



Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs

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OPERA

OPERA is an art form in which singers and musicians perform a dramatic work (called an Opera) which combines a text (called a libretto) and a musical score. Opera is part of the Western classical musical tradition. Opera incorporates many of the elements of spoken theater, such as acting, scenery and costumes and sometimes includes dance and ballet.

MUSICAL THEATER is a form of theater combining music, songs, spoken dialogue and dance. The emotion content of the piece humor, pathos, love, anger as well as the story itself, is communicated through words, music, movement and technical aspects of the entertainment as an integrated whole.

As you can see, both definitions could be used to describe either form of musical entertainment. My point is that even if your club does not attend or perform a formal opera/opera production, you can still qualify for club recognition in the Opera program. I know that many of the clubs attend school musicals, community concert events that contain operatic music and schedule club programs featuring musical theater and opera solos, so let me encourage you to report those events.

Another goal of Opera chairs is to promote Opera in our communities. Do you ever wonder how the world might have changed musically, if we would have insisted that radio stations featured opera programs, instead of hip-hop? Or do you ever wonder why the schools do not teach opera in their curricula? We need to inform our local schools and colleges about musical scholarships available through the Federation and our local organizations, but most importantly, we need to encourage our young people to learn to appreciate this musical art form.

The **Alpha Corrine Mayfield Award** in opera performance is given in odd-numbered years. Seek out young, new talent and encourage them to submit their applications. I have included a form in the President's manual, but detailed information is included on-line at [NFMC](#) and [PFMC](#). Also remember that within the Young Artist Competition in voice, several classical/operatic awards are given, so be looking for participants for that competition also.