

Embracing Our Differences hires education director



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Ben Jewell-Plocher has been named the new education director for Embracing our Differences. [COURTESY PHOTO]

By Staff Report

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Ben Jewell-Plocher spent the last eight years working with Sarasota Opera and Sarasota Youth Opera

Ben Jewell-Plocher, who has worked as Youth Opera coordinator and director of education for Sarasota Opera for the last eight years, has been named the new education director for Embracing Our Differences.

In his new job, he will be creating, developing, evaluating and implementing all education programs for the organization, which uses art to discourage hatred and prejudice and encourage diversity and acceptance.

Executive Director Sarah Wertheimer said the organization's year-round education programs "touch the lives of thousands of area teachers and students every year. Ben has an amazing track record in this area. He's helped scores of

nonprofits engage in innovative education initiatives. This is his core expertise — and it's also his passion.”

Jewell-Plocher has spent most of his career working in the nonprofit world, including the Indianapolis Children's Choir, Interlochen Center for the Arts and the St. Louis Muny. During his years with Sarasota Opera and working with the Sarasota Youth Opera, he oversaw the commissioning of two new works for young voices and expansions in the opera's after-school and in-school programming.