Opera Essentials

Opera · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What is the written text of an opera, which the singers follow during a performance, called?

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

2. Which Italian composer wrote the famous opera 'The Barber of Seville'?

A) Giuseppe Verdi
B) Gioachino Rossini
C) Giacomo Puccini
D) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3. In opera, what is the term for a solo vocal piece that expresses a character's emotional state?

A) Recitative
B) Chorus
C) Aria
D) Duet

4. Which famous opera house is located in Sydney, Australia?

A) La Scala
B) The Metropolitan Opera
C) Royal Opera House
D) Sydney Opera House

5. What is a 'prima donna' in the context of an opera company?

A) The lead female singer
B) The person who conducts the orchestra
C) The designer of the costumes
D) The writer of the libretto

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

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

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7. Which famous Mozart opera features the character 'The Queen of the Night'?

A) Don Giovanni
B) The Magic Flute
C) The Marriage of Figaro
D) Così fan tutte

8. What is the instrumental piece that is played by the orchestra at the very beginning of an opera?

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

9. Which country is widely considered the birthplace of opera in the late 16th century?

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

10. What is the term for the part of an opera where the singing follows the rhythm of natural speech to advance the plot?

A) Recitative
B) Aria
C) Coloratura
D) Libretto

11. Which composer is famous for the 'Ring Cycle', a series of four epic operas?

A) Richard Wagner
B) Johannes Brahms
C) Franz Schubert
D) Ludwig van Beethoven

12. In traditional opera terminology, what is a 'basso buffo'?

A) A serious villain
B) A comic bass character
C) A high-pitched soprano
D) A stage technician

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13. What does the term 'coloratura' refer to in opera singing?

A) The volume of the singer
B) Fast, elaborate vocal ornamentation
C) The color of the singer's costume
D) The speed of the orchestra

14. Which opera features the famous 'Toreador Song'?

A) Carmen
B) Tosca
C) Aida
D) Turandot

15. Which instrument family typically dominates the orchestra pit in an opera house?

A) Percussion
B) Woodwinds
C) Strings
D) Brass

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