

Fundamentals of Opera

Music History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What is the written text of an opera called?

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

2. Which term describes a solo vocal piece in an opera that focuses on the singer's emotions?

- A) Recitative
- B) Aria**
- C) Chorus
- D) Ensemble

3. What is the introductory orchestral piece played at the beginning of an opera?

- A) Finale
- B) Intermezzo
- C) Overture**
- D) Cadenza

4. In which country did opera originate around the year 1600?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) Italy**
- D) Austria

5. What is the highest female singing voice type in opera?

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

6. Which composer is famous for writing the opera 'The Magic Flute'?

- A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
- B) Giuseppe Verdi
- C) Giacomo Puccini
- D) Richard Wagner

7. What is the term for the person who leads the orchestra during an opera performance?

- A) Director
- B) Stage Manager
- C) Conductor**
- D) Choreographer

8. Which vocal range is typically the lowest male voice in opera?

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

9. What is the name for the style of singing that mimics the natural rhythms of speech to move the plot forward?

- A) Recitative**
- B) Coloratura
- C) Bel Canto
- D) Leitmotif

10. What is the term for a group of singers who perform together in an opera to represent a crowd or community?

- A) Duo
- B) Chorus**
- C) Soloist
- D) Trio

11. Who is the composer responsible for the famous opera 'La Bohème'?

- A) Georges Bizet
- B) Giacomo Puccini**
- C) Gioachino Rossini
- D) Ludwig van Beethoven

12. What is the Italian term for 'beautiful singing,' a style emphasizing vocal agility and tone?

- A) Verismo
- B) Singspiel
- C) Bel Canto**
- D) Opera Buffa

13. Which of these is a famous comic opera?

A) The Barber of Seville

B) Tristan und Isolde

C) Tosca

D) Aida

14. In opera, what is a 'prima donna' traditionally known as?

A) The lead conductor

B) The main female singer

C) The costume designer

D) The stage director

15. What term refers to a recurring musical theme associated with a specific character, place, or idea?

A) Overture

B) Libretto

C) Leitmotif

D) Aria