

The Little Match Girl Opera

An Impossible Dream come true.

The Little Match Girl Chamber Opera is the culmination of one Impossible Dream — and the beginning of another. It shows that great dreams can be realized ... and can be the beginning of another grand and noble quest.

The first impossible dream ... the premiere performance of the Opera. Written 40 years ago, it seemed to be an impossible dream that it would, one day, be recognized for the musical tour de force



that it is. That dream became a reality at the Paris World Premiere on June 20, 2013. With the final curtain, there was a standing ovation and wide acclaim from the distinguished international audience at the premiere performance ... setting the stage was for future performances, and with those performances the composer's hopes for a very special future for the opera.

The next impossible dream ... the Opera serving a higher purpose. William Byron Webster, the creator of **The Little Match Girl Opera**, has

committed his life to community service, helping the underprivileged achieve a better life. His contributions to the community prompted Stanford University, where he is a member of the

professional staff, to honor him as a “community treasure.” His commitment to community service is the motivation for Mr. Webster's next impossible dream, which is this: Because of the very modest costs to produce **The Little Match Girl Opera**, he believes that performances could be used to benefit nonprofit organizations raising money for services for children, legal services, assistance to victims of torture, public parks, affordable housing, recycling, and other worthy social causes. Because the story of the Opera relates to Christmas and New Years Day, these performances would be especially attractive to the general public during the Holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving. This idea is inspired by the example of multiple performances of The Nutcracker Ballet in the same holiday period that can raise up to half the budget of ballet companies.

Over the past 25 years, Mr. Webster has been a resident of and community activist in a poor city with a majority minority population surrounded by affluence. There, he has been a principal co-founder of nonprofit organizations to provide affordable housing and free legal services to the poor, and employment for the marginally employable, including the formerly incarcerated.

Mr. Webster looks forward to future productions of **The Little Match Girl Opera** being used to raise funds for worthy organizations like these, and encourages other nonprofit organizations to also consider productions of **The Little Match Girl Opera** in their fund-raising strategy. Please donate to support subsequent productions of **The Little Match Girl Opera** and to help make other impossible dreams a reality. Make your tax-deductible donation to **The Little Match Girl Opera/EPACT Education Fund, P.O. Box 50142, Palo Alto, CA 94303-0142.**

