HOW DO THE ARTS MAKE US HUMAN?

"Rites. Rights. Writes." is a year-long experience.
Here is some useful information about the Feb. 25\textsuperscript{th} “UD Night at the Opera!”

(Whoops, wait a minute, it’s not that type of concert!)
The Dayton Opera is performing the musical masterpiece, “Dead Man Walking”, by renowned American composer, Jake Heggie on Feb. 25th at 7:00 PM, and the First-Year Class is invited!
This is a special live event performed for you and is presented by the Dayton Opera: it is your First-Year Arts Immersion Experience

You will hear one of the most important and transformative works of musical art of our time.

As you listen to the concert, you will learn why this piece is so Important.
Wait!!!
Opera? Really?
But.....I thought that...
...opera is really boring, right?
...opera is a lot of very large people running around a stage singing in languages that I don’t understand.
...opera uses weird stories that seem like nonsense or don’t mean anything to me.
...opera is written just for rich people and, oh, by the way, they last forever.
Opera?
  Really?
•
  But isn't opera boring?
Actually, Opera is one of the most popular-but stereotyped-forms of art

**Some facts: check them out...**

Opera has been performed since the 1600’s. For hundreds of years, it was the most popular form of public entertainment—and still is. Millions of people experience opera every year—as many or more than watch professional sports.

Opera is a synthesis of multiple forms of art.

And, as a matter of fact, symphony orchestras were actually created in order to accompany operas.
Although early opera was usually focused on stories from mythology, social trends, aristocratic themes and magical events, modern opera now has an entirely different style.
Composers add a perceptive and intense emotional dimension to the words of a play or story by putting them to song.

- Composer Jake Heggie has set the literary work, “Dead Man Walking” to music. He will be on the UD campus from January 28-30!
- It started as a book by Sister Helen Prejean, then became a movie, then an opera, and finally a theatrical play. And, Sister Helen will be on campus, too! (She is here from Feb. 26-28 and is appearing on the UD Speaker Series!)
- Operas deal with mature themes and draw attention to important issues through the combined media of music, acting, dance, lighting, costumes and realistic, representational or provocative stage sets.
“Dead Man Walking” is a critically acclaimed opera

• It is a faithful adaption of the book.
• It begins with a short prologue that depicts a horrific crime—a rape and subsequent murder of two young people.
• The opera depicts the spiritual journey and inner conflicts of Sister Helen Prejean, the emotional damage on the victim’s families and the relationship between Sister Helen and the person convicted of the crime, who has been sentenced to death.
• It is based on a true story.
With over 40 different productions world-wide, it is one of the most-performed modern operas.
This is an intense and profoundly moving story

*If the content and/or action depicted in the opera story disturbs you...*

- We will have counselors at the event to meet and talk with you...
- You will **NOT** have to attend if you feel that a visual depiction of the actions in this story are too emotionally intense and upsetting to you...
- It might help you to prepare by reading the book or going to the movie screening: DEAD MAN WALKING: February 20, 5:00 pm, at the Kennedy Union Ballroom.
How do I get tickets?

Go to the Kennedy Union Box Office and ask for your ticket: they will check your name off the First-Year Student Roster. Depending on the first letter of your last name, the KU Box Office will distribute tickets using the dates below:

- Jan. 20: Last names A-F
- Jan. 26: Last names G-L
- Feb. 2: Last names M-R
- Feb. 9: Last names S-W
- Feb. 16: X-Z and faculty
- Feb. 23-25: Last-minute students
Here are some FAQs that will help you enjoy the Dayton Opera performance on Feb. 25th at 7:00 PM

Very important: how do I get there?

• Transportation will be provided for you to the Schuster Center—a world-class auditorium in downtown Dayton that is the home of the Dayton Opera, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dayton Ballet.

• You will meet your shuttle buses in Parking Lot C. More details about this will be provided in class or you can look for them on the RRW web site at: go.udayton.edu/rrw/
Enjoy the Schuster Center: be sure to look up and check out the ceiling!
It is quite unique and beautiful!
Another FAQ: what should I wear?

- You should dress comfortably but appropriately—this isn’t a rock concert.
- You might want to dress in a business casual style, or slightly more dressy.
- You don’t need to be dressed in formal attire, but since this is a special event for everyone, if you feel like dressing up, go ahead—you won’t feel out of place.
Respect the music, the musicians, the many people involved backstage and the other audience members

Turn off Your phone!!
Sorry, no recording, or taking pictures or videos during the concert—it’s not allowed!

This is a different kind of concert—you will want to concentrate and listen: pay attention to the manner in which the music reflects the emotional content of the words.
Some basic rules....

• Be courteous to other audience members.
• The Schuster Center has such wonderful acoustics that even the quietest whispers in the audience can be heard from the stage and can disrupt the performance, so...

• Don’t talk during the concert. (That includes texting...)
• If you have questions, write them down and ask your professors or classmates at the intermission or after the concert.
A few more hints

• You can’t get out of your seat and walk around during the concert.
• If you do, the ushers will not re-seat you until the intermission.
• Use the restrooms before the concert!
How will I know when to applaud?

• Sometimes audiences applaud following a particularly moving song (called an “aria”).
• If in doubt, wait: in this way, you don’t interrupt the flow of the entire work.
• Whistles, hoots, screams and “woo-hoos” are NOT an appropriate way to show your appreciation: clapping is the best way.
Any Other Questions?

Ask your Professor
We will get you back to UD, too

- The buses will pick you up at the end of the event.
UD believes in Community

• You are participating in an awesome event as part of the UD Family.
• Enjoy this very unique experience!
• Show your Flyer Spirit and be a great representative of UD!