Hearing Loop System Primer for Theatre Staff

The Sarasota Opera now has a Hearing Loop System that sends the voices of performers directly from the microphone on stage into a hearing aid or cochlear implant worn by an audience member. No headset is required.

For the system to work, the hearing aid wear must have the **T-coil** in their hearing aid turned on. Most hearing aids come readily equipped with a T-coil, but it often has to be activated by the audiologist before the first use. The white “T” in the lower right of the internationally recognized Loop Sign refers to the T-coil.

**Trouble – Shooting Guide**

If a person with a hearing aid says they cannot receive the loop, then:

- Remind them to turn their T-coil on.

If the person does not know what a T-coil is or how to turn it on, it is best to:

- Tell them to see their audiologist to make sure it is activated and to learn how to turn it on
  
- **However, offer them a Loop Receiver for today's performance.** They can wear this receiver with or without their hearing aid to receive all the benefits of the loop system.
  
- Also hand them a loop information sheet or point out an explanation of the loop in the Program if either are available.

If the person really wants to try to turn their T-coil on, it is usually accessible by a program button, most often the middle button or switch on their hearing aid.

However, in many of these cases, their T-coil will not have been activated and an audiologist visit is needed.

If your audience member has more questions, feel free to refer them to the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota at 941-706-4312.