

Fun Opera Trivia

See if you can figure out the answers to these questions all about opera. The answers are on the last page!

1. Who was the author of the novel/play *La Dame aux camelias*?
 - A. Victor Hugo
 - B. Alexandre Dumas *fils*
 - C. Georges Sand
 - D. Charlotte Brönte
2. This composer has a namesake who is a staple in Las Vegas – what is the composer's name?
 - A. Engelbert Humperdinck
 - B. Richard Wagner
 - C. Joe Green
 - D. Liberace
3. What Irish playwright wrote the original version of *Salome*?
 - A. William Butler Yeats
 - B. Samuel Beckett
 - C. Oscar Wilde
 - D. James Joyce
4. What cathedral did Puccini study so he could learn the tone of its great bell?
 - A. The Duomo in Milan
 - B. Cathedral of Siracusa
 - C. Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore
 - D. St. Peter's Basilica
5. Mario Cavaradossi is the hero in what opera?
 - A. Turandot
 - B. La Traviata
 - C. Tosca
 - D. The Turn of the Screw
6. Who conducted the Milan premiere performance of *Madama Butterfly*?
 - A. Cleofonte Campanini
 - B. Arturo Toscanini
 - C. Gustav Mahler
 - D. Leopold Stokowski
7. What America playwright/producer did Puccini gain inspiration from for at least two of his operas?
 - A. David Belasco
 - B. Eugene O'Neill
 - C. Arthur Miller
 - D. Terrence McNally
8. What is the name of the 1950's era movie featuring Dorothy Dandrige that is modeled after the opera *Carmen*?
 - A. Porgy and Bess
 - B. Carmen Jones
 - C. Island in the Sun
 - D. Tarzan's Peril

9. Rossini was one of two composers who wrote an opera with the title The Barber of Seville. Who was the other composer?
- A. Gaetano Donizetti
 - B. Giuseppe Verdi
 - C. Giovanni Paisiello
 - D. Giacomo Puccini
10. Lucia di Lammermoor was based on the book The Bride of Lammermoor written by this famous author. Who was he?
- A. Sir Walter Scott
 - B. Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - C. Herman Melville
 - D. William Shakespeare
11. Rigoletto is based on a play entitled Le Roi s'amuse. What famous Frenchman wrote this play as well as The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Les Miserables?
- A. Honore D'Balzac
 - B. Victor Hugo
 - C. Gustave Flaubert
 - D. Charles Baudelaire
12. The Barber of Seville is one of a trilogy of plays by Pierre Beaumarchais. Name the other two plays in the trilogy.

Bonus question: Name the composers and titles of operas based on all three plays in the trilogy.

13. At least two operas have been based on Goethe's play Faust. One is Faust by Gounod. What is the other opera and its composer?
- A. Mefistofele by Arrigo Boito
 - B. The Flying Dutchman by Richard Wagner
 - C. Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Mozart
 - D. The Turn of the Screw by Benjamin Britten
14. Of the Shakespeare plays listed below, which has not been used as the basis for an opera libretto?
- A. Hamlet
 - B. Macbeth
 - C. Titus Andronicus
 - D. Romeo & Juliet
15. What was the original title for Die Walkure?
- A. Das Rheingold
 - B. Siegmund und Sieglinde: der Walkure Bestrafung
 - C. La Wally
 - D. Wozzeck

16. Made famous by singer Bobby Darin, the song Mack the Knife is actually from this Kurt Weill opera. Name the opera.

Bonus question: What former Police lead singer performed the role of Macheath in a revival of The Threepenny Opera?

17. This opera was written to open the new Cairo Opera House. Name the opera and composer.

- A. Akhnaten by Philip Glass
- B. L'Africaine by Giacomo Meyerbeer
- C. The Magic Flute by Wolfgang Mozart
- D. Aida by Giuseppe Verdi

18. What instrument, besides the voice, did Donizetti use most often in his "Mad Scenes"?

- A. Flute
- B. Violin
- C. Oboe
- D. French Horn

19. Of the fairy tales listed below, which has not been used as the basis for an opera libretto?

- A. Hansel and Gretel
- B. Cinderella
- C. The Snow Maiden
- D. Sleeping Beauty

20. This American brother duo along with DuBose Heyward created this opera using the blues, jazz and ragtime. Name the opera and the last name of the brothers.

BONUS QUESTIONS:

- A. This musical was based on Puccini's La Boheme and won the Tony for best musical. Name the musical and the composer.
- B. Who was the mezzo-soprano who originated the role of Carmen?
- C. What was the name of the woman who inspired La Dame aux Camélias?
- D. John Steinbeck's books have been made into plays, movies and also an opera. Name the opera and the composer.
- E. This multi-talented Chinese composer/conductor has written several operas as well as movie scores and even music for an Olympic opening ceremony. Name the composer. Extra points for naming all 4 operas, 2 sound tracks and the city who hosted the Olympic games for which this composer wrote the opening ceremony music.

Answers!!

1. Alexandre Dumas *fils*
 2. Engelbert Humperdinck
 3. Oscar Wilde
 4. St. Peter's Basilica
 5. Tosca
 6. Cleofonte Campanini
 7. David Belasco
 8. Carmen Jones
 9. Giovanni Paisiello
 10. Sir Walter Scott
 11. Victor Hugo
 12. The Marriage of Figaro and The Good Mother
 Bonus answer: Rossini – The Barber of Seville, Paisiello – The Barber of Seville, Mozart – Le Nozze di Figaro, Corigliano – The Ghosts of Versailles
 13. Mephistophele by Arrigo Boito
 14. Titus Andronicus
 15. Siegmund und Sieglinde: der Walkure Bestrafung
 16. Der Dreigroschenoper (The Threepenny Opera)
 Bonus answer: Sting
 17. Aida by Giuseppe Verdi
 18. Flute
 19. Sleeping Beauty
 20. Porgy and Bess, Gershwin (George & Ira)
-
- A. Rent by Jonathan Larson
 - B. Galli-Marié (Célestine Marié)
 - C. Marie Duplessis
 - D. Of Mice and Men, Carlisle Floyd
 - E. Tan Dun
 Operas: Marco Polo, Peony Pavilion, Tea: A Mirror of the Soul, The First Emperor
 Movie Soundtracks: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Hero
 Olympics: Beijing Olympic games