

Advanced Opera Knowledge

Opera · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which operatic term refers to a self-contained piece for one voice, usually with orchestral accompaniment?

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

2. What is the Italian term for the text or script of an opera?

- A) Score
- B) Partitura
- C) Libretto**
- D) Cadenza

3. Which composer is credited with creating the 'Gesamtkunstwerk' (total work of art) concept?

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

4. In which city is the famous La Scala opera house located?

- A) Rome
- B) Venice
- C) Naples
- D) Milan**

5. What is the vocal classification for a very high female voice, often characterized by rapid runs and trills?

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

6. Which of these operas was composed by Georges Bizet and is set in Seville, Spain?

- A) Tosca
- B) Carmen**
- C) Rigoletto
- D) Fidelio

7. What does the term 'Bel Canto' literally translate to in English?

A) Beautiful singing

B) Bold expression

C) Fast pacing

D) Heavy drama

8. Which Mozart opera features the character Papageno, a bird-catcher?

A) The Marriage of Figaro

B) Don Giovanni

C) The Magic Flute

D) Così fan tutte

9. Who wrote the libretto for many of W.A. Mozart's most famous operas, including 'The Marriage of Figaro'?

A) Lorenzo Da Ponte

B) Metastasio

C) Arrigo Boito

D) Hugo von Hofmannsthal

10. What is the name of the 'death aria' sung by the protagonist in Puccini's 'Tosca'?

A) Vesti la giubba

B) E lucevan le stelle

C) Nessun dorma

D) Che gelida manina

11. Which operatic voice part is the lowest male voice range?

A) Baritone

B) Tenor

C) Countertenor

D) Bass

12. In the 'Ring Cycle' by Richard Wagner, what is the 'Ring' forged from?

A) Gold stolen from the Rhine maidens

B) A fallen star

C) The sword of Wotan

D) Dragon scales

13. Which opera by Giuseppe Verdi features the famous 'Anvil Chorus'?

A) La Traviata

B) Aida

C) Il Trovatore

D) Otello

14. What is a 'leitmotif' in the context of Wagnerian opera?

- A) A type of stage prop
- B) A recurring musical theme associated with a character or idea**
- C) The conductor's baton
- D) A specific seating arrangement

15. Which opera contains the famous soprano aria 'Un bel dì vedremo'?

- A) Madama Butterfly**
- B) La Bohème
- C) Turandot
- D) Manon Lescaut

16. What is the vocal range that sits between a soprano and a contralto?

- A) Baritone
- B) Tenor
- C) Mezzo-soprano**
- D) Bass-baritone

17. Which 17th-century composer is considered the 'father of opera' for his work 'L'Orfeo'?

- A) Claudio Monteverdi**
- B) Henry Purcell
- C) Jean-Baptiste Lully
- D) Antonio Vivaldi

18. The Sydney Opera House was designed by which Danish architect?

- A) Alvar Aalto
- B) Jørn Utzon**
- C) Frank Lloyd Wright
- D) Oscar Niemeyer

19. What is the purpose of a 'synopsis' in an opera program?

- A) List of orchestra members
- B) Summary of the plot**
- C) Biography of the composer
- D) Technical specifications of the stage

20. Which musical technique involves a singer performing rapid, decorative notes?

- A) Legato
- B) Staccato
- C) Melisma**
- D) Vibrato