



## NEWS

Opera Theater of Pittsburgh  
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**Opera Theater SummerFest presents**  
***The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County***  
**at the Twentieth Century Club, July 12, 19, and 26**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (DATE, 2014)** - Mark Twain's famous American short story comes to life in Opera Theater SummerFest's production of *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, during three Saturday matinees at 11 am, July 12, 19, and 26, at the Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland (15213).

This 40-minute operetta provides an entertaining opportunity for the whole family to enjoy opera and learn about a fascinating slice of American history in Summerfest's first family matinee series. Composer Lukas Foss and librettist Jean Karsavina were inspired by Mark Twain to create a light opera that captured the authenticity of the original tale and bring to life the history of the American Gold Rush and the pioneer spirit.

After each matinee, ticket holders are welcome to meet the cast and ask questions. In addition, there will be *Jumping Frog* themed activities for children and the whole family, including a *Jumping Frog* photo booth.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students. Groups of 8 or more can save 10% on admission price. For more details or tickets, call 412-326-9687 or visit [otsummerfest.org/tickets](http://otsummerfest.org/tickets).

Through operettas like *The Jumping Frog*, young audiences can gain an appreciation for opera and realize that this is a more accessible art form for all ages.

Dennis Robinson, Jr., the director of *The Jumping Frog*, explains "Foss takes our audience on a wonderful journey of deceit and trickery with more than a few good laughs all set in Calaveras County. To this day they hold annual frog jumping contests during the county fair."

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In Twain's story, the frog, Dan'l Webster, is defeated in a jumping contest because the gambling Stranger filled the amphibian with buckshot. When the deceit is discovered, the Stranger is cast out, and the town again hails Dan'l's prowess.

Hyery Hwang, music director, provides piano accompaniment. Elizabeth Rishel is costume designer. Lighting design is by Dillon Stark. Christine Eunyong Lee serves as scenic designer.

The cast features: Pittsburgh stage favorite James Critchfield, baritone, as Uncle Henry; Daniel Arnaldos, tenor, as Smiley; Zachary Luchetti, baritone, as The Stranger; and Kaitlyn Very, mezzo soprano, as Lula.

In its third season, SummerFest returns to The Twentieth Century Club, July 10-27, 2014, with three weeks of opera, an American musical, news works, cabaret, and vocal recitals.

### **About Opera Theater of Pittsburgh**

Over its first two seasons, SummerFest drew more than 18,000 people to operas, musicals, new works and recitals. Since its founding in 1978 by Mildred Miller Posvar, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh has served a diverse market of music drama audiences in Western Pennsylvania. Jonathan Eaton has served as artistic and general director since 1999. By presenting high-quality productions of music drama not available elsewhere, the company works at the forefront of the genre. In its 36-year history, Opera Theater has presented more than 50 Pittsburgh premieres, many of them American operas that would not have been produced by other regional companies. Opera Theater reaches out across traditional lines of demarcation in the arts, presenting works which engage diverse, new and younger audiences, bringing in supporters of music, theater, dance and the visual arts.

Opera Theater of Pittsburgh is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and at [412-326-9687](tel:412-326-9687) and [otsummerfest.org](http://otsummerfest.org).

**Visit [otsummerfest.org](http://otsummerfest.org) for tickets and details on all events.**

**SummerFest Box Office: [412-326-9687](tel:412-326-9687)**

**Venue: The Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, Pittsburgh PA 15213.**

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For more information, contact: Yvonne Hudson, [yhudson@otsummerfest.org](mailto:yhudson@otsummerfest.org) or 412-512-0589  
*Interviews, photos and art upon request.*

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