

## WALNUT HILL SCHOOL

Founded in 1893, Walnut Hill School is widely regarded to be the premier arts secondary boarding and day school in the United States. The mission of Walnut Hill is to educate talented, accomplished and intellectually engaged young artists from all over the world. The School does so in a diverse, humane and ethical community. The specialized and accomplished faculty supports the development and enhancement of artistic skills and training, and provides the tools for intellectual achievement.

We invite you to learn more about the School by visiting [www.walnuthillarts.org](http://www.walnuthillarts.org).



Walnut Hill School policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, handicap, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This policy extends to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities, including admission, employment, financial assistance, and educational, arts, and athletic programs.

Disclaimer: All information contained in these pages is as current as possible, but is subject to change at the discretion of Walnut Hill School without notice.

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## OVERVIEW

Surrounded by other passionate and motivated young artists, Walnut Hill gives serious opera students the opportunity to focus on their passion. The Walnut Hill Summer Opera Program provides students with a greater depth of study than may be available in their school-year curriculum or in a typical summer camp setting. Our accomplished faculty help young singers gain a heightened sense of accomplishment and a confidence that applies to all facets of their training and creative processes. Opera is a highly technical and demanding form of singing; this program is meant to educate the student not only in the background and history of opera, but also to provide and demonstrate repertoire appropriate to the age and level of development while sustaining good vocal health.



## THE PROGRAM

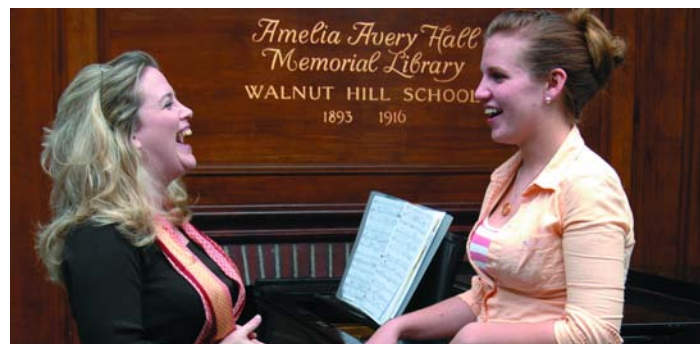
Our program focuses on intensive training for aspiring young singers in the art of solo and ensemble performance. Working with world-renowned performers and teachers, this inspiring program brings together a fantastic world of characters in a variety of opera scenes, taking their opera performances to a new level. The program is comprised of three distinct portions that expand the breadth and depth of students' knowledge over the three-week period. The Summer Opera Program

## TYPICAL SCHEDULE

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00	Acting/Movement/Stagecraft
10:00 – 11:00	Practice/Rehearsal/Study Time
11:00 – 12:00	Lesson/Coaching/Rehearsal
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Opera History Class
2:30 – 4:00	Rehearsal/Guest Artist Master Class
4:00 – 5:30	Pool Time/Free Time
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 8:30	Practice/Rehearsal/Study Time
8:30 – 9:45	Free Time/Dorm check-in

While in Italy students will have daily rehearsals and time for private practice, along with sightseeing and time for relaxing.

begins at the Walnut Hill campus where students spend approximately ten days rehearsing, attending coachings, taking lessons, learning opera history, and performing in master classes. Students then travel to Italy for approximately seven days where they tour La Scala in Milan and other historic venues in the city and the surrounding areas, including the birthplaces and homes of composers Giuseppe Verdi and Donizetti, as well as the Roman Amphitheatre in Verona. They also have the opportunity to perform operatic works in Milan and attend opera performances, depending on the availability of performances. After touring in Italy and gaining insight into the birthplace of opera, Summer Opera Program participants return to Walnut Hill for approximately five days and resume rehearsing, attending coachings, taking lessons, and learning opera history. The culmination is a final performance held at Walnut Hill.



## ARTIST FACULTY

Angela Hines Gooch earned her MM from Boston University and a BM in both voice and piano from Samford University. Teachers have included Penelope Bitzas, Dr. Randall Richardson and Dr. Betty Sue Shepherd.

Ms. Gooch currently serves as Head of the Voice Program at Walnut Hill where she has been on faculty for six years. She has served on the Boston University Tanglewood Institute faculty for the Young Artist Vocal Program for five years and has committed the past ten years of her work to teaching young students the exciting, dramatic world of voice and opera.

Ms. Gooch has performed within the U.S. and internationally as a soloist with various symphonies and opera companies including Opera Boston, Birmingham Opera Theatre, and the Opera Theatre of Westons' Die Fledermaus in the role of Adele. Ms. Gooch also performed the role of Mary Todd Lincoln in the world premier for Eric Sawyer's "Our American Cousin."

Ms. Gooch most recently has been honored by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and named to the Who's Who Among American Teachers as one of the arts most distinguished teachers. Ms. Gooch is a member of the National Honor Society-Pi Kappa Lambda and National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Walnut Hill is committed to having Guest Teachers and Artists on faculty for the Summer Opera Program. Please check our website for information on this year's faculty by visiting [www.walnuthillarts.org](http://www.walnuthillarts.org)



## COURSES

### Opera History

This class will focus on the history and background of opera from its origins in Europe to today's modern American opera. Emphasis will be placed on scene studies and operatic performances that relate to the various works participants are studying.

### Acting, Movement, and Stagecraft

This class introduces students to various acting techniques. Basic concepts are presented through the use of exercises and improvisation. Students develop the skills to create and develop characters and the freedom necessary to react spontaneously and honestly. The movement aspect focuses on developing awareness and control of the body through stretching, breathing and improvisational exercises.

### Lessons

Individual lessons are highly specialized; content and form are based on the needs of the student. In the private sessions with a voice teacher, students concentrate on the development of technique and musicianship through the study of vocalization: learning proper use of breath, placement, and, most importantly, repertoire appropriate to the level of each student.

### Coachings

Vocal coachings consist of a private session with a pianist who coaches the singer in diction, language, text, and stylistic and musical interpretation.

### Performance Master Class

Guest Artist classes provide the opportunity for students to sing for each other and a Guest Teacher to study elements of vocal technique and performance (including diction and preparation of text), and to develop focus and expressive capabilities in an audition and performance setting. One class will focus on the scene performances emphasizing critique and instruction on staging, ensemble, relation and development of characters.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

To be considered for admission into this program, students must submit a completed application, a \$50.00 application fee, one recommendation, and an audition. Applicants are encouraged to submit auditions via DVD. In special cases, electronic auditions and CD auditions may also be considered. For application materials, audition requirements, and financial aid information please visit our website: [www.walnuthillarts.org](http://www.walnuthillarts.org).

## SUMMER RESIDENTIAL LIFE

### Residence Hall

All students live in one of the eight residence halls located on campus. While Walnut Hill has a large campus, no residence hall is more than a five-minute walk from the classrooms and performance spaces. Dorm rooms range from singles to triples. Each hall has its own common room with a television, DVD/VCR, microwave, and refrigerator. The halls are charming, well kept, and will make residents feel at home. Girls and boys live in separate halls and there are approximately twelve students per Resident Advisor.

### Resident Advisors

Walnut Hill hires talented and devoted resident advisors who supervise dorm life, assist students, and organize social activities. RAs are typically college students or graduates who have a background in student life and/or the arts.

### The Walnut Hill Campus Center

The Walnut Hill campus includes a Campus Center available for use by students in the summer. The Campus Center houses a bookstore, mailroom, lounge with big screen television, and a balcony overlooking campus.

### Fitness Center, Pool & Recreation

Walnut Hill has an excellent Fitness Center and pool, available to all summer students and faculty. The pool is open 9 hours a day 7 days a week, and the fitness center is available at selected times throughout the week. Weekend field trips to local area attractions are scheduled. Students also have access to email through Walnut Hill's IT department and computer center.

### Dining on Campus

We believe that healthy eating contributes to a sound mind and body. Meals are served three times each day (twice on Sunday with a late breakfast/brunch). A salad bar and vegetarian options are available at every meal. In addition, students are able to purchase snacks from the bookstore.

### Health & Wellness

Walnut Hill has a Health Center staffed by registered nurses. In addition, the School has an on-call physician and is located only a few minutes from a hospital for emergency care. The health staff also includes a physical therapist.

