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Bringing Opera to the Schools

presents



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WELCOME TO OPERA LAND

The activities in this booklet are for you to use in class. Remember to take them home with you to show your parents. Tell them about what you have seen and heard today. The show you are going to see is an opera!

An OPERA is a play that has singing in it. Our show lasts about 30 minutes, but some operas last more than four hours! In big opera houses, singers perform with an orchestra, but today you will hear a piano accompaniment.

Not everyone can be an opera singer. People study music, singing and languages for many years before they are ready to perform. They need to be as strong as athletes, so they can sing for long periods of time on the stage and loudly enough to project their voices so the people in the highest balcony can hear them.

ABOUT THE STORY

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by David Sarkisian

Music selected and adapted by David Sarkisian

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Joelle Francesca Green (Jo Green): Stephanie Yparrea-Budd, soprano

Rat: Jasmine Swalef, soprano

Coyote: Tracy Lee Jones, mezzo-soprano

Seagull: Barbara Wilkinson Vlymen, soprano

Understudies: Kelly Krumbein, soprano

Kaylee McCracken, soprano

Pianists: Lori McCracken, Alan Rea

Nancy Wamhof, Jill Webb

Stage direction: David Sarkisian

Set Construction: Dick Herboldshimer

Costume design: Tracy Lee Jones, Marcella Oneida, Barbara Wilkinson Vlymen

Set Design and Props: Tracy Lee Jones



THE STORY

One of the greatest opera composers of all time was Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). His name means Joe Green. Now, nearly 200 years after his birth, when we say “green” we think of green trees, green grass and green plants. All these green things depend on people to maintain a healthy environment for all living things to thrive. In this year’s opera, three scavenger animals (Rat, Coyote and Seagull) sing an entertaining and friendly reminder to Joelle Green, encouraging her and you to participate in all types of recycling to help keep our planet green.



Opera terms:

Aria: song sung by 1 person

Duet: song sung by 2 people










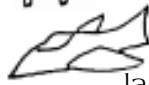




Trio: song sung by 3 people

Quartet: performed by 4 people

Ensemble: performed by many people

PRIMARY WORD GAMES

LAST LETTER FUN. Your word answers should match each other.

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---|-------------|--|
|  | last letter | |  | last letter | |
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|  | last letter | |  | last letter | |
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Answer key on page 7

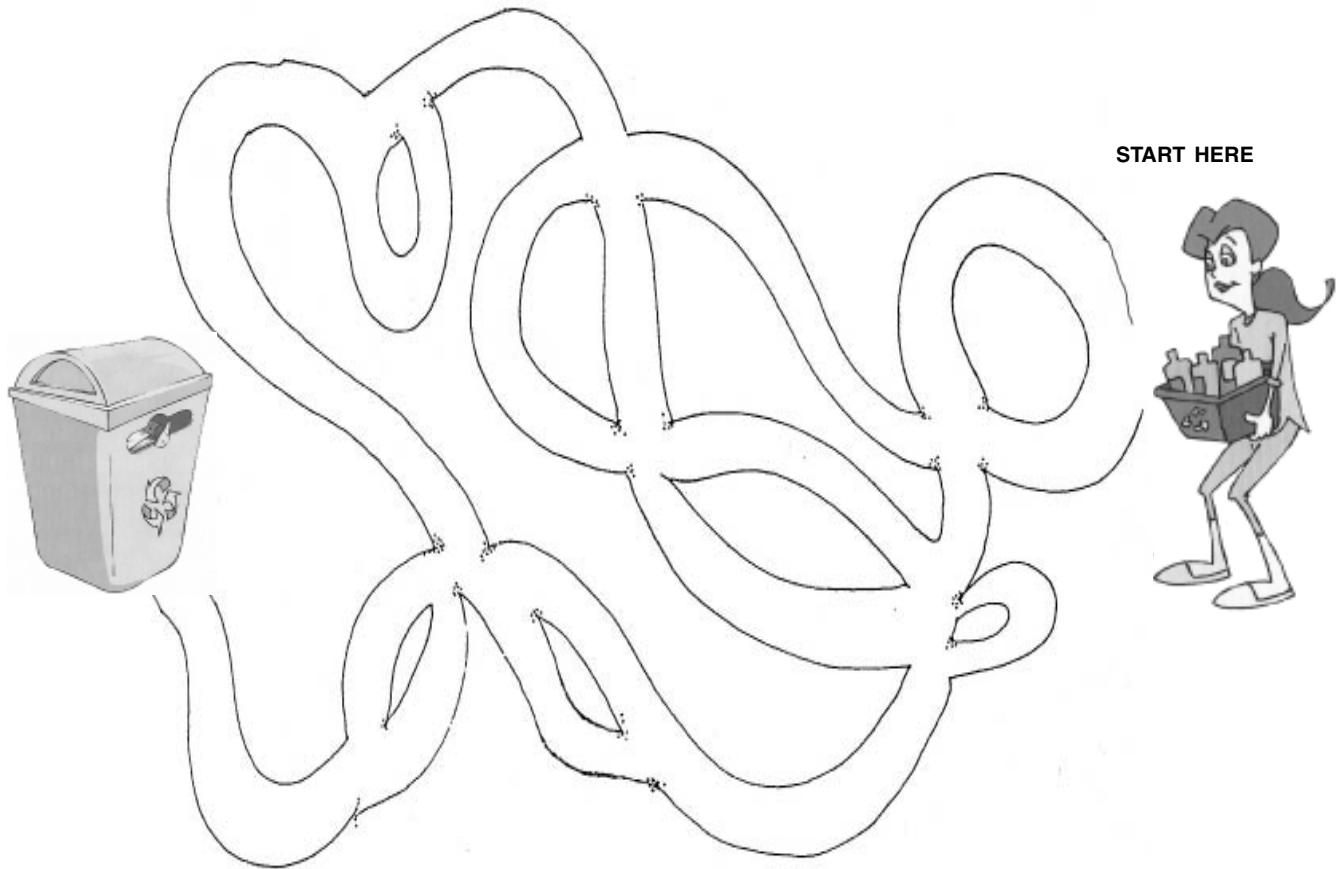
PRIMARY VOCABULARY

Match the underlined words with their meanings..

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1) I will <u>ponder</u> that question. _____ | a) stay away from |
| 2) Are you going to <u>donate</u> your old toys? _____ | b) leave |
| 3) You should try to <u>avoid</u> dangerous situations. _____ | c) think about |
| 4) Tamara likes <u>sorting</u> her schoolwork. _____ | d) fixed, repaired |
| 5) You should never drink something that is <u>toxic</u> ! _____ | e) useless |
| 6) The children are <u>tending</u> the garden. _____ | f) poisonous |
| 7) The lost puppy looked <u>pitiful</u> . _____ | g) try hard |
| 8) Grandma has many <u>precious</u> photos of her grandchildren. _____ | h) organizing |
| 9) John <u>restored</u> the rusty bike. _____ | i) answer |
| 10) When will the plane <u>depart</u> ? _____ | j) give away |
| 11) You should always <u>strive</u> to do your best. _____ | k) sad |
| 12) Did you find a <u>solution</u> to the math problem? _____ | l) taking care of |
| 13) This broken pencil is <u>worthless</u> ! _____ | m) valuable, dear |

FUN ACTIVITIES

Help Jo find a recycling bin.



AFTER THE SHOW QUESTIONS

1. At the end of the first song, Jo is _____.
A. planting flowers B. mowing the lawn
C. raking leaves D. painting the house
2. She is visited by a rat, a seagull and _____.
A. a dog B. a rabbit C. a coyote D. a goat
3. When recycling, the green bin is for _____.
A. bottles B. grass and plants
C. boxes D. plastic bags
4. Besides recycling, you can help the environment by _____.
A. baking a cake B. donating old clothes, toys and furniture
C. jumping rope D. walking the dog
5. The 4 R's include recycle, reuse, renew and _____.
A. reverse B. rewind C. reduce D. rehearse



Answer key on page 7

ACTIVITIES FOR UPPER GRADES

Unscramble the following words and then place them in the correct bin for recycling:

nelmo dinr
fecofe norgdus
geg leslsh
sapride
dosa scan
kilm tarnocs

seleav
pelap reoc
bracnesh
sagrs picnilpgs
lasgs telstob
pewsparens

ginezamas
hicknec nesob
doardarcb exobs
dewse
taplisc sabg
smachtris rete



Be sure to color your bins!

BLUE

GREEN

GREY OR BROWN

Bonus Question:

Which of the above items can you use to make a compost pile?



Answer key on page 7

VOCABULARY WORDS FOR UPPER GRADES

Match the definitions with the words

Words

1. conscious _____
2. inhabitant _____
3. commitment _____
4. custodians _____
5. organic _____
6. essential _____
7. sustain _____
8. likewise _____
9. landfill _____
10. recharge _____
11. option _____
12. dispose _____
13. eventually _____
14. resourceful _____
15. pesticide _____
16. corrosive _____
17. drastic _____
18. decompose _____
19. toxin _____
20. preferable _____
21. element _____
22. commotion _____
23. amend _____
24. inconceivable _____
25. abundant _____
26. scavenger _____

Definitions

- a. to make right; to change
- b. re-energize
- c. referring to food grown without chemicals
- d. rot
- e. basic substance
- f. aware
- g. to prolong; to keep going
- h. something that feeds on garbage or dead organisms
- i. noisy confusion
- j. using what's available in a way that's not wasteful
- k. having the power to eat away at something
- l. one who lives in a particular place
- m. choice
- n. promise; pledge
- o. earth built up by buried trash or garbage
- p. at a much later date
- q. impossible to imagine
- r. in the same way
- s. caretakers
- t. extreme; serious in nature; harsh
- u. plentiful
- v. necessary
- w. desirable; better
- x. chemicals used to destroy insects
- y. throw away
- z. poison

Answer key on page 7

Some tips for a good audience:

Sit quietly and listen.
Look, think, and enjoy!
Laugh and applaud.
Say "Bravo!"



FOR THE TEACHER

Dear Teacher:

You have received a booklet for our current opera "Go Green With Jo Green." Our opera this year is about helping to take care of our planet by recycling. In an effort to do our part, Sierra Chamber Opera has chosen to print a smaller number of booklets this year and to offer the booklet information on our Web site, www.sierrachamberopera.org. This effort will save many trees and create less waste. We encourage you to go onto our site and print out the booklet pages that are appropriate for your students. The activities are fun and educational, so we hope that you will take advantage of them. The booklet information and activities can be used both before and after the performance.

Please encourage your students to take the booklet pages home and share them with their parents and other family members. This continues our work and reflects favorably upon your school's effort to provide enriching experiences for your students.

In your classroom, we think it would be excellent to have the students discuss their reactions to the opera and to the booklet activities. You may also refer to our Web site where you will find even more interesting and child-appropriate Internet links.

Please emphasize the importance of not talking during the live performance of the show. Quietly sitting and listening is good audience behavior. By all means, laugh when something is funny. It is intended for your enjoyment. And please encourage your students to laugh, clap, or even yell "Bravo" at the end of the opera.

Interesting Background Information

The music for "Go Green with Jo Green" is taken from the operas of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), an Italian Romantic composer who was one of the most influential composers of the 19th century. When translated into English, his name is Joe Green! Verdi wrote 28 operas and many of them, especially the ones written after 1851, are a staple of standard operatic repertoire. With the possible exception of Giacomo Puccini, no composer of Italian opera has managed to match Verdi's popularity. Well aware that dramatic expression was his forte, he was very careful to select plots that contained scenes rich in drama and characters brimming with passion. Many of his musical themes are easily recognized and familiar around the world. Verdi used musical theater to contrast noble ideals with the corrosive effects of power, love of country with the inevitable call for sacrifice and death, and the lure of passion with the need for social order.

Verdi knew tragedy during his lifetime: early in his career he was devastated by the untimely deaths of his wife and two children. He and his second wife, a famous soprano named Giuseppina, had no children. Verdi was probably the only important composer who was also a successful farmer! Using the latest techniques, he grew vegetables, raised livestock, and planted a tree every time he finished another opera. He loved animals, poetry (especially Shakespeare), and history. He was also a senator, where his main concern was to put free musical education in the schools. Verdi cared little what critics thought of his music, but he did want to please the public: "The public will stand for anything except boredom." The public was far from bored and he died a much beloved figure in Italy.

Selections by Verdi used in the show:

(This music and more can be found on our Web site, www.sierrachamberopera.org)

1. "Questa o quella" from "Rigoletto"
2. "Zitti, zitti" from "Rigoletto"
3. "Scorrendo uniti remota via" from "Rigoletto"
4. "Si ridesta in ciel l'aurora" from "La Traviata"
5. "Ne appellaste? che volete?" from La Traviata"
6. "Parigi, o cara" from "La Traviata"
7. "La donna è mobile" from "Rigoletto"
8. "Anvil Chorus" from "Il Trovatore"
9. "Libiamo" from "La Traviata"

Answers: Page 3 – Primary Word games: Go Green; Primary Vocabulary: 1-c, 2-j, 3-a, 4-h, 5-f, 6-l, 7-k, 8-m, 9-d, 10-b, 11-g, 12-i, 13-e; Page 4 – After The Show Questions: 1-c, 2-c, 3-b, 4-b, 5-c; Page 5 – Activities For Upper Grades: Blue Bin – soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes, plastic bags; Green Bin – leaves, branches, grass clippings, weeds, Christmas tree; Grey or Brown Bin – melon rind, coffee grounds, egg shells, diapers, apple core, chicken bones; Compost Pile – leaves, grass clippings, weeds, melon rind, egg shells, apple core; Vocabulary for Upper Grade: 1-f, 2-l, 3-n, 4-s, 5-c, 6-v, 7-g, 8-r, 9-o, 10-b, 11-m, 12-y, 13-p, 14-j, 15-x, 16-k, 17-t, 18-d, 19-z, 20-w, 21-e, 22-i, 23-a, 24-q, 25-u, 26-h.

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FRESNO
National Leader
IN RECYCLING!

RETHINK
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Fresno Still At the Top!

Fresno continues to be one of the nation's top recycling cities by diverting nearly 75% of our trash away from the landfill and into recycling programs. The less trash we produce, the more we do for our environment – and the more money we save.

RETHINK REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

National Leader In Recycling! **The average American creates approximately 4.7 pounds of trash per day.**

The average Fresnan produces about $\frac{1}{3}$ less, just 3.4 pounds of trash per day!

Our customers do an awesome job of recycling. And by being such great recyclers in your home, you allow the City to pass those cost savings back to you. It's important to remember that of the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) – recycling should be the last resort. It's much better to reduce your use of disposable products or reuse the products you've already used, because doing so saves both energy and natural resources. There are many things that simply can't be reused, so we do our best and put the materials into our blue or green carts at the end of their life-cycles. The good news is that recycling is an infinitely better choice than loading up our landfill. The result is immeasurable energy, natural resource, and fuel savings every year - leading to a healthier City, region, and planet.