



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 3, 2015

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**Opera Saratoga Announces  
Auditions for Three Singing Roles for Boys in  
World Premiere of *The Long Walk***

**Saratoga Springs, NY** – February 3, 2015 – Opera Saratoga announced today that it will hold auditions on the afternoons of Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup> for the child singing roles of Virgil, Martin and Samuel in the world premiere of the new opera, *The Long Walk*. Auditions will take place in the Gideon Putnam Room of The Parks Administration Building of Spa State Park (19 Roosevelt Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866).

Opera Saratoga is seeking three (3) boys for the production, and three (3) additional boys as understudies. All three roles are for boys with unchanged voices, between the ages of 8 and 14. The children to be cast in the opera will play three brothers who are dealing with the difficulties of their father's return from overseas combat. Singers must have experience in classical/choral singing. They must be trebles, with unchanged voices, and be very strong musicians. No belting or pop-style singing is appropriate for these roles.

Children interested in auditioning will be emailed a musical selection from *The Long Walk* to prepare. An accompanist will be provided. Qualified candidates must read music and have some stage experience. The production of *The Long Walk* will be conducted by Steven Osgood, directed by David Schweizer, and stars Grammy Award winning operatic baritone Daniel Belcher.

Children selected for the production will need to be available from June 12<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup> for music and staging rehearsals, and for performances on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. The rehearsal schedule prior to the conclusion of the school year will include a combination weekend, afternoon and limited evening rehearsals that do not conflict with school hours. After the conclusion of the school year, daytime rehearsals will also be scheduled.

The three children who are cast for the production will receive a stipend of \$1,500 each, and the three children chosen as understudies will receive a stipend of \$750.

## **AUDITION DETAILS**

**Dates:** Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm each day

**Location:** The Gideon Putnam Room on the Ground Floor of the Parks Administration Building, Spa State Park, 19 Roosevelt Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

**How to Apply:** For more information or to schedule an audition, please send an email including a photo and biography or resume of your child (if available), as well as parent/guardian contact information including a daytime telephone number to [myvoice@operasaratoga.org](mailto:myvoice@operasaratoga.org) - Auditions will be scheduled on a first-come first served basis. No calls please.

## **ABOUT THE LONG WALK**

*The Long Walk* is a new opera by composer Jeremy Howard Beck and librettist Stephanie Fleischmann, which is based on Brian Castner's critically acclaimed book of the same name. The opera is a deeply personal exploration of a soldier's return from Iraq where he served as an officer in an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit and his battle with what he calls "the Crazy" as he tries to reintegrate into his family life upon returning from the war. Opera Saratoga is honored to present the world premiere of *The Long Walk* in partnership with American Lyric Theater, the New York City based company that commissioned and developed the work. Internationally renowned theater and opera director David Schweizer makes his Opera Saratoga debut, with celebrated American conductor Steven Osgood on the podium, for the world premiere production. Opera Saratoga will present four performances of *The Long Walk* at The Spa Little Theater in Saratoga Springs, NY as

part of the company's 2015 Summer Festival on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Additional community events related to *The Long Walk* will be presented in partnership with the New York State Military Museum and Veteran's Research Center leading up to the world-premiere production.

## **ABOUT OPERA SARATOGA**

**Opera Saratoga**, formerly known as Lake George Opera, began with a production of *Die Fledermaus* at the Diamond Point Theatre on July 5, 1962, playing to an audience of 230. The Company now calls Saratoga Springs home and performs for more than 25,000 people annually. To date, the Company has performed ninety different fully-staged works by fifty-two different composers, including thirty-three works by American composers and five world-premiere productions. Throughout its history, the Company's continued success has been shaped by visionary leaders, talented artists, and critically acclaimed productions. For more information, visit [www.operasaratoga.org](http://www.operasaratoga.org).

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