ASSEMBLY PROGRAM
(45 minutes)

The Elixir of Love
by Gaetano Donizetti

ROAD MAP FOR TEACHERS

About the production: This is an abridged, 45-minute English language version of Donizetti’s opera The Elixir of Love (a 2 ½ hour work originally written in Italian.) This version is especially prepared for young students and it features the best music from this very special work. There are only three professional opera singers, covering several roles each. The performers will be in costume and they will bring with them portable, hand-painted sets, to be used as backdrop scenery for the performance.

In this production, the children will hear some of the elements outlined in the Classroom Study Material, such as arias, duets, and coloratura. The music will be sung by three of the major voice types: soprano (Adina and Giannetta); tenor (Nemorino); and baritone (Belcore and Dulcamara). They will be accompanied by a pianist who substitutes for the orchestra.

Some of the students’ classmates, as arranged by the assembly coordinator, will be featured in the performance as actors (speaking parts), and supernumeraries (non-speaking parts) See glossary of terms in the Classroom Study Material.

Instructions for the student volunteers are included in this packet. They will need to be available for training about an hour before the performance.

We really encourage the children’s participation in the question-and-answer session at the end of the performance. This part can be shortened for younger children.

What’s in the Classroom Study Material Packet?
In the front of the packet you will find materials for the older children, followed by materials for the younger children. In the very back are materials for teachers only. Here’s a detail:

The materials FOR OLDER CHILDREN include the following:
**Glossary of Opera Terms:** the children can learn basic opera terminology and get a better sense of what an opera is, so when they see the production these concepts are clear and they can relate to them.

**Listing of Opera-Related Professions:** we’d like the children to learn that it requires the talents of many different people to stage an opera besides that of the singers and musicians. This will deepen their appreciation for what they see onstage and give them an opportunity to see themselves perhaps doing some of those things in the future.

**Brief Biography of Donizetti:** this is to give them a sense of the time period when the piece was composed and the degree of accomplishment of the composer.

**Synopsis:** This is the story line of *The Elixir of Love*, which is an opportunity for the children to also learn and remember the names of the characters.

**Word Search and Crossword Puzzle:** These are materials that can be used to test the children and ingrain the material. Answers are provided in the teachers’ portion of the packet.

**Sheet Music to *My Elixir is Perfection***: This is the one chorus number in our production of *The Elixir of Love*. The chorus is optional, but if you decide to have one, you must prepare the children in advance. In addition to the sheet music, there are recorded music mp3s available for download from our website at [www.wbopera.org/oits](http://www.wbopera.org/oits). Those include several versions: the piano accompaniment alone, the voice part notes played on the piano alone, and a version with both the singing and the piano accompaniment, to make it easy for the children to practice and learn the part, especially if they are doing it as homework.

**After Performance Discussion Questions and Quiz:** These are self-explanatory

The materials FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN include the following:

- **Primary Reader:** A shortened version of the story line of *The Elixir of Love*.
- **Coloring Book:** Four pages with drawings of the five main characters in our production of *The Elixir of Love*: Adina, Nemorino, Belcore and Dulcamara.

The materials FOR TEACHERS ONLY include the following:

- **Answers to the Word Search and Crossword Puzzle:** these are self-explanatory
- **Key to Answers:** These are answers to the After Performance questions and to the Quiz.
- **Teacher’s Evaluation Form:** This is your opportunity to give us feedback so we can know what we are doing well and what we can improve upon. Please take a moment to complete the form after the performance.

ALL MATERIALS are available for download at [www.wbopera.org](http://www.wbopera.org). Click on the FOR KIDS tab at the top.