OPERA EXCEL
Audition Bootcamp

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2027

The Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts (HCA) Society is pleased to announce our third **Opera Excel Audition Bootcamp, a high-calibre, tuition-free training program for emerging artists** who want to stand out in the audition room, curate their perfect aria package, and start hearing 'yes' from YAPs. Participants work closely with an extraordinary roster of industry leaders: collaborative pianist and Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio Music Director **Liz Upchurch**, acclaimed soprano and COC Ensemble Studio Lead Vocal Consultant **Wendy Nielsen**, award-winning theatre and opera director **Jennifer Tarver**, and Managing Director of Dean Artists Management **Morgan Reid**. Each cohort of this elite program is limited to just six singers and two collaborative pianists. Participants are guided to discover their authentic artistry, tapping into their unique strengths to unlock their full potential.

What to Expect

Bookended by two group mock auditions, the entirety of the program is one-on-one, including vocal and acting coachings, professional career consultations, and headshot sessions. You can expect technique refinement, dramatic interpretation and staging work, honest feedback on your package, and more, all from leading

industry professionals and seasoned adjudicators. Performances are closed to the public, making Audition Bootcamp the perfect program to experiment and take big swings in a safe, supportive learning environment.

For **collaborative pianists**, the program is rooted in experiential learning. You will partner with three singers, study their aria packages, and join them in vocal and acting coachings. You will also receive dedicated pianist sessions with Liz Upchurch.

Who We're Looking For

All applicants should be at the emerging professional level, ie. completing/recently completed graduate school (or equivalent training).

Additionally, **collaborative pianists** must have a background in vocal collaboration and strong working knowledge of the repertoire.

Additional Information

This program is **100% tuition-free**. Meals and snacks will be provided on both session days. The Opera Excel Audition Bootcamp will take place in person at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts (126 James Street South, Hamilton), conveniently located just steps from Hamilton GO Centre for easy access by GO bus and train. Attendance for the full duration of the program is mandatory.

Application Requirements

All pieces must be submitted by video recording.

Singers: 2 contrasting arias recorded in the past 6 months.

Pianists: 2 contrasting arias, one of which must include an accompanied recitative by Mozart; the orchestral interlude to 'Casta Diva' from Bellini's *Norma*; and one of the following:

- A short solo piece

  OR

- Play & sing Act 1 of Puccini's *La bohème* up to Schaunard's entrance

  OR

- Play & sing Act 2 finale of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* up to Antonio's entrance

All applicants must also provide a current CV, short biography, and a brief statement of interest.

Ready to apply? Click here to access the application form.

Submission Deadline: December 18th, 2026

All artists will be notified with the results of their audition by mid-January, 2027.

If you have further questions, please reach out to our Program Coordinator, Charlotte Anderson, at **opera.hcasociety@gmail.com**.