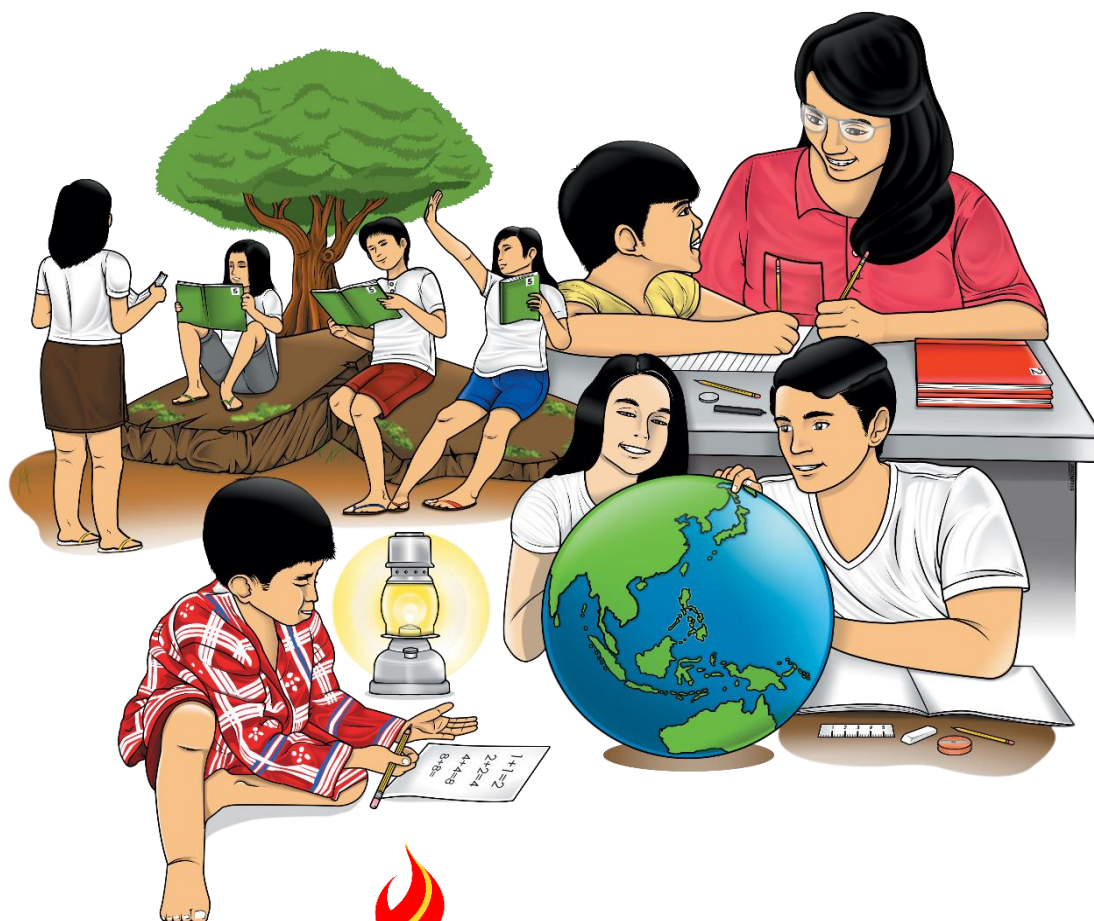


Music

Quarter 4 – Module 1: Plot, Musical and Theatrical Elements of an Opera



Music - Grade 9
Alternative Delivery Mode

Quarter 4 - Module 1: Plot, Musical and Theatrical Elements of an Opera
First Edition, 2020

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Music

Quarter 4 - Module 1: Plot, Musical and Theatrical Elements of an Opera

Introductory Message

This Self-Learning Module (SLM) is prepared so that you, our dear learners, can continue your studies and learn while at home. Activities, questions, directions, exercises, and discussions are carefully stated for you to understand each lesson.

Each SLM is composed of different parts. Each part shall guide you step-by-step as you discover and understand the lesson prepared for you.

Pre-tests are provided to measure your prior knowledge on lessons in each SLM. This will tell you if you need to proceed on completing this module or if you need to ask your facilitator or your teacher's assistance for better understanding of the lesson. At the end of each module, you need to answer the post-test to self-check your learning. Answer keys are provided for each activity and test. We trust that you will be honest in using these.

In addition to the material in the main text, Notes to the Teacher are also provided to our facilitators and parents for strategies and reminders on how they can best help you on your home-based learning.

Please use this module with care. Do not put unnecessary marks on any part of this SLM. Use a separate sheet of paper in answering the exercises and tests. And read the instructions carefully before performing each task.

If you have any questions in using this SLM or any difficulty in answering the tasks in this module, do not hesitate to consult your teacher or facilitator.

Thank you.



What I Need to Know

Many musical forms were born in the Baroque era, like the concerto and sinfonia. Forms such as the sonata, cantata and oratorio flourished. Also, opera was born out of the experimentation of the Florentine Camerata, the creators of monody, who attempted to recreate the theatrical arts of the Ancient Greeks.

Opera is an art form in which singers and musicians perform a dramatic work combining text (libretto) and musical score. Opera is considered to be a complete art that combines literary, visual, music and theatre arts.

In this module, you will learn to understand and appreciate the plot, musical and theatrical elements of an opera.

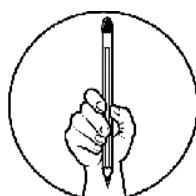
Learning Competency:

- Explains the plot, musical and theatrical elements of an opera after video and movie showing

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, you as a learner, will be able to:

1. Define the plot, musical and theatrical elements of an opera;
2. Describe the plot, musical, and theatrical elements of an opera, and
3. Relate the plot/story of opera to the contemporary daily life.



What I know

Directions: Before you can work on this Module, you have to answer first the Pre-test to determine what you already know about the lesson. Write the correct answer in your notebook.

1. He introduced new ideas in harmony and in form, including extremes of chromaticism.
A. Franz Peter Schubert C. Giacomo Puccini
B. Giuseppe Verdi D. Richard Wagner
2. It is a musical sequence which represents a particular character/plot element in an opera or a musical drama.
A. Elements C. Motifs
B. Leitmotifs D. Plot twist

3. He belonged to a group of composers who stressed realism (*verismo*) in opera.

A. Franz Peter Schubert	C. Giacomo Puccini
B. Giuseppe Verdi	D. Richard Wagner
4. It is the German word for songs.

A. Lieder	C. Poet
B. Musica	D. Singer
5. His first opera "Oberto" was performed in La Scala, the most important opera house at the time.

A. Franz Peter Schubert	C. Giacomo Puccini
B. Giuseppe Verdi	D. Richard Wagner
6. He is a French composer most famous for his opera "Carmen."

A. George Bizet	C. Giuseppe Verdi
B. Giacomo Puccini	D. Richard Wagner
7. The following are the works of Wagner, except one.

A. Tristan and Isolde	C. Tannhäuser
B. Die Meistersinger	D. Parsifal
8. The following Operas' are works of Giuseppe Verdi except for;

A. La Traviata	C. Rigolletto
B. Carmen	D. Aida
9. The following are the famous operas of Puccini, except one.

A. La Bohème	C. Tosca
B. Madame Butterfly	D. Turandot
10. Georges Bizet's realistic approach is shown in his work

A. Turandot	C. Aida
B. La Bohème	D. Carmen

Lesson

1

Plot, Musical and Theatrical Elements of an Opera



What's In

Feeling is an emotional state or reaction. Feelings help us to survive and promote emotional attachment and social interaction. Feelings can be expressed through writing, singing, acting or painting. How do you express yours? One of the best tools for expressing one's feelings is through singing. This form of expression, also known as vocal music, has been an important form of musical expression since the Medieval period. It continued to flourish up to the Romantic period. Romanticism coincided with the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe that brought about the rise of Socialism and Capitalism ideologies. The Romantic Period' tends to give emphasis to emotional subjectivity which was neglected with the Enlightenment's focus on logic.



What's New

Since the development of the Opera by the Florentine Camerata during the Baroque period, it has been an important musical expression, performance, and a form of entertainment. Originally from Italy, countries such as Germany and France have developed their own Opera traditions. This musical form continued to be in the music scene up to the Romantic period and adapted to the changing musical taste of the listening public and the current cultural movements of the period.

Individual Activity.

Here are some excerpts from known Romantic operas, choose one which you like the most and write a short explanation why you liked it.

1. Figaro's Aria from the Barber of Seville by Gioachino A. Rossini
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qHZkkgowdY>
2. Habanera from Carmen by George Bizet
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ_HHRJf0xg
3. Libiamo ne' leiti calici from La Traviata
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afhAqMeeQJk>

Activity 1: Watch Up!

Watch a few minutes or skip watch scenes of the opera titled La bohème by Giacomo Puccini. After watching, answer the following questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5U2N2c96Kuk>

1. What do you feel after watching the opera?

2. Is Opera a way of expressing one's feeling? Why do you say so?
3. Can you describe the performance stage? Are there set design and costumes?
4. What do you think is the story of the opera?



What Is It

The very development of the Opera sprung up from the idea of putting forward and more exploration on the concept of “word painting” (music enhancing words). This idea coupled with an understanding of ancient Greek theatre resulted in the formulation of a new musical form, the opera. It is a combination of music, both vocal and instrumental, acting, visuals, theatrics, tied together by a storyline; a combination of all the arts in one extravagant performance. From its beginnings during the Baroque period its popularity and performance in the Western music scene continued up to the Romantic period.

Romanticism, its focus of emotions, fits well to the concept with which the opera was originally conceived. Although a lot of things change in the performance of the opera during the Romantic period, a lot of the well-loved and frequently performed opera were composed during this period. Some of which are La Traviata, La Bohème, Carmen, etc.

What makes a piece of music an opera? What makes it unique from other musical forms? Let us look at the different musical and theatrical elements of the opera.

Components of an Opera

Libretto - the text of an opera. It contains the **story** or the **plot** of the opera.

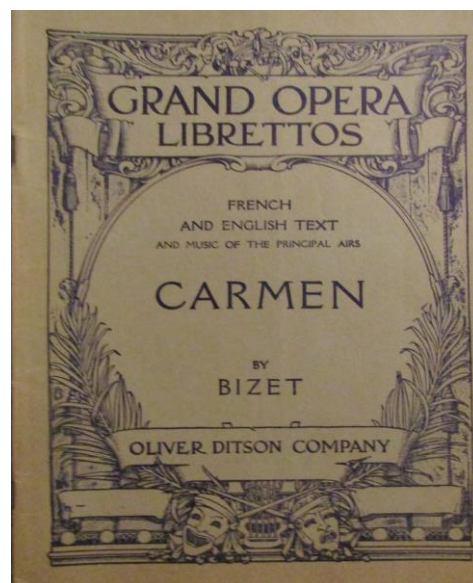
Librettist, the person who writes the libretto, and the composer work closely together to create the whole story of the opera.

Score - the book that the composer and librettist put together. The score has all the musical notes, words and ideas to help the performers tell the story.

Recitative - Declamatory singing, used in the prose parts and dialogue of opera. Recitative may be accompanied (*accompagnato*) or unaccompanied (*secco*).

Recitative from the La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfuAD0dOeDk>



(cover page of the libretto of Carmen by G. Bizet published by Oliver Ditson Company
https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=30226981085&searchurl=sortby%3D17%26tn%3Dmetropolitan%2Bopera%2Bhouse%2Bgrand%2Blibretto&cm_sp=snippet-_srp1_-_title9#&gid=1&pid=1)

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Recitative - Declamatory singing, used in the prose parts and dialogue of opera. Recitative may be accompanied (*accompagnato*) or unaccompanied (*secco*).

Recitative from the La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfuAD0dOeDk>

Aria – an air or solo singing part sung by a principal character. This song is what the public will remember best when leaving the opera house. Properly and well sung, a beautiful aria can bring an audience to its feet and decide the fate of an entire opera.

Aria “Nessun Dorma” from Turandot by Giacomo Puccini
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_hLh4qCqpg

Aria “Quando m’en vo” from La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ouWV7aQTGM>

It is also important to know the types of voices of singers. This will serve as a guide for singers on their choice of songs and vocal quality expected of a singer or opera character

For the Male Voice:

1. Tenor - highest male voice
2. Baritone - Middle male voice, lies between Bass and Tenor voices. It is the common male voice.
3. Bass - lowest male voice

For the Female Voice:

1. Soprano- highest female voice
Coloratura-highest soprano voice
Lyric-bright and full sound
Dramatic- darker full sound
Mezzo-Soprano- most common female voice; strong middle voice, tone is darker or deeper than the soprano
2. Contralto- lowest female voice and most unique among female.

Apart from solo parts in the opera there are also **duets**, **trios**, other **small ensemble**, and even **chorus** parts.

Anvil chorus from G. Verdi’s La Traviata
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8aHsJdMEMY>

The opera is divided into several **acts** and **scenes**. **Acts** are the main divisions of the opera. It is a distinctive part of the story with its own small rising action and even climax. An act is also divided into **scenes** which may pertain to a specific setting or place.

The opera being an elaborate combination of different art forms, its production is very costly. A lot of money was spent for the **set designs, props, make-ups** and **costumes** of the performers to project the **scenery** and for the overall aesthetic effect of the opera performance.

The opera, from its very beginning, is accompanied by an instrumental ensemble called the **orchestra**. During the Romantic period, one the changes that occurred in the opera performance was the increase in numbers of orchestra players in a performance, from 20-25 players to 50-60 players.

Due to the increasing number of orchestra players in the opera, composers like Verdi, Puccini and Wagner saw the opportunity to explore ways to develop the vocal power of a singer. Greater range of tone color, dynamics and pitch were employed.

Let's Look at an example of a Romantic opera

LA TRAVIATA

Music by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Libretto in Italian by Francesco Maria Piave, based on "La Dame aux Camélias," play by Alexandre Dumas after his novel by the same name. The play is known in English as "Camille." Premiere: Venice, March 6, 1853.

Categorized as a Romantic tragedy.

set in Paris, France during 1850.

Originally in three acts, but present-day productions are usually in four acts dividing the original Act II

ACT I: Violetta's Paris salon, luxuriously furnished

ACT II: A villa near Paris

ACT III: Ballroom in Flora's mansion

ACT IV: Violetta's bedroom

Here is a summary of the story/plot of "*La Traviata*"

<https://www.operaphila.org/whats-on/on-stage-2015-2016/la-traviata/full-synopsis/>

Activity 2: Elements of Theater Scramble!

Write the missing letters for each vocabulary word for you to get the correct answer.

1. s _ _ e n e _ _ y
2. c o _ _ t u _ _ e s
3. p _ _ o _ _ s
4. l _ _ g _ _ t s
5. s o _ _ n d
6. m _ _ k e _ _ p

Activity 3: Let's Match!

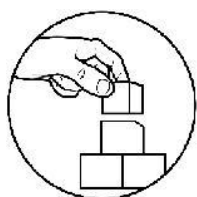
Match column A with column B. Write the correct answer in your notebook.

Column A

- _____ 1. is the highest female voice.
- _____ 2. is an air or solo singing part sung by a principal character.
- _____ 3. is a weaker and more airy voice usually in the higher pitch.
- _____ 4. it is a musical composition having all or most of its text set to.
- _____ 5. are the main divisions of an opera.

Column B

- A. Falsetto
- B. Acts
- C. Aria
- D. Soprano
- E. Opera



What's More

Opera Composers and their Works

Here are some famous opera composers of the Romantic period with their short biography. Choose two of them and supply the necessary information on the organizer below. (note: you can also refer to the link for further reading)

Name of Composer:	
Title of Opera: (just choose one) <i>(can you also attach a YouTube link if you find a full performance of the opera)</i>	
Brief Summary of the Story/Plot of the Opera. <i>(Don't forget to cite your sources)</i>	
Number of Acts	
Famous Arias	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

1. Giuseppe Verdi



Verdi was born in Parma, Italy on October 9, 1813. He studied in Busseto and later went to Milan where his first opera "Oberto" was performed in La Scala, the most important opera house at the time. Almost all of his works are serious love story with unhappy ending. Expressive vocal melody is the soul of a Verdi opera. He completed 25 operas throughout his career. His final opera ends with "All the world's a joke." Some of his famous operas are still being produced and performed worldwide. His much-acclaimed works are; La Traviata, Rigoletto, Falstaff, Otello and Aida were he wrote for the opening of the Suez Canal. He died in Milan, Italy on January 27, 1901.

Photo Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giuseppe-Verdi>

2. Giacomo Puccini



Giacomo Puccini was born in a poor family on December 22, 1858 in Lucca, Italy. He studied at the Milan Conservatory. He belonged to a group of composers who stressed realism, therefore, he drew material from everyday life, rejecting heroic themes from mythology and history. Puccini's famous operas were: "La Boheme", "Tosca", "Madame Butterfly", and "Turandot".

Photo Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giacomo-Puccini>

3. Richard Wagner

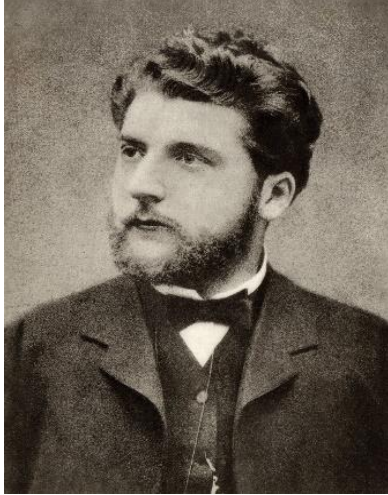


Wilhelm Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig, Germany on May 22, 1813. He attended Leipzig University. He was very much inspired by Ludwig van Beethoven. Wagner introduced new ideas in harmony and in form, including extremes of **chromaticism**. He was an advocate of a new form of opera which he called "**music drama**" where musical and dramatic elements were fused together. He developed a compositional style in which the orchestra has of equal importance in dramatic roles as the singers themselves. His famous works are; "**Tristan and Isolde**", "**Die Walkyrie**", "**Die Meistersinger**", "**Tannhäuser**", and "**Parsifal**". His work would later influence modern film scores, including those of the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings film series. Wagner died of a heart attack on February 13, 1883 at age of 69.

Photo Source:

<https://www.biography.com/musician/richard-wagner>

4. Georges Bizet



Georges Bizet, original name Alexandre-César-Léopold Bizet, but was baptized Georges Bizet and was always known by the latter name. He was born October 25, 1838 in Paris, France. His realistic approach influenced the verismo school of opera at the end of the 19th century. His most famous opera is “Carmen”. However, when “Carmen” first opened in Paris, the reviews were terrible. The shows were criticized in horrible ways that resulted in poor audience attendance. During the first round of “Carmen” performances, Bizet died (June 3, 1875). He was only 36. Four months later, “Carmen” opened in Vienna, Austria, and was a smash hit.

Photo Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georges-Bizet>



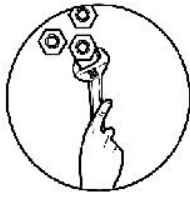
What I Have Learned

Individual Activity: LET’S WATCH AN OPERA!

You are going to watch what an opera is. Look for the different components of opera being shown in the video. Jot down the important details about the plot, the characters, musical and theatrical elements present in the film. After watching, answer the following questions:

1. What is the plot/story of “Carmen”?
2. What can you say about stage setting, costumes, set design?
3. Do the costume, props, and set design help convey the story of the opera?
4. What are the arias in the opera?
5. How do you feel after watching the video?
6. Do you think Opera is a way of expressing one’s feeling? Why do you say so?
7. Do you think opera performances are still relevant? Why? or why not?

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_VkflthWHo



What I Can Do

After reading and understanding the elements important in an opera let us see if you can recall some important Arias of the following Opera. Match the Aria with its Opera.

ARIA	OPERA
1. La Donna e Mobile 2. Libiamo ne'lieti calici 3. Nessun Dorma 4. La'amour -Habanera 5. Un bel di, vedremo	A. Turandot B. La Traviata C. Rigolletto D. Carmen E. Madama Butterfly

Paint Me a Plot

Recall the different plots of famous Romantic period Opera. The plot is given and you have to draw or paint the scenery together with the correct Title of the Opera.

PLOT No.1

⇒ Tragic tale of Cio Cio San, a young Japanese girl who falls in love with an American Naval officer Pinkerton, with devastating consequences.

PLOT No. 2

⇒ Four struggling bohemians, a poet, a painter, a musician and a philosopher are living together in Paris when a girl named Mimi knocks on their door looking for a candle and since that time their lives has never been the same.

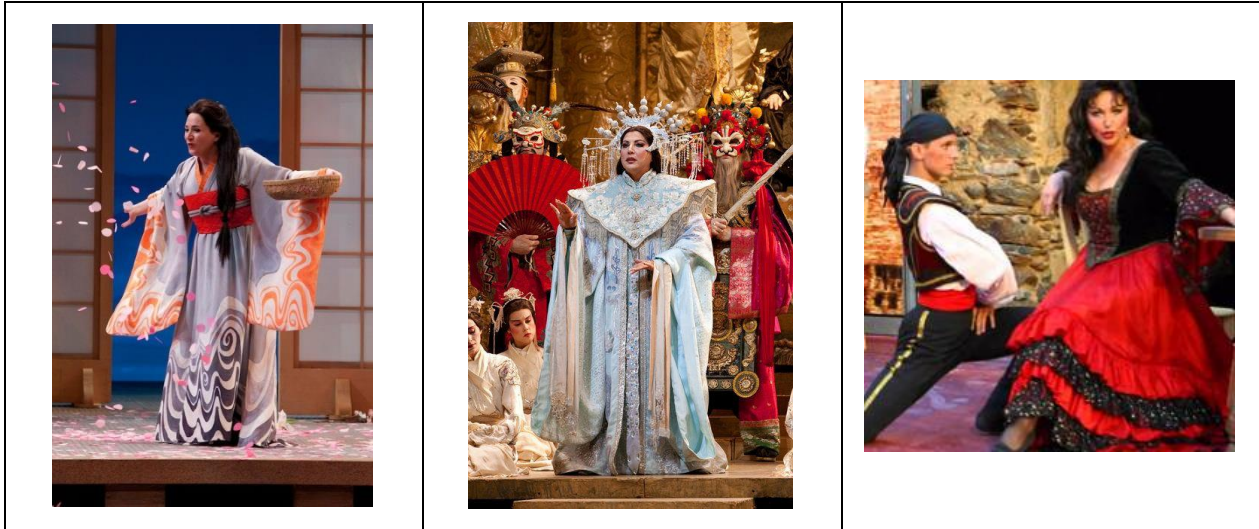
PLOT No. 3

⇒ A souldry gypsy seduces and corrupts an officer of the Civil Guard in order to help her smuggler kinsmen. She seduces the officer turning him into a traitor and a murderer.

The Costume Belongs to?

Which Among these costumes fits the main character of

- A. Madame Butterfly
- B. Turandot
- C. Carmen



Summary

Many changes in the world of vocal music was brought by the Romantic Era. Composers made great strides during this time to closely associate the text or words of a piece with its musical counterpart.

Opera Composers of the Romantic Period

1. Giuseppe Verdi
2. Giacomo Puccini
3. Richard Wagner
4. Georges Bizet

The biggest and true achievements during the Romantic period in theatre were in opera. One of the striking characteristics of the late 18th and early 19th centuries is the development of the idea of romantic love linked to marriage. Romantic operatic voice is trained to be full and rich, powerful enough to fill an opera house in the days before electronic amplification.

Components of an Opera:

1. Libretto
2. Score
3. Recitative
4. Aria



Assessment

Let's see what you have learned!

Direction: Write the letter of the best answer in every item.

1. He introduced new ideas in harmony and in form, including extremes of chromaticism.
A. Franz Peter Schubert
B. Giuseppe Verdi
C. Giacomo Puccini
D. Richard Wagner
2. It is a musical sequence which represents a particular character/plot element in an opera or a musical drama.
A. Elements
B. Leitmotifs
C. Motifs
D. Plot twist
3. He belonged to a group of composers who stressed realism (*verismo*) in opera.
A. Franz Peter Schubert
B. Giacomo Puccini
C. Giuseppe Verdi
D. Richard Wagner
4. It is the German word for songs.
A. Lieder
B. Musica
C. Poet
D. Singer
5. His first opera "Oberto" was performed in La Scala, the most important opera house at the time.
A. Franz Peter Schubert
B. Giuseppe Verdi
C. Giacomo Puccini
D. Richard Wagner
6. He is a French composer most famous for his opera "Carmen".
A. George Bizet
B. Giacomo Puccini
C. Giuseppe Verdi
D. Richard Wagner
7. The following are the works of Wagner, except one.
A. Tristan and Isolde
B. Die Meistersinger
C. Tannhäuser
D. Parsifal
8. The following Operas are works of Giuseppe Verdi except for;
A. La Traviata
B. Carmen
C. Rigolletto
D. Aida
9. The following are the famous operas of Puccini, except one.
A. La Bohème
B. Madame Butterfly
C. Tosca
D. Turandot
10. Georges Bizet's realistic approach is shown in his work
A. Turandot
B. Aida
C. La Bohème
D. Carmen



Answer Key

What's More
Activity 2: Elements of
Theater Scramble!

1. scenery
2. costumes
3. props
4. lights
5. sound
6. make up

**What I Want to Know/
Assessment**

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. D

References

Learner's Material for Music & Arts Grade 9

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/musicappreciation_with_theory/chapter/musical-innovations-in-the-baroque-era/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3_zvRyjors

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giuseppe-Verdi>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giacomo-Puccini>

<https://www.biography.com/musician/richard-wagner>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georges-Bizet>

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