

Little Red's Most Unusual Day A short children's opera

Forest Ranger Dudley is too shy to ask Little Red's mom, the widow Hood, to the Forest Ranger Ball. For that reason, he leaves a written invitation in a basket of flowers outside Little Red's house. Unfortunately for Dudley, the basket is delivered to Granny. Granny simply loves men, especially men in uniform. In the resulting confusion Dudley gets the girl, Granny kisses the Wolf, Mom gets impatient and Little Red gets in trouble. In fact, everyone experiences, in one way or another, a very, very unusual day! After the recent success with Mercury Opera Rochester's



school tour of *The Three Little Pigs*, John Davies returns to direct this musical adaptation of the Little Red Riding Hood story. Mercury Opera's portable production of *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* will tour local elementary schools in the Rochester metropolitan area and the surrounding counties in fall of 2010.



With a story line familiar to most children and music from several different operas by Gioacchino Rossini and Jacques Offenbach, this clever children's opera is sure to be a hit with your students. In addition to introducing the art form of opera, Mercury Opera Rochester's program will also familiarize your young audience members with classical tunes and teach some valuable lessons about trust, heeding good advice, and appropriate behavior with strangers.

Logistical Details

Little Red's Most Unusual Day utilizes 4 singing actors, piano or keyboard accompaniment, and easily transportable set and costumes. The opera is performed entirely in English, and includes some spoken dialogue as well as extensive musical selections. Musical numbers included in *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* have been adapted from Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* and several of Offenbach's operas, including *The Tales of Hoffman*, *La Vie Parisienne (Parisian Life)*, and *Blue Beard*. The entire opera takes just 40 minutes, and is geared toward elementary school children in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. We envision performances for groups as small as single classes, providing a very intimate experience for your students, up to groups as large as several hundred students in assembly situations. Your cost per performance is just \$900, which includes the entire opera as well as a short discussion with the performers afterward, if facilities and time permit.





About Opera Tales

In 1991, while working as Director of Education for Syracuse Opera, singer/director John Davies was asked by a large Parent Teacher Association if there was an imaginative way to

celebrate reading and literature in a children's opera. His adaptation of *The Three Little Pigs* emerged from their request, to much acclaim in the music education arena. Following that success, Mr. Davies has adapted several fairy tale stories into children's operas, including *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Pinocchio*, and *Billy Goat's Gruff*. More information about these and other Opera Tales projects, including sound clips from *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, is available on the web at www.operatales.com. *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* came into being in 1996, and has been produced with regularity in the USA including performances by Lake George Opera, Nashville Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Florentine Opera (Milwaukee), University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, and Boston Conservatory, among many others.



SUMMARY



- Who:** Mercury Opera Rochester, Western NY's only professional opera company
- What:** *Little Red's Most Unusual Day*, a children's opera
- Duration:** 40 minutes
- Timeframe:** October 25 – November 10, 2010
- Where:** Your School
- Audience:** Pre-K through Grade 5, small to large groups
- Cast:** Four singing actors and piano accompanist (using your piano)
- Cost:** \$900 per performance
- Information:** www.mercuryoperarochester.org, www.operatales.com
- Contact:** Mercury Opera Rochester Kristen Kessler
585-473-6567
kkessler@rochester.rr.com
1600 North Clinton Ave, Ste 10
Rochester, NY 14621-2200