

CINCINNATI OPERA

OPERA

STORYBOOK HOUR



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The Magic Flute

An Opera by Mozart, Adapted by Kyra Teis

THE STORY

Prince Tamino is hunting in the forest one day when his life changes forever! In order to save Princess Pamina from her evil mother, the Queen of the Night, Prince Tamino must go to the Temple of Light and pass a series of three trials. With the help of his magic flute, and his bird-catching friend, Papageno, Tamino ventures on his journey so that he and the princess may wed.

Story Comprehension

1. Who saved Prince Tamino from the deadly dragon?
2. What is Papageno's profession?
3. What is Papageno's punishment for lying about slaying the dragon?
4. Where must Prince Tamino and Papageno go to save Princess Pamina?
5. Who is Sarastro, and where does he live?
6. What is so special about Princess Pamina?
7. What lie did the Queen of the Night tell?
8. What did the Queen of the Night's three ladies give to Prince Tamino to help him on his journey?
9. What are the three trials?
10. What happened to the Queen of the Night after Prince Tamino passed all three trials?
11. What was Papageno's last trial? Who did he meet at the end of this trial?

Matching

Match the character's name to their description.

Prince Tamino	A wise and powerful sorcerer who lives in the Temple of Light
Princess Pamina	The birdcatcher's wife
The Queen of the Night	The true slayer of dragons
The Three Ladies	A young maiden who will inherit the Temple of Light
Papageno	The joyful birdcatcher
Papagena	A young man who passes all three trials
Sarastro	A vengeful woman who seeks to destroy everything good

Opera Comprehension

What is Opera?

Opera is storytelling through music. Opera is unique because it tells a story, features the beauty of the human voice, has juicy drama, and is full of exciting scenes and visuals.

Operas are written in many languages, but most often in Italian, German, and French. The English words are projected during an opera so that the audience can understand what is being sung. In opera, these are called "supertitles".

Opera singers sing over an entire orchestra and train for years to project their sound to the entire audience. Because of this projection technique, they do not need to use microphones. Principals are singers who have leading roles. The group of singers that assists with the action is called the chorus.

There are others who make opera happen! Most operas also use supernumeraries, or "supers." These actors are similar to movie extras and help make the scenes feel realistic. A stage director tells the singers how to act and move on stage, while a chorus master helps the chorus learn their music and sometimes conducts from backstage. The orchestra plays the music live in the pit below the stage. The maestro ("master"), or conductor, is the music director and makes sure that the orchestra and singers are working together. The stage manager focuses on the movement on stage to keep the audience captivated throughout the performance.

Opera is an elaborate collaboration between many people. When the elements come together, the work of the composer and librettist (the writer of the words) comes to life.

Glossary of Opera Terms

aria (ah'-ree-uh)

a solo song in opera or operetta

bravo! (brah'-vo)

literally "very good" (in Italian); a compliment shouted by the audience to the performers following an exceptional performance

coloratura (co-lo-rah-too'-ruh)

ornate vocal writing which demonstrates a singer's vocal agility

duet (dyoo-et')

a song sung by two singers

encore (ahn'-cor)

to repeat a given piece of music by popular demand

ensemble (ahn-sahm'-b'l)

literally "together"; a piece of music to be performed by multiple musicians; also refers to the group performing such a piece

finale (fee-nah'-leh)

the final musical number in an opera, often involving multiple soloists and chorus

libretto (lih-bret'-toh)

literally "little book" (in Italian); the script, in poetry or prose, of an opera; the words the characters sing; in an operetta, some of these words are spoken

operetta (op-uh-ret'-tah)

literally "little opera" (in Italian); usually a light comic opera, combining sung and spoken text; an orchestral prelude to the opera

quartet (kwar-tet')

a song sung by four singers or voices

Operatic Voices

Soprano: the highest female voice. The soprano voice is similar to a flute in range and tone color. In opera, the soprano is usually the heroine; the high, bright sound of the soprano suggests youth, innocence, and virtue.

Mezzo-Soprano: the middle female voice. The mezzo-soprano voice is similar to an oboe in range and tone color.

Alto/Contralto: the lowest female voice. The alto voice is similar in sound to the lower range of a clarinet. The deep grandeur of an alto's voice usually has her cast as an older female possessing great wisdom, or sometimes as a witch.

Tenor: the highest male voice. The tenor voice is similar in range and tone color, and acoustical "ring" to a trumpet. In opera, the tenor is usually the hero or the romantic interest.

Baritone: the middle male voice. The baritone voice is similar in range and color to a French horn. In tragic opera, the baritone is usually the villain.

Bass: the lowest male voice. The bass voice is similar to a trombone or bassoon in range and color. Low voices usually connote age and wisdom.

The Aria

"Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja" is from the operatic version of *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It is a German aria in which the birdcatcher, Papageno, sings about how much he longs for a bird-catching wife: a Papagena! Have you ever wanted something very badly before? Have you ever imagined what it would be like when you finally have what you longed for? Read the lyrics to see just what Papageno longed for. Then write a story of your own about a wish that does (or doesn't) come true.

Lyrics and Translation

Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja,
Stets lustig heissa hopsasa!
Ich Vogelfänger bin bekannt
bei Alt und Jung im ganzen Land.
Weiß mit dem Lokken umzugehn
und mich aufs Pfeiffen zu verstehen!
Drum kann ich froh und lustig sein,
Denn alle Vögel sind ja mein.

The birdcatcher I am indeed,
Always happy, hip hooray!
I, the birdcatcher, am well known
To old and young throughout the land.
I know how to get around the bird decoys
And lure birds with my pipe.
Therefore I can be happy and funny,
For all the birds are indeed mine.

Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja,
Stets lustig heissa hopsasa!
Ich Vogenfänger bin bekannt
Bei Alt und Jung im ganzen Land.
Ein Netz für Mädchen möchte ich;
Ich fing sie dutzendweis für mich!
Dann sperrte ich sie bei mir ein
Und alle Mädchen wären mein.

The birdcatcher I am indeed,
Always happy, hip hooray!
I, the birdcatcher, am well-known
To old and young throughout the land.
A net for girls is what I would like;
I'd catch them by the dozen for me!
Then I would lock them up with me
And all the girls would be mine.

Wenn alle Mädchen wären mein,
So tauschte ich brav Zucker ein.
Die welche mir am liebsten wär,
der gäb ich gleich den Zucker her.
Und küsste sie mich zärtlich dann,
Wär' sie mein Weib und ich ihr Mann.
Sie schlief an meiner Seite ein;
ich wiegte wie ein Kind sie ein.

If all the girls were mine,
I'd barter plenty of sugar.
The one I liked the best,
I would give all the sugar.
And if she kissed me tenderly then,
She would be my wife and I, her husband.
She would fall asleep by my side
And I would rock her to sleep like a child.

About the Composer

The composer—the person who wrote the music—for *The Magic Flute* was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This great composer was born in 1782 in Salzburg, Austria. Here are some fun facts about him!



- **The Prodigal Child:** Mozart was considered a musical prodigy. He began showing great musical ability at the early age of 4! He eventually became a skilled composer, as well as pianist, organist, and violist. He composed his first opera at 11 years old. By the end of his career, Mozart composed over 600 works of music.
- **Let Them Eat Cake:** When Mozart was 6 years old, he met the future Queen of France, Marie Antoinette. He was visiting the royal courts of Vienna when he slipped on the polished floors. The young Marie Antoinette helped him up, and he proposed marriage to her! They never married (luckily for him), but the meeting resulted in a very successful musical tour.
- **Unfinished Masterpiece:** Mozart died at the young age of 35 from a fever, although there were false rumors that he was poisoned. Just before he died, Mozart was working on his final commissioned piece, Requiem Mass In D Minor. Although Mozart never finished this piece, one of his students eventually completed it.
- **The Chocolate Factory:** Mozart has a chocolate named after him. Mozartkugel is a small chocolate ball with pistachio marzipan and nougat inside. This yummy chocolate is very popular in Austria and Germany and make a great treat and souvenir!
- **Salzburg Idol:** Chocolate is not the only thing created in Mozart's honor. His hometown of Salzburg is now known for its "Mozart Tourism." The economy flourishes on the sale of Mozart t-shirts, keychain, magnets, and much more!
- **The Great Influence:** Mozart is arguably one of the most influential composers of all time, inspiring other great composers such as Beethoven, Chopin, Glinka, Tchaikovsky, and many others.

Color



Creat Your Own Pan Flute

Prince Tamino isn't the only one who can play the flute! As a bird-catcher, Papageno uses a pan flute to call to birds. Follow the instructions below to create a pan flute of your own!

Materials:

Cardstock or cardboard

Plastic straws

Scissors

Coloring utensils

Tape or glue

Ruler

Steps:

1. Take five wide straws and cut them to various lengths.
2. Cut two pieces of cardstock or cardboard, and decorate as you'd like.
3. Using one piece of cardstock, tape/glue the straws inside.
4. Line the other piece of cardstock evenly to the other side of the straws, and tape/glue.
5. Play your finished pan flute by blowing into the holes!

