Introduction to Opera

Music History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is the written text of an opera called?

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

2. Which vocal range is typically the highest for a female singer in opera?

A) Mezzo-soprano
B) Contralto
C) Soprano
D) Baritone

3. In what country did opera originate during the late 16th century?

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

4. What is the term for an orchestral piece played at the very beginning of an opera?

A) Aria
B) Duet
C) Overture
D) Finale

5. Which Italian composer is famous for writing 'The Barber of Seville'?

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

6. What is a solo song in an opera, intended to show the character's emotions, called?

A) Aria
B) Chorus
C) Choreography
D) Cadenza

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7. Which of these is a famous opera composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

A) Carmen
B) La Bohème
C) The Magic Flute
D) Tosca

8. What is the role of the conductor in an opera performance?

A) To write the libretto
B) To design the costumes
C) To lead the orchestra and singers
D) To sell the tickets

9. Which male voice type is the lowest in pitch?

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

10. What do we call the speech-like singing style used to advance the plot in opera?

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

11. Which famous opera features the 'Toreador Song' and is set in Spain?

A) Carmen
B) Don Giovanni
C) Aida
D) Turandot

12. What is the primary language of the original libretto for Verdi's 'Rigoletto'?

A) French
B) German
C) Italian
D) English

13. What term describes the ornamental, highly agile singing style often performed by sopranos?

A) Staccato
B) Coloratura
C) Legato
D) Vibrato

14. Which of the following is a large theatrical building designed specifically for performing operas?

A) Opera House
B) Gallery
C) Amphitheatre
D) Stadium

15. Who is the legendary figure whose descent into the underworld is the subject of the earliest surviving opera, 'Euridice'?

A) Hercules
B) Orpheus
C) Achilles
D) Odysseus

16. In 'The Marriage of Figaro', what is the profession of the main character, Figaro?

A) Count
B) Doctor
C) Valet
D) Soldier

17. What is the term for a group of singers who perform together in an opera, usually representing crowds or townspeople?

A) Orchestra
B) Chorus
C) Soloists
D) Ballet

18. Which opera composer is renowned for the 'Ring Cycle', a series of four interconnected music dramas?

A) Richard Wagner
B) Georges Bizet
C) Puccini
D) Handel