

STORYTIME SESSIONS

2022-23 GUIDEBOOK



**EXPERIENCE OPERA
WITH US!**

A LETTER TO EDUCATORS

Dear Educators,

Opera Colorado developed *Storytime Sessions* to harness the emotional power of opera to excite young learners about reading. Kurt Wootton of Brown University's Arts Literacy Project explains how emotion links to literacy: "[For] a kid that can't yet see text visually in their mind, but can feel the text in an emotional way, combining the arts with reading and eventually writing provides the bridge that kids need to be able to read fluently." *Storytime Sessions* introduces children to the concept of a story through the magic of opera, utilizing live performance and encouraging learning through imaginative play.

Our Guidebook offers information and activities that connect *Storytime Sessions* with different styles of learning. The activities focus on Pre-K to Second Grade reading. Please feel free to expand, alter, and adapt these materials to best fit your young learners and patrons.

We appreciate your feedback, which you can provide on the evaluation survey emailed to you following the event. We hope you enjoy all Opera Colorado has to offer!



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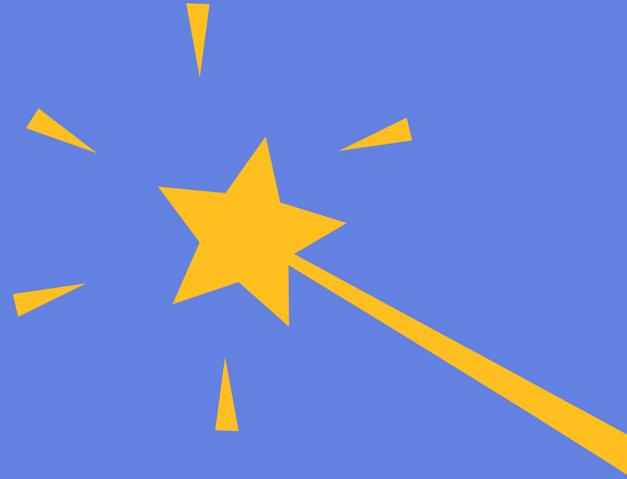


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★ Thank you! ★

Opera Colorado makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in this Guidebook is as accurate as possible. With the exception of materials used for educational purposes, none of the contents of this Guidebook may be reprinted without the permission of Opera Colorado's Education & Community Programs department. Unless otherwise noted, the materials in the Storytime Sessions Guidebook were developed and compiled by Bethany Wood and Kendra Broom.

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MEET THE ARTISTS

Each season, Opera Colorado auditions over 400 emerging artists from across the country for its Artists in Residence Program. During their eight-month residency, the selected six singers and one pianist bring opera to over 45,000 students from more than seventy schools across the Rocky Mountain region.

Storytime Sessions is Directed and Narrated by Cherity Koepke

CHAPTER ONE



TURNER STATON
(BASS-BARITONE)
MR. FINLEY



FRANCESCA MEHROTRA
(SOPRANO)
BRANDI



JOANNE EVANS
(MEZZO-SOPRANO)
EVIE

CHAPTER TWO



MICHAEL LEYTE-VIDAL
(BASS-BARITONE)
MR. FINLEY



OLEG BELLINI
COLLABORATIVE
PIANIST



DAVID SOTO-ZAMBRANA
(TENOR)
EVAN



DANTE MIRELES
(BARITONE)
BRADLEY

I LOVE THAT SONG!

Here's a list of all our tunes:

Chapter 1

- **Der Vogelfanger**
 - *The Magic Flute* by Mozart
- **Wo bin ich**
 - *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdinck
- **Brüderchen, komm tanz mit mir**
 - *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdinck
- **Les tringles des sistres tintaient**
 - *Carmen* by Bizet
- **Non piu mesta**
 - *Cinderella* by Rossini
- **Empio diro tu sei**
 - *Giulio Cesare* by Handel
- **Let it Go!**
 - *Frozen* with music by Robert Lopez
- **With Cat-Like Tread**
 - *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan



[Click here for a playlist of our songs!](#)

Chapter 2

- **Sorge infausta una procolla**
 - *Orlando* by Handel
- **Come paride vezzoso**
 - *The Elixir of Love* by Donizetti
- **Zitto, zitto, piano, piano**
 - *Cinderella* by Rossini
- **Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schon**
 - *The Magic Flute* by Mozart
- **Ah, leve toi soleil**
 - *Romeo & Juliet* by Gounod
- **O Colombina**
 - *I Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo
- **The Music of the Night**
 - *The Phantom of the Opera* by Webber
- **With Cat-Like Tread**
 - *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan

COMPOSER SNAPSHOTS



Bizet 1870 - Philharmonie de Paris

Georges Bizet

October 25, 1838-June 2, 1875

Georges Bizet was a piano prodigy who began musical studies at the the Paris Conservatoire at the age of nine. He began composing operas in his twenties. His most famous operas today are *The Peral Fishers* (1863), *The Fair Maid of Perth* (1867), and *Carmen* (1875).

Gioachino Rossini

February 29, 1792-November 13, 1868

Gioachino (jow-uh-kee-no) Rossini studied music composition and enrolled in the Philharmonic Academy of Bologna. His first opera, *The Switched Marriage*, debuted in 1810. He wrote many successful operas, including *The Barber of Seville* (1816) and *Cinderella* (1817). Over the course of his career, Rossini composed thirty-nine operas in just nineteen years!



Portrait of Rossini - Museo Alla Scala



Portrait of Mozart, 1782

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

February 27, 1756-December 5, 1791

Mozart grew up in Salzburg where he quickly became famous as a musical prodigy. He began performing across Europe at the age of eight! Mozart composed masterpieces in many genres, including opera. His most famous operas include *The Marriage of Figaro* (1786), *Don Giovanni* (1787), *Cosi Fan Tutte* (1790), and *The Magic Flute* (1791).

COMPOSER SNAPSHOTS



Handel - NY Public Library

George Frideric Handel

February 23, 1685-April 14, 1759

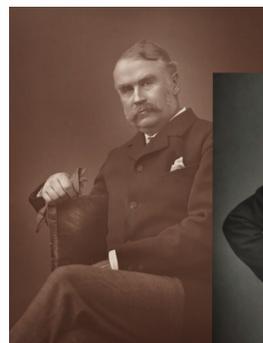
Handel was born in Brandenburg, which is now a part of Germany. At an early age, he learned to play both the organ and the violin, and he began writing operas when he was a teenager. Today, he is most famous for his choral works, including the *Messiah*. He moved to London later in life, and premiered many of his works there. His operas include *Giulio Caesar* (1724) and *Orlando* (1733).

Gilbert and Sullivan

Gilbert: November 18, 1836 - May 29, 1911

Sullivan: May 13, 1842 - November 22, 1900

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan wrote their first operetta together in 1871, with Sullivan composing the music and Gilbert writing the lyrics. Their works include numerous favorites, such as *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1878) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (1879).



Gilbert in 1890
National Portrait
Gallery



Sullivan in 1888 -
National Portrait Gallery



Gounod - NY Public Library

Charles-Francois Gounod

June 17, 1818-October 18, 1893

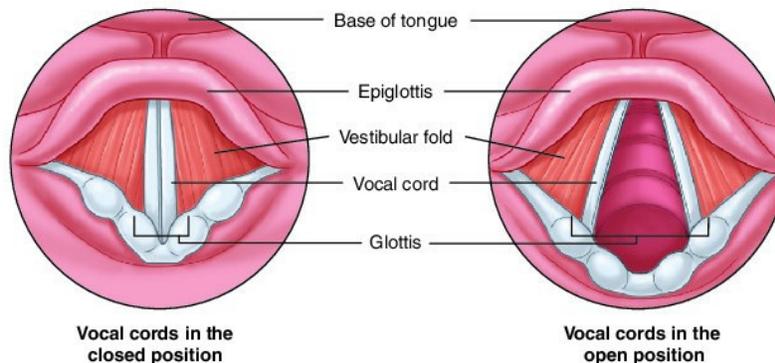
French composer Charles-Francois Gounod studied sacred music and wrote both choral and opera music during his lifetime. His most well-known operas are *Faust* (1859) and *Romeo et Juliette* (1867), based on Shakespeare's famous play.



The Singer's Voice

If you've heard an opera singer, you've probably noticed that they don't sound like the singers that you hear on the radio or your favorite streaming channel. Opera is a unique form of music, just like pop, rock, country, rap, jazz, etc. The artists who sing opera are unique too. They have to learn how to use their voices in a way that carries over a live orchestra in a large theater, and they do it all without using amplification. No microphones here.

Picture of vocal cords and vocal folds:



Here's a video if you want to see real vocal cords and folds in action: <https://youtu.be/P2pLffWUjc8>

Singing opera is the most physically challenging type of singing that the human voice can do. Opera performances can be 2 ½ to 3 hours long (sometimes even longer), about the same length as a movie, and the artists are singing the whole time. That's a lot of work for the human voice, specifically, the vocal cords and vocal folds, which are the things in the body that help us create sound. To do their job, opera singers use something called "vibrato." Vibrato is a rapid, slight variation in pitch.

When you hear an opera singer, it sounds like their voice is wiggling when they sing a note. While it may sound unusual, it's for a really good reason. Vibrato keeps the vocal cords and folds relaxed and helps the singer produce a stronger, richer tone when they sing. That's really important when you're singing for a long time and without amplification.

EXAMPLES OF OPERA IN POP CULTURE

Opera is still making waves since it debuted over 400 years ago.

★ Click the images below for video and listening examples



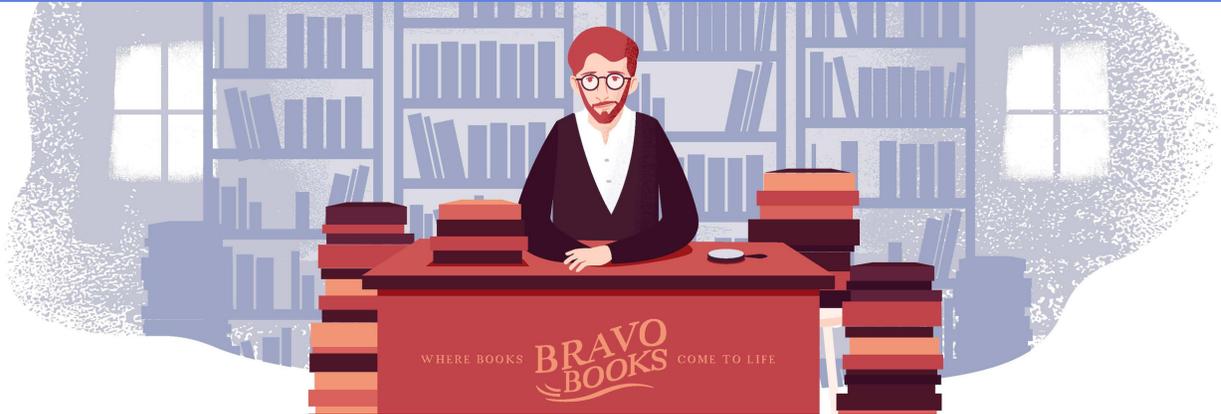
References:

Bugs Bunny "Long-Haired Hare," excerpt of animated short film directed by Chuck Jones and written by Michael Maltese. Produced and distributed by Warner Bros.

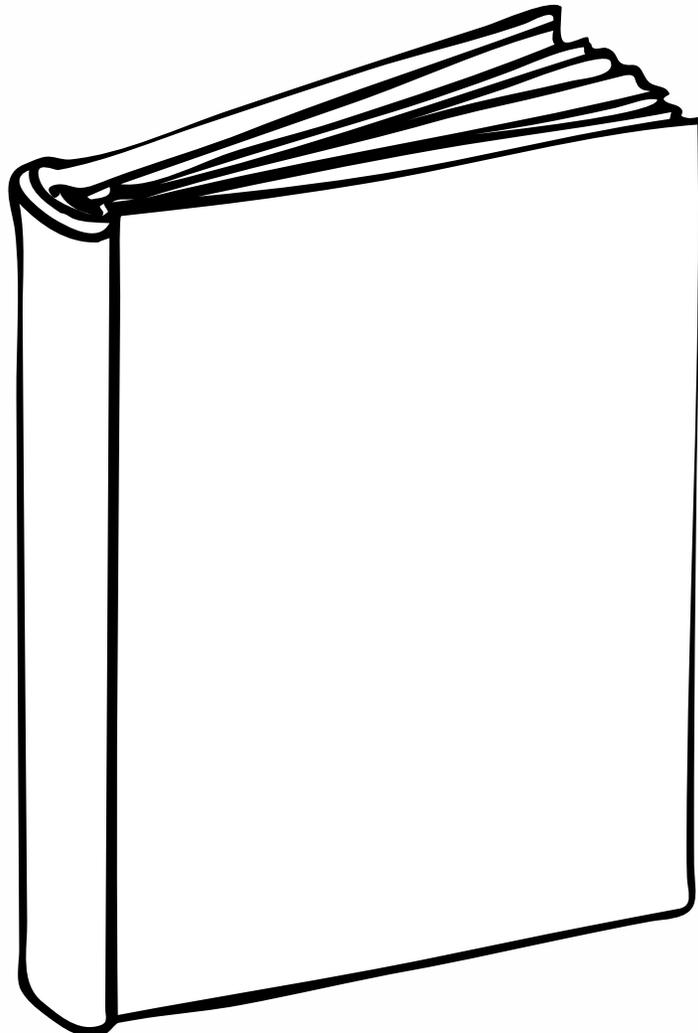
SpongeBob SquarePants "Squidward's School for Grown-Ups," excerpt of episode produced and distributed by Nickelodeon.

Tom and Jerry "Carmen Get It!" excerpt of animated short film directed by Gene Deitch and produced by William L. Snyder for MGM.

Help Mr. Finley Fill the Bookstore!



Mr. Finley and his brother need books for their customers. Can you draw your favorite book for them to share at Bravo Books? Then, draw the story for them on the next page.



Tell the Story!

Directions: Tell Mr. Finley about your favorite book by drawing the story!

First

Then

Next

Last





Practice writing letters from our final song!



C

With CAT-like tread...



F

A FLY's footfall...



S

Come friends who plough the SEA!



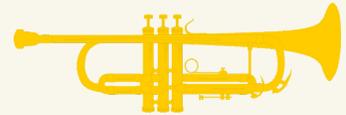
Can you trace the letters in OPERA?

O P E R A



Circle the picture on each line that has the same meaning as the word

book



dance



crown

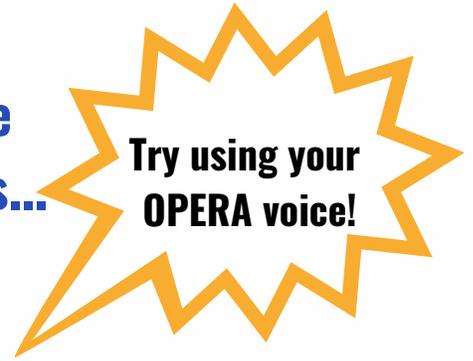


moon





Sound out our favorite first letters...



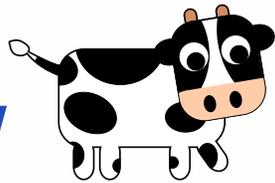
___ **at**



___ **at**



___ **ow**



___ **ow**



___ **ea**



___ **ing**



___ **ook**



___ **ravo!**





Follow along with the stories

Matt is a cat. Matt sat on my hat. Now my hat is flat.



Matt is a:

- 1.rat
- 2.bat
- 3.cat

What did Matt do?

- 1.pat
- 2.sat
- 3.chat

Now the hat is:

- 1.flat
 - 2.fat
 - 3.a superhero!
-

I went on a trip but slipped, and now there's a rip in my ship! I'll have to take a dip.



I went on a:

- 1.skip
- 2.trip
- 3.zip

My ship has a:

- 1.lip
- 2.hip
- 3.rip

I'll have to take a:

- 1.dip
- 2.sip
- 3.tip



Find the words in the puzzle

Try to find and circle each word in the list.

Q M T Y E E Y F U Y
P R A C L J V W P F
L K N G P Y S A B C
Q A W G I J C R R M
D H D D J C A S B B
M U S I C V L K L L
Y B V D O U S O Z U
P J O Q O G I O Y C
A R E P O R N B P N
C B P N C R G M K A

Books

Magic

Music

Dance

Bravo

Brave

Opera

Sing





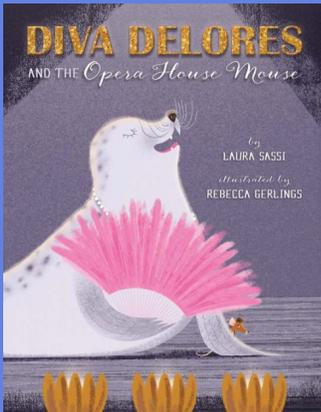






Looking for more opera?...

→ Check out these books!



Diva Delores

Ages: 3 and up

Grades: Preschool and up

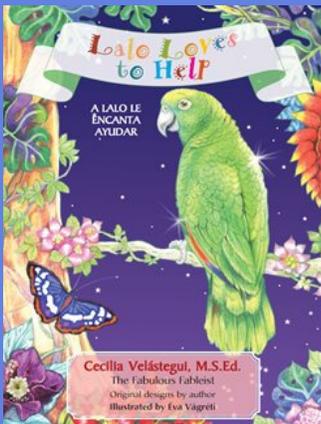
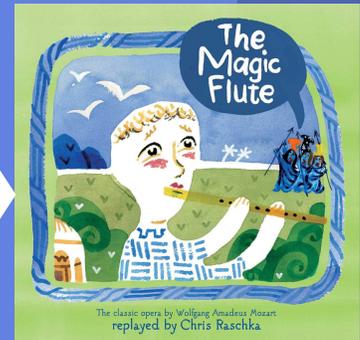
Fernando the mouse loves helping at the opera, but singer Dolores thinks she deserves a bigger assistant.

The Magic Flute

Ages: 4 - 8

Grades: P - 3

Retells the story of the Mozart opera, in which the noble Prince Tamino seeks the fair Pamina.



Lalo Loves to Help

Ages: 6 - 8

Grades: 1 - 2

Bilingual Spanish/English

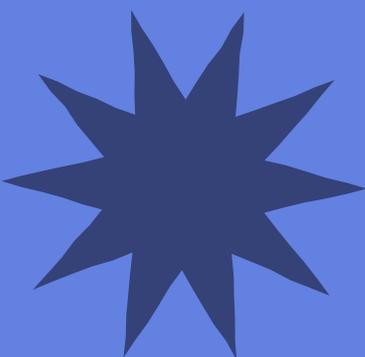
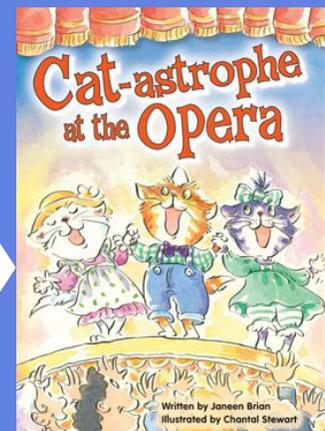
Lalo, a yellow-naped Amazonian parrot, speaks many languages and loves to sing opera.

Cat-astrophe at the Opera

Ages: 7 - 11

Grades: 2 - 3

Discover the operatic dreams of three wonderful French felines: Silhouette, Eugene, and Minuet.



Mainstage



Rigoletto

November 5, 8, 11, 13 | 2022

The jaded jester Rigoletto serves the reckless Duke of Mantua and his hedonistic court. Little does Rigoletto know the womanizing duke has seduced his naive daughter, Gilda. How far will Rigoletto go to protect his only family?



Die tote Stadt

February 25, 28 and March 3, 5 | 2023

A new production of composer Erich Korngold's rare operatic gem! Life is turned upside down when Paul meets the bright and passionate Marietta—the mirror image of his late wife. This haunting drama will leave you questioning what is real and what is only a dream.



Turandot

May 6, 9, 12, 14 | 2023

Those who wish to marry the fearsome and beautiful Princess Turandot must win a deadly game of riddles. Though she has sworn never to marry, the clever Prince Calaf has a riddle of his own, which may open the door to love.

Education and Outreach



The Pirates of Penzance



Romeo & Juliet



Student Dress Rehearsals