

Introduction to Opera
November 18, 2021

“TOP TEN OPERAS” - worldwide

1. *Carmen* by Georges Bizet
 2. *The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte)* by W. A. Mozart
 3. *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini
 4. *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini
 5. *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi
 6. *Il barbiere di Siviglia (The Barber of Seville)* by Gioachino Rossini
 7. *Le nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)* by W. A. Mozart
 8. *Don Giovanni* by W. A. Mozart
 9. *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi
 10. *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini
- Honorable Mention: *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II

FAMOUS AMERICAN OPERAS

1. *Porgy and Bess* by George Gershwin
 2. *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd
 3. *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Giancarlo Menotti
 4. *Vanessa* by Samuel Barber
 5. *The Ballad of Baby Doe* by Douglas Moore
- “Crossover works” – *Showboat, A Little Night Music, Street Scene*

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME OPERA-GOERS!

1. Read a synopsis before the show (Wikipedia, Metropolitan Opera website)
2. Listen to a few excerpts (YouTube, Spotify, public library CD)

LOCAL VENUES:

UNT Opera, Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Live in HD by The Metropolitan Opera

Opera Voice Types with Suggested Singers and Arias

1. Coloratura Soprano - Beverly Sills - Vilja Song
2. Soubrette/Lyric Soprano - O mio babbino caro - Renata Tebaldi
3. Spinto Soprano - Leontyne Price - Vissi d'arte
4. Dramatic Soprano - Kirsten Flagstad - Du bist der Lenz
5. Lyric Mezzo-soprano - Cecilia Bartoli - Non piu mesta
6. Dramatic Mezzo-soprano - Shirley Verrett - O don fatale
7. Contralto - Marilyn Horne - Cruda sorte -
8. Rossini/Mozart Tenor - Luigi Alva - Ecco ridente
9. Lyric Tenor - Luciano Pavarotti - Che gelida manina
10. Dramatic Tenor - Franco Corelli - Nessun dorma
11. Baritone - Robert Merrill - Toreador Song
12. Bass-baritone - Cesare Siepi - Deh vieni alla finestra
13. Basso - René Pape - O Isis und Osiris

“Top Ten Operas” and Suggested Singers and Arias

14. *Carmen* - Tatiana Troyanos – Habanera/L'amour est un oiseau rebelle
15. *The Magic Flute* - Edita Gruberova - Der Hölle Rache
16. *La boheme* - Kiri te Kanawa - Quando m'en vo
17. *La traviata* - Brindisi
18. *Tosca* - George London - Te Deum,
19. *Il barbiere di Siviglia* - Tito Gobbi - Largo al factotum
20. *Le nozze di Figaro* - Cesare Siepi - Non piu andrai
21. *Don Giovanni* – Samuel Ramey – Deh vieni all finestra
22. *Rigoletto* - Reri Grist - Caro nome
23. *Madama Butterfly* - Mirella Freni – Un bel di

24. *Porgy and Bess* - Robert McFerrin - Bess, you is my woman
25. *Nabucco* - Verdi – Va, pensiero (CHORUS)