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**Opera Educational Programs in Greece.  
A Case Study for the Greek National Opera 2009-2012**

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**Abstract**

The Greek National Opera, a strong brand name due to its monopolistic policy on one hand and its hard work for decades on the other, faced the educational programs in a fragmentary way till 2009. This same year, returning to my position as a principal trumpet player at the orchestra after two years of secondment to the Academy of Athens, the Board of the Opera offered me the position of Head of the Educational Department which at that time was being redesigned. The challenge was great and the field of acting was open to new ideas and grand planning. From the designed projects we visualized, some vanished and others prospered with marvelous results both for children and adults. This paper comes to record the thoughts and the visions we had with our colleagues but also the implemented outcome. The program was formed in actions for three age target groups: 7-12, 12, 18, 18+. Presentations and lessons in schools with lyrical artists from the Greek National Opera, musical fairy tales, lectures, editions, contests in cooperation with the EKEBI (National Book Center), co-working with the music teachers of the schools, new compositions, attending general rehearsals and finally the NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) program with which the Greek National Opera visited more than 200 primary schools in all over Greece. The argument that the opera as a species was the effort to revive the ancient Greek drama, not being stale, functioned positively both to the students and adults.

**Keywords:** lifelong education, high aesthetic criteria, target groups, promotion, from the lyre to the lyrical, "avant premiere" lectures, open rehearsals, interaction with the public