COMMON CORE STANDARDS
Reading: 1
Writing: 4
Speaking and Listening: 1; 2
Language: 1; 2; 3

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS
The Arts: 3; 4
ELA: 1; 4

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS
Theater: Developing Theater Literacy; Making Connections
Music: Developing Music Literacy; Making Connections
ACTIVITY 1: OPERA OR NOT?

Use this activity to gauge your students' preconceived notions of opera and perhaps change their perceptions of what it can be. Play the YouTube clips provided and see if your students can accurately guess which clips are opera and which are not.

**Materials:** YouTube clips

- **MAGIC FLUTE:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2ODfuMMyss
- **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkje4FiH9Qc
  or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvVr2uks0C8
- **HADESTOWN:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WDdqWgFos8
- **SWEENEY TODD:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I96RZh8108o&list=RDIsfiejaAnL8&index=3
- **WAGNER’S RING CYCLE:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xerwBi4wQ

1. Ask your students what they know about opera. How many different operas can they list?

2. Based on student responses, create a running list of descriptive attributes that operas have in common.

3. Play the first YouTube clip from THE MAGIC FLUTE. Let your students listen for at least a minute.

4. Discuss whether or not the clip could be considered an opera. Add to or adjust your working list accordingly.

5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 with the four other clips.

6. Reveal to your students that all four clips are considered opera. As a class, consider the list you created. Make revisions to encompass elements from the entire art form.

7. Craft a specific definition of opera with your students based on what you have discovered through this activity.

**Reflection Questions**

- What did this variety of video clips teach you about opera?
- Do you feel like opera has changed over time?
- Do you feel like opera is a relevant art form today?
ACTIVITY 2: A TEAM TRIAL

This activity allows your students to discover how trust and communication can help you overcome difficult challenges, like the trials Tamino and Pamina undergo in THE MAGIC FLUTE. The objective of this activity is to have one student successfully lead a blindfolded student across the room avoiding obstacles that might be in their way.

1. Depending on your class size, divide students into 4-6 different groups.

2. Explain that the room is now an obstacle course. The goal is for all team members to get to the other side of the room while blindfolded. The first group to successfully guide the most people across the room wins.

3. For safety, each group will appoint a leader who will not wear a blindfold and be in charge of guiding everyone across. Have the groups gather at one end of the room. The leader will stand next to a team member as they move through the space blindfolded, and talk them through the course until they safely reach the other side.

4. Blindfolded students may not speak nor can they come in contact with any object during their journey. If they do, they are disqualified from that round. Leaders may speak but they may not touch the person they are guiding.

5. Prior to starting, give the teams a chance to strategize ways to be successful in this challenge.

6. The leaders will have the opportunity to move desks and objects around to create a more challenging field for the other teams to cross.

7. Once the space is ready, the leaders may begin to guide their team across, one member at a time. For safety, you can choose to let only one or two teams go simultaneously.

8. Determine the winner based on which group was able to finish first with the least amount of mishaps and disqualifications.

9. If there is time, continue to play until everyone has had a chance to guide their team across.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What strategies did the leaders use to be successful?
What could the blindfolded members of the team have done to help their leader?
Which techniques helped the blindfolded students reach the end of the obstacle course?
Where did you struggle?
Tamino, a young traveler who is passing through the realm of the Queen of the Night is attacked by a giant serpent. Three Ladies, soldiers of the Queen, hear his cries and spear the snake.

As Tamino regains consciousness, Papageno, a bird catcher, claims credit for killing the fire-breathing creature. The Three Ladies punish Papageno for his lie. They then show Tamino a picture of the Queen’s daughter, Pamina, and he immediately falls in love. The Three Ladies say Pamina has been kidnapped by an evil man—Sarastro. Tamino promises to rescue the beautiful girl.

The Queen of the Night arrives and urges a very frightened Tamino to keep his promise to rescue Pamina. To help him, he is presented with a magic flute. She orders Papageno to help Tamino and gives him a set of magic bells. Both instruments, the flute and bells, have the power to help the owners and to change evil into good.

As they make their journey, Papageno and Tamino are pointed in the right direction, but get separated. Papageno happens upon Pamina with her jailer, Monostatos. Papageno shows her a picture of Tamino, and she falls in love with him. Tamino meanwhile learns that Sarastro is not actually evil, but good!

Sarastro’s arrival is announced. Sarastro is angered at the behavior of Monostatos towards Pamina and imprisons him. He then orders that Tamino attempt various trials to prove he is worthy of Pamina’s love. Papageno reluctantly accompanies him.
Sarastro imposes three tests on Tamino before he agrees to hand joint power to both Pamina and Tamino. The first of the trials is a trial of silence. Not knowing of the terms of the first trial, Pamina professes her love for Tamino and when he refuses to answer her words of love, she leaves brokenhearted.

The Queen of the Night appears and orders Pamina to kill Sarastro, giving her a knife for the task. Pamina instead attempts self-harm but is restrained by Three Spirits. Having completed the trial of silence, Tamino is reconciled with Pamina, and she decides to complete his trials with him. Together they complete the second trial, the trial of fire, and go on to the final trial of water. The couple succeeds!

Papageno, upset at his failure with the trials and disheartened by his failure to find a woman, contemplates self-harm but is stopped by the Three Spirits who introduce him to the girl of his dreams, Papagena. Guided by the wicked Monostatos, the Queen of the Night makes another attempt on Sarastro’s life but fails. Sarastro holds out his hand to her offering reconciliation; she refuses and leaves as all join in celebration of the dawn.
Now that you’ve read a summary of THE MAGIC FLUTE, answer the questions below to get ready for the show!

Why do you think this show is called the THE MAGIC FLUTE? Would you give it a different title?

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THE MAGIC FLUTE opera is actually based on a performance style called singspiel, which incorporates both song and spoken word. Why do you think Mozart chose to turn this story into an opera?

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What part of the story are you most excited to hear performed in song? Why?

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