

2026 Jing Shao Nian: Chinese Opera Cultural Intensive Application Information

The program is currently accepting applications - [apply now!](#)

Program Basics

Jing Shao Nian (JSN) is an immersive experience into the world of Peking and Cantonese opera, involving performances, martial arts classes, Chinatown field trips, Chinese history lectures, and community service projects.

The student leaders are high schoolers from Lick Wilmerding High School, The College Preparatory School, and Lowell. We see an exciting opportunity for youth to become more involved with and connected to the vibrant Cantonese Opera culture in San Francisco. Did you know that the legendary Bruce Lee used to frequent the Great Star Chinatown Theater to watch Cantonese Opera?

The JSN program will introduce the youth of San Francisco to the world of Chinese Opera and foster a deep appreciation for this ancient art form while creating a meaningful connection to this marvelous and enchanting aspect of Chinese culture.

The program fee is \$10, covering access to all program resources and activities.

Why should you join?

Joining the JSN program will allow you to use any experience you have in Mandarin Chinese skills to carry out a unique and impactful community service project related to the performing arts and music. **It is an opportunity to work with and meet other motivated, passionate students, and connect with high school (Lick Wilmerding, Lowell, College Prep) and college (UCLA, Stanford University, UCSD) cultural programs.**

Requirements:

We are looking for current students in 4th, 5th, 6th, or 7th graders. Musical experience, specifically vocal or Chinese instrument experience, as well as Chinese language experience, is a plus but **not a requirement**. Most of all, we are looking for kids with strong leadership, organization, collaboration, and communication skills.

Timeline:

The program meets every other week on Sundays, starting February 2nd until June 8th for 2-3 hours, with additional homework and optional projects in between sessions. There are a variety of performance opportunities, most taking place in the second half of the program, April to June. These performance opportunities include performing alongside professional Cantonese Opera troupes at the Yerba Buena Theater and community service performances for seniors in the Sequoia Living residences.

There are three main locations in the program. The CAIS Campus, (3250 19th Ave), a professional Cantonese Opera studio in Chinatown (138 Waverley Place,) and the Tat Wong Kung Fu Academy (4801 Geary Blvd). Detailed information about drop-off logistics will be available upon application.

The first session, which is an introduction session for the program, will be on February 1st at the CAIS 19th Ave Campus from 12 PM - 3 PM.

Sample Schedule:

Time: (12:00-3:00 PM) May 5 (CAIS Space)

Activity	Time
Arrival Time	11:50 AM - 12 PM
Chinese Opera Costuming Presentation (Guest Speaker)	12:00 - 12:30 PM
Makeup Demonstration	12:30 - 1:00 PM
Break	1:00-1:20 PM
UCLA Confucius Center Lecture	1:20 - 2:00 PM
Costume Planning for Showcase Time	2:00 - 2:30 PM
Rehearsal for Senior Center Showcase	2:30 - 3:00 PM
Pick Up	3:00 - 3:10 PM

Next Steps

If you are ready and excited to join the program, [fill out the application form](#)! **The deadline is Wednesday, January 14th at 11:59 pm.**

Please feel free to reach out with any questions that you might have to info.jingshaonian@gmail.com or check out [our website](#).

FAQ:

Will the program be conducted in Chinese?

- *All of our instructors are fluent in English, and Chinese (Mandarin + Cantonese) is a plus, but not a requirement.*

I may have occasional scheduling conflicts, but I still want to participate. Do I need to attend all sessions?

- *It's fine to miss one or two sessions with advanced communication, but if you have a regular conflict, it's best not to apply.*

Is there a fee to participate in this program?

- *JSN requires a small fee \$10 but also requires dedication, passion, and skill!*