

Adventures in Opera

Opera · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. What Italian composer is often called the 'Father of Opera' for his early and influential works like 'L'Orfeo'?

- A) Antonio Vivaldi
- B) Claudio Monteverdi**
- C) Giacomo Puccini
- D) Giuseppe Verdi

2. In which famous opera house, known for its horseshoe shape and opulent decor, did Luciano Pavarotti often perform?

- A) La Scala, Milan**
- B) The Metropolitan Opera, New York
- C) The Royal Opera House, London
- D) The Vienna State Opera

3. What is the term for a solo song in an opera that expresses a character's emotions or thoughts?

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

4. Which composer wrote the opera 'The Magic Flute', featuring a magical flute that can charm anyone who hears it?

- A) Richard Wagner
- B) Ludwig van Beethoven
- C) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
- D) Johann Sebastian Bach

5. What is the spoken or sung dialogue that moves the plot forward in an opera, often less melodic than an aria?

- A) Recitative**
- B) Symphony
- C) Ballet
- D) Intermezzo

6. The story of 'Carmen' by Georges Bizet is set in which country?

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

7. What are the large, often elaborate musical introductions to operas called?

- A) Cadenzas
- B) Overtures**
- C) Librettos
- D) Encores

8. Which Russian composer is famous for operas like 'Boris Godunov' and 'Khovanshchina'?

- A) Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- B) Igor Stravinsky
- C) Modest Mussorgsky**
- D) Sergei Rachmaninoff

9. What is the name of the printed book containing the words of an opera?

- A) Score
- B) Synopsis
- C) Libretto**
- D) Program

10. In Giacomo Puccini's 'Turandot', what famous aria does the tenor sing, expressing his desperate love?

- A) 'Nessun Dorma'**
- B) 'La donna è mobile'
- C) 'Habanera'
- D) 'Vesti la giubba'

11. What type of voice is typically the highest female singing voice in opera?

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

12. Which opera composer, known for his grand scale and mythological themes, developed the 'music drama' concept?

- A) Giuseppe Verdi
- B) Richard Wagner**
- C) Gioachino Rossini
- D) Georges Bizet

13. What is the Italian term for a spectacular stage production in an opera, often featuring elaborate sets and costumes?

- A) Pantomime
- B) Spectacle**
- C) Bel canto
- D) Opera seria

14. Which composer wrote the opera 'The Barber of Seville', famous for its lively music and comedic story?

- A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- B) Giuseppe Verdi
- C) Gioachino Rossini**
- D) Gaetano Donizetti

15. What does the French term 'couleur locale' refer to in opera?

- A) The color of the costumes
- B) The use of music to evoke a specific place or culture**
- C) The lighting effects
- D) The operatic genre

16. The opera 'La Bohème' by Giacomo Puccini tells the story of a group of young artists living in which European city?

- A) Rome
- B) Vienna
- C) Paris**
- D) Prague

17. What is the collective name for the singers who perform in an opera, excluding the soloists?

- A) Ensemble
- B) Chorus**
- C) Orchestra
- D) Soloists

18. Which composer's operas are known for their dramatic intensity and are often based on Shakespeare's plays, such as 'Otello' and 'Falstaff'?

- A) Richard Wagner
- B) Giacomo Puccini
- C) Giuseppe Verdi**
- D) George Frideric Handel

19. What is the term for a singer who specializes in singing with a very clear, pure, and expressive tone, often in Italian operas?

- A) Leggenda
- B) Bel canto**
- C) Virtuoso
- D) Dramma giocoso

20. What is the name of the famous opera house in Sydney, Australia, known for its distinctive sail-like architecture?

- A) The Bolshoi Theatre
- B) The Sydney Opera House**
- C) The Paris Opéra Garnier
- D) The Salzburg Festival Hall

21. Which composer is famous for his 'Ring Cycle' (Der Ring des Nibelungen), a series of four epic operas?

- A) Johann Sebastian Bach
- B) Ludwig van Beethoven
- C) Richard Wagner**
- D) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

22. What is the term for a dramatic opera with a happy ending, often featuring comedy?

- A) Opera seria
- B) Opera buffa**
- C) Opera comique
- D) Grand opera

23. The original opera house in Venice, Italy, which opened in 1637 and is considered the first public opera house, was named what?

- A) Teatro San Moisè
- B) Teatro La Fenice
- C) Teatro San Cassiano**
- D) Teatro San Giovanni

24. What is the highest male singing voice in opera?

- A) Tenor
- B) Baritone
- C) Bass

D) Countertenor

25. Which composer wrote the opera 'Aida', commissioned for the opening of the Suez Canal?

A) Gioachino Rossini

B) Giuseppe Verdi

C) Giacomo Puccini

D) Gaetano Donizetti