

Exploring the World of Opera

Opera · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which of the following Italian terms, meaning 'sung drama,' best describes the fundamental nature of opera?

- A) Aria
- B) Recitative
- C) Opera seria
- D) Dramma per musica**

2. The earliest significant opera, generally considered to be Jacopo Peri's 'Dafne' (though largely lost), was first performed in what year?

- A) 1598**
- B) 1607
- C) 1637
- D) 1711

3. What is the name of the solo vocal piece in opera, typically a more elaborate and melodic section, that expresses a character's emotions?

- A) Duet
- B) Chorus
- C) Aria**
- D) Overture

4. Which Baroque composer is renowned for his opera 'L'Orfeo,' considered one of the earliest and most influential works in the operatic repertoire?

- A) Antonio Vivaldi
- B) George Frideric Handel
- C) Claudio Monteverdi**
- D) Henry Purcell

5. In the context of opera, what is 'recitative' primarily used for?

- A) To present complex musical fugues.
- B) To advance the plot and dialogue through speech-like singing.**
- C) To showcase the virtuosity of the orchestra.
- D) To provide moments of comedic relief.

6. The opera 'The Magic Flute' (Die Zauberflöte), a popular work often studied in schools, was composed by which Austrian master of the Classical era?

- A) Ludwig van Beethoven
- B) Joseph Haydn
- C) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
- D) Franz Schubert

7. Which of the following is NOT a typical voice type found in opera?

- A) Soprano
- B) Tenor
- C) Baritone
- D) Contralto**

8. The premiere of 'The Barber of Seville' (Il barbiere di Siviglia) by Gioachino Rossini is famously associated with a disastrous opening night riot. In what year did this occur?

- A) 1805
- B) 1816**
- C) 1829
- D) 1842

9. Which German composer is celebrated for his monumental 'Ring Cycle' (Der Ring des Nibelungen), a series of four epic operas?

- A) Johann Sebastian Bach
- B) Robert Schumann
- C) Johannes Brahms
- D) Richard Wagner**

10. What is the term for a musical introduction to an opera, often played by the orchestra before the curtain rises?

- A) Intermezzo
- B) Overture**
- C) Symphony
- D) Prelude

11. The Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi is known for his dramatic operas. Which of these works is one of his most famous?

- A) Carmen
- B) La bohème
- C) Rigoletto**
- D) The Marriage of Figaro

12. In opera, 'bel canto' refers to a style of singing that emphasizes what qualities?

- A) Aggressive vocal power and dramatic declamation.
- B) Melodic beauty, vocal agility, and expressive phrasing.**
- C) Rapid-fire spoken dialogue with musical accompaniment.
- D) Strict adherence to folk-like melodies and rhythms.