accessibility page, linked above, for a link to a virtual tour of the KPAC.

Performance:

[New Works Collective](#) is a series of three short operas. Each opera is approximately 20 minutes long, and there will be a 15-minute intermission between each opera. The entire run time of the event will be approximately 1.5 hours.

- *Unbroken* – 20 minutes
- Intermission – 15 minutes*
- *Mechanisms* – 20 minutes

- Intermission – 15 minutes *
- *On My Mind* – 20 minutes

*During each intermission, a DJ will be spinning in the lobby. The lobby may become crowded and noisy. You are welcome to stay in the theater during this time, as it is usually quieter.

If you are new to the opera, here are a few things to know:

- When you first enter the theatre, you'll see a closed curtain and probably hear a small ensemble of strings, percussion, piano, and wind instruments warming up. You may not be able to see the musicians because they are located under the stage in "the pit."
- If you don't know where your seat is, wait for an usher to assist you. They will also give you a program that tells you more about the performance.
- The performance will soon start when the lights dim in the theater and bells chime in the lobby.
- You may take photos (without a flash) before the performance begins, but all electronic devices should be turned off and stored out of sight once the performance starts. If you need a device for accessibility reasons, please let the usher know so they are aware.
- The lights will go out when the performance begins. It will be very dark in the theater where you are sitting; however, the stage lights will give off some light. It's like watching television in a dark room.
- Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' performances are in English. Both ASL and audio descriptions are available. Ask an usher if you need assistance accessing either.
- If you need a break during the performance, you may quietly exit the theater. Quiet seating will be available in the second-floor lobby. However, you cannot watch the performance once you exit the theater.
- If you leave the theater during the performance, you will not be allowed to re-enter until there is a break in the music. Re-entering a dark theater is a safety concern. An usher will help you back to your seat at an appropriate time.

If you have sensory sensitivities or emotional triggers, here are a few things within the opera performances you should be aware of:

- Some singers, especially the sopranos, sing in a very high range and loudly. These high and loud parts in the music often come without any warning.
- *Mechanisms*, the second opera you will experience, shows a young girl experiencing a panic attack, and some scenes contain bullying. To convey these experiences, you'll see dark spaces with unsettling lights moving about the stage. There are uncomfortable clashing sounds from the orchestra, too.

Post-Performance Activities:

- After the final performance on Thursday, March 14, and Saturday, March 16, a DJ will spin in the lobby, and free food and champagne will be available for all guests. You can stay after the performances to enjoy the music, food, and drink.
 - There will be many people, and the lobby spaces will be noisy.

- Stop by the Sensory Station in the lobby if you need sensory tools such as earplugs or headphones.
- After the performance on Friday, March 15, there will be a talkback in the theater with the composers (the people who wrote the music) and the librettists (the people who wrote the libretti or words).
 - A talkback is when people involved in a performance share their connection to the material that was just performed.
 - During this time, the audience can ask the composers and librettists questions about the operas.

Thank you for joining us at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' New Works Collective. We look forward to sharing a night of boundary-breaking surprises and joyful voices with you as we celebrate diverse cultures, stories, and the power of the human spirit!