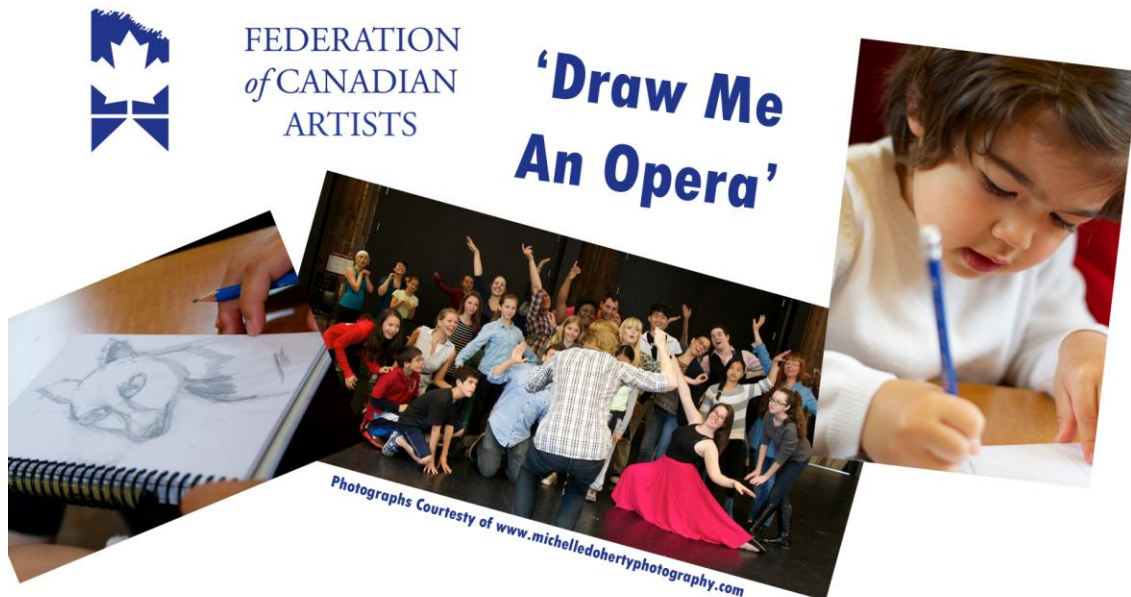


DRAW ME AN OPERA  
By Lennart Osterlind



**Part of an outreach program by the 'Together in Arts Foundation', Delta, 'Draw me an Opera' assists children with challenges in self-expression. Students went behind the scenes for a special performance of an opera. They sketched storyboards as the cast performed. Board member Lennart Osterlind continues to work with the 'Together in Arts Foundation' and the FCA was pleased to be in partnership with them for this part of their programming.**

'Draw me an Opera' is part of a project from FCA board member Lennart Osterlind's drawing class at the Tsawwassen Arts Centre and the "Together in Arts Foundation" from Delta BC. The project aims to create a teaching manual to compliment the book 'Draw me a Story' by Bob Steele. The FCA was proud to be in partnership with the Together in Arts Foundation for this part of the project.

We were 15 students and parents that drove to the University of British Columbia on May 25th. Some rain drops fell on us as we made our way for a perfect day at viewing the rehearsal of an opera.

Nancy Hermiston, the Director of the UBC Opera Ensemble, sitting on the stage, turned around before each act and explained what was happening. The singer, plus the younger actors danced around the stage flapping their arms and hands pretending to be chickens. Sometimes, they were chased by foxes that were singing. My students took notes and were drawing the chickens and

foxes as they 'saw' them through the performance of these talented actors.

We made some memories together during a break, where we shared our drawings and stories about the opera. Happy art students left for home at the end of the day.

Now we are gearing up for story board drawings of all the  
Draw Me An Opera 2  
impressions as we meet next Saturday to work on drawing and putting color to this event.  
Thanks all the participants, teachers, parents and the opera crew for wonderful time spent  
together.

Accompanying photographs are courtesy of Michelle Doherty, an enthusiastic supporter  
of Lennart's class, she says "As a photographer with a specialization in child portraiture  
and live performance, an opera singer trained at UBC, and as a mother of four young  
girls, this endeavour resonates very strongly with me!"

Photography Courtesy of Michelle Doherty  
[www.michelledohertyphotography.com](http://www.michelledohertyphotography.com)