

# THE OPERA FACTORY

the cloud foundation



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## Opera Boston and Cloud Foundation collaborate to launch “The Opera Factory,” an in-depth summer program for artists ages 14 to 19

**Participants will design, create, and perform an original operatic adaptation**

### For Immediate Release:

June 3, 2008

Boston, MA – Opera Boston and the Cloud Foundation announce the creation of The Opera Factory, a hands-on summer program for teens ages 14 to 19 that will result in the creation, design, construction, and performance of an opera based on original script set to music from Bizet’s *Carmen*. The four-week program begins July 21, and concludes August 15 and 16 with two evening performances of the opera at Cloud Place, 647 Boylston Street in Boston.

The project began in mid-May when Cloud Foundation Teen Curators in the poetry and spoken word disciplines created a libretto, “*Carmen: The Remix*” under the coaching of Boston-based slam poet and vocalist **Iyeoka Okowo**. Professional artists in set design, stage direction, and conducting will guide the participants through the stages of the project. Stage Director **Alexandra Borrie** and Music Director **Bill Geha** will guide participants as they create the opera. Ms. Borrie is an experienced stage, film, and television actor who has also worked to educate young performers, both in higher education settings such as NYU’s Tisch School, and in her own business, College Audition Prep LLC. Mr. Geha is a Boston-based pianist and composer. **Jeremy Barnett** will serve as production manager, and will assist participants with producing and constructing the opera.

**Stella McGregor**, Executive Director of the Cloud Foundation says, “this is the Cloud Foundation’s most ambitious performance project yet, and we are so excited to be working with Opera Boston. This is a great opportunity for young

artists to try something new: an original opera starring, written, and produced by Boston's teens."

The Cloud Foundation will be accepting applications for the program through June 10. For more information about the Opera Factory and how to apply, please contact Alison Kotin at [akotin@cloudfoundation.org](mailto:akotin@cloudfoundation.org).

### **About the Cloud Foundation**

The Cloud Foundation supports innovative programs that build confidence, ambition, and hope in Boston's youth through artistic creation and cross-cultural communication.

The Cloud Foundation's art, media, and performance workshops offer teens opportunities to work with professional artists while exploring new artistic media in a professional setting. The Cloud's programming focuses on advanced and specialized artistic exploration while supporting young artists to make connections to adult mentors and present their work to the public.

### **About Opera Boston**

Opera Boston is Boston's most innovative opera company. Founded in 1980, the company has presented more than 70 operas, including 34 regional and two world premieres. In addition to its critically acclaimed, award-winning mainstage productions, Opera Boston offers a range of programs, including an occasional chamber opera festival, a popular informal cabaret series and an extensive educational program in Boston's schools.