

Painted Sky Opera | Session 6:

Children's Opera - *The Magic Flute*

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

Additional Links:

https://streaming.uco.edu/media/The+Magic+Flute+-+3+28+2015/0_mw8gg86q/27106841 (video)

<https://www.paintedskyopera.org/s/Magic-Flute-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:

- Verbalize in their own words what the opera was about
- Provide visual adjectives to describe the music in the opera

Connect:

- Discuss how the opera's visual aspects such as costumes and scenery represented the sounds of the music
- Determine what they like and dislike about the opera
- Examine how they might have chosen to change the scenery or costumes of the Production to match the music with their particular tastes
- Compare and contrast this opera with *Starbird*

Create:

- Create artwork using coloring sheet provided

Introduction: Before starting the video, introduce the name of the opera: *The Magic Flute*. This opera will help reinforce concepts from the *Visual Opera* video and prompt students to make connections between it and *Starbird*.

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 see in the opera?
- What types of descriptive visual words come to your mind when you hear the title, *The Magic Flute*?
- What do you think you will see in this opera that is like *Starbird*?

The Magic Flute is one of Mozart's most famous operas and contains several well-known melodies. Among the most famous of all operatic arias is the "Queen of the Night" aria, which is included in this production. Listening to this aria may be a good pre-video activity. Many versions exist on YouTube (the version featuring Diana Damrau is recommended).

It may also be helpful to discuss that this opera is originally in German and to reinforce that operas can be in different languages. This production includes one aria in German (with one character translating as the other sings).

The Magic Flute tells the story of Prince Tamino who has been tasked by the Queen of the Night to find her daughter, Pamina. After fighting a dragon and meeting birdman named Papageno who becomes his companion, Tamino must go through three trials before he eventually meets and falls in love with Pamina. He is opposed by the Queen of the Night and her Three Ladies.

***The Magic Flute* 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?
- How was this opera like *Starbird*? How was it different?
- What are some adjectives that you would use to describe the opera?
- What colors would you use to describe the opera?
- What did you like about it?
- What did you not like about it?
- Do you hear arias and recitatives in this opera? From which characters?
- What voice types are each of these characters?