

Painted Sky Opera | Session 2:

Children's Opera-*Sid the Serpent Who Learned to Sing*

List of Required Supplies: Internet access, screens for viewing, classroom space, worksheets (link provided), art supplies, pencils

Additional Links:

https://streaming.uco.edu/media/Sid+The+Serpent+2+3+11am/1_rnjuyyas (video)

<https://www.paintedskyopera.org/s/Sid-the-Serpent-worksheets-Opera-In-Place.pdf> (worksheet)

Space/Facility Requirements: Internet access, viewing screens, classroom

Student Time Required: 60 minutes

Step-by-step Instructions:

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

Respond:

- Recognize different ways to sing
- Identify arias and recitative in an operatic setting
- Verbalize in their own words what the opera was about

Connect:

- Recognize emotions that operatic music communicates and how the character's actions reflect those emotions
- Determine the voice type of a character based on their sound
- Determine what they like and dislike about the opera

Perform:

- Work toward building confidence in their own abilities to participate in opera and other musical forms

Create:

- Create artwork using coloring sheet provided

Introduction: Before starting the video, introduce the name of the opera: *Sid the Serpent Who Learned to Sing*.

Based on the title alone, ask the students the following questions:

- What do you think the opera is about?
- What do you think you will hear in the opera?
- What do you think you will hear in the opera that you heard in the *Opera Basics* video?

Sid the Serpent Who Learned to Sing is the first in this curriculum series and should be easy for the students to make connections between what they learned in the *Opera Basics* video and the opera itself. The opera tells the story of the journey of Sid, who is a snake who lives at the circus. Sid loves to sing but is told he has a terrible singing voice. So, he sets on a journey to learn how to sing. Along the way, he meets an opera singer, a singing group, and a pop singer. They all demonstrate different ways to sing, but none truly resonates with Sid. Finally, sad and alone, he begins to sing and his circus mates realize that his own natural voice is the best singing of all. The moral of the opera is that singers should not be afraid to sing but rather sing with their natural and full voice.

Along the way, the opera teaches about three styles of singing (opera, choral, and pop singing). It also demonstrates both arias and recitative as well as the four voice types, which were all studied in the first lesson of this curriculum.

The opera is participatory in that students are taught a song (“Letter F-U-N”) and encouraged to sing along with that song. The instructor may wish to go over this song prior to the video, although the opera is designed to teach this song.

As a last step before starting the opera, review the terms learned in the previous lesson: aria, recitative, and the four voice types: soprano, alto or mezzo-soprano, tenor, and bass or baritone.

Sid the Serpent video: Play the video in its entirety and inform the students that they will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end. Remember to pay close attention, as there will be questions about the opera on the worksheet.

Question and answer time: After the video is over, hand out worksheets to be completed separately or as a group. There is also a coloring sheet that can be completed in class or at home. Some questions to ask:

- Was this opera about what you thought it would be?
- What did you hear that made you think of the *Opera Basics* video? Where did you hear an aria or recitative? Which characters fit which voice type?
- What did you like about it?
- What did you not like about it?

Finally, take questions from the kids.