Opera Masterclass

Opera · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which 17th-century work, premiered in 1607, is widely considered the first operatic masterpiece of the Baroque era?

A) L'Orfeo
B) Dido and Aeneas
C) Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria
D) L'incoronazione di Poppea

2. In operatic terminology, what does the term 'bel canto' specifically refer to?

A) A style of rhythmic speaking used in recitative
B) A vocal technique emphasizing agility and beautiful tone
C) A type of stage machinery for flying performers
D) The practice of transposing a score for a different voice type

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

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

4. In Verdi's 'Rigoletto', what is the profession of the titular character?

A) Court jester
B) Wealthy merchant
C) Corrupt politician
D) Aspiring assassin

5. What is the formal term for the orchestral piece played at the beginning of an opera before the curtain rises?

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

6. Which operatic voice type is defined by a deep, resonant range, typically portrayed as a villain or a father figure?

A) Countertenor
B) Baritone
C) Bass
D) Coloratura soprano

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7. In Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro', which character is the Count's servant who constantly schemes to marry Susanna?

A) Cherubino
B) Dr. Bartolo
C) Figaro
D) Don Basilio

8. What is the term for a vocal passage in an opera that moves the plot forward through speech-like melody?

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

9. Which opera is famous for the aria 'Nessun Dorma', often associated with the tenor Luciano Pavarotti?

A) Tosca
B) La Bohème
C) Turandot
D) Madama Butterfly

10. The term 'libretto' refers to which specific component of an opera?

A) The musical score
B) The stage lighting design
C) The written text of the work
D) The historical biography of the composer

11. Which city is home to the La Scala opera house, one of the most prestigious venues in the world?

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

12. In 'Carmen', the famous opera by Georges Bizet, what is the occupation of the character Don José?

A) Soldier
B) Bullfighter
C) Smuggler
D) Priest

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