

# Opera Masterclass

Opera · Answer Key · 20 Questions

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**1. Which composer is credited with creating the first great opera, 'L'Orfeo', in 1607?**

- A) Claudio Monteverdi**
- B) George Frideric Handel
- C) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- D) Henry Purcell

**2. In operatic terminology, what does the term 'coloratura' specifically refer to?**

- A) The use of brass instruments
- B) Elaborate melodic ornamentation by a singer**
- C) The scenery and lighting design
- D) The seating arrangement in an opera house

**3. The term 'bel canto', widely associated with Italian opera in the early 19th century, literally translates to what?**

- A) Beautiful singing**
- B) Dramatic staging
- C) Fast tempo
- D) Complex rhythm

**4. Which composer is famous for the 'Ring Cycle' (Der Ring des Nibelungen), a series of four epic music dramas?**

- A) Giuseppe Verdi
- B) Richard Wagner**
- C) Giacomo Puccini
- D) Richard Strauss

**5. What is the 'libretto' of an opera?**

- A) The orchestral score
- B) The conductor's baton
- C) The text or script of the work**
- D) The architectural blueprint of the stage

**6. Which opera house is located in Milan and is considered one of the most prestigious in the world?**

- A) La Scala**
- B) The Royal Opera House
- C) The Met
- D) Teatro Colón

7. What is a 'recitative' in the context of an opera?

- A) The climax of the final act
- B) A solo sung by the chorus
- C) A style of delivery in which a singer adopts the rhythms of ordinary speech**
- D) The intermission between acts

8. Which female voice type is the lowest in the standard operatic range?

- A) Soprano
- B) Mezzo-soprano
- C) Contralto**
- D) Coloratura

9. 'The Marriage of Figaro' is a renowned comic opera (opera buffa) composed by whom?

- A) Ludwig van Beethoven
- B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
- C) Gioachino Rossini
- D) Franz Schubert

10. In which city was the legendary opera singer Maria Callas born?

- A) New York City**
- B) Athens
- C) Paris
- D) Milan

11. What is the term for a short, introductory musical piece played by the orchestra before an opera begins?

- A) Overture**
- B) Cadenza
- C) Aria
- D) Libretto

12. Giuseppe Verdi's 'Aida' was commissioned to celebrate the opening of what?

- A) The Suez Canal**
- B) The Paris Opera House
- C) The Vienna State Opera
- D) The Berlin Philharmonic

13. Which opera features the famous 'Habanera' aria?

- A) Tosca
- B) Carmen**
- C) La Bohème
- D) Don Giovanni

14. What is the definition of an 'aria' in opera?

- A) A chorus-only section
- B) A self-contained piece for one voice**
- C) A dance sequence
- D) An instrumental solo

15. Which vocal part is typically written for a high-pitched male voice that uses falsetto or head voice?

- A) Baritone
- B) Bass
- C) Countertenor**
- D) Tenor

16. The opera 'La Bohème', which inspired the musical 'Rent', was composed by whom?

- A) Giacomo Puccini**
- B) Gaetano Donizetti
- C) Vincenzo Bellini
- D) Pietro Mascagni

17. What is the primary function of a 'continuo' in early Baroque opera?

- A) To signal the end of the show
- B) To provide harmonic support**
- C) To dictate the speed of the singers
- D) To enhance the lighting effects

18. Which composer wrote 'The Barber of Seville'?

- A) Gioachino Rossini**
- B) Georges Bizet
- C) Antonín Dvořák
- D) Bedřich Smetana

19. What does the term 'leitmotif' mean in Wagnerian opera?

- A) A comedic interlude
- B) A recurring musical theme associated with a character or idea**
- C) The lead singer's solo
- D) The curtain call

**20. The 'Met' is a common nickname for the Metropolitan Opera House located in which city?**

A) London

**B) New York City**

C) Sydney

D) Vienna