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THE DORSET OPERA  
**FESTIVAL**  
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**LOCKDOWN QUIZ**

**COMPOSERS AND CHARACTERS**

1. Which composer wrote three overtures for one opera?
2. Which composer wrote one overture for three operas?
3. Which operas are familiarly known as:
  - (a) The Bat?
  - (b) The Frog (in German)?
  - (c) The Bo-Girl?
4. Which opera has a libretto written in Sanskrit, though the composer objects to the use of surtitles in performance?
5. In which opera does the heroine receive advice from a seashell (or possibly over the telephone)?
6. Which opera has a plot summarised as, “The baritone desires the soprano, who loves the tenor, who loves the mezzo, who is married to the bass”? Despite her name, the soprano doesn’t seem happy about it.
  - 7a. When Italians wrote VERDI on walls in the 1850s, which political movement were they supporting?
  - 7b. When Italians write VERDI in modern times, which political movement are they supporting?
8. In which two operas do the heroines both have a personal name which suggests they might have worn leather stockings?
9. Which hero of three operas by three composers (all based on plays by one author) had a daily newspaper named after him, still in publication?
10. What is the answer to Turandot’s third riddle?

## RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)

1. Where was he born?
2. Name his first opera.
3. When he first visited London, where had his first wife Minna and he fled from to escape his creditors?
4. The main theme of one of his operas was inspired by hearing it sung by sailors near the Norwegian coast on a tempestuous voyage to London (see 3. above). Which opera?
5. In which city did the world première of the opera referred to in 4. (above) take place?
6. The world première of *Tristan und Isolde* took place in Munich in 1865. At first Wagner suggested that it should happen in the small Residenz theatre. Who persuaded him to have it performed in the much larger opera house, i.e. what we now know as the National Theatre?
7. The first complete cycle of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* was performed at Bayreuth in 1876. The conductor went on to become the Chief Conductor of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester and also conducted the World Première of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* in Birmingham. Who was he?
8. For his second wife he married Cosima von Bülow. Who was her father?
9. Name his last music drama which first appeared at Bayreuth in 1882. Wagner also called it *Bühnenweihfestpiel* (*Festival play for the consecration of a stage*).
10. Where did Wagner die?

## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

1. Where was Mozart born?
2. *Don Giovanni* was first performed in Prague in 1787. Name the librettist.
3. Which opera by Mozart is the sequel to *The Barber of Seville*?
4. For most of his life who was Mozart's employer before he moved to Vienna?
5. Which is the only opera by Mozart to have been performed by Dorset Opera?
6. One of Mozart's operas is set on the Island of Crete. Which?
7. In which opera is the fidelity of two girls put to the test by their two boyfriends faking a call-up into the army?
8. Who completed Mozart's Requiem Mass after his death?
9. In which opera house in Vienna was *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute) first performed?
10. Where did Mozart die?

## VERISMO (not necessarily Italian)

1a. In 1889 the Sanzogno publishing house in Milan ran a competition for composers of opera and 73 entries were received. Who won it?

1b. ... and what was the winning opera?

2a. This composer was the son of a judge who presided at the trial of an actor who, jealous of his wife, had been accused of murdering her after a stage performance. The composer used the incident as a libretto for an opera. Who was he?

2b... and what was the opera?

3. Umberto Giordano. Around which historical event is his opera *Andrea Chénier* based?

4. *La bohème* is one of Puccini's best loved operas. Another Italian composer wrote an opera with the same title. Who was he?

5a. Air Force One makes an important appearance in which opera?

5b. .. and who is the composer?

6. Which composer wrote an opera about Cornish wreckers?

7a. Which German composer wrote an autobiographical opera based on an incident (possibly a misunderstanding?) between himself and his wife

7b. Can you name the opera?

...continues

..*Verismo* continued...

8a. The Basilica Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese and the Castel Sant'Angelo are the three locations in Rome for which opera?

8b. In the church there is a side chapel in which a political prisoner hides after escaping from prison. Can you name it?

9. In which opera by Benjamin Britten is a sailor hung from the yard arm?

10. Part of this opera by Francesco Cilea about a French actress is set at La Comédie Française in Paris around 1730. Who is the eponymous actress?

## SINGERS

1. Which female singer
  - (a) should have had black hair?
  - (b) came from a load of old cobblers?
  - (c) could knead dough?
  - (d) could make agricultural machinery?
  - (e) was a home body?
  
2. Which tenor
  - (a) is a merchant?
  - (b) was a pigeon fancier?
  - (c) was wonderful?
  - (d) was a fruiterer?
  - (e) was born to sing Wagner in the Middle East?
  
3. Which two singers, lifelong friends, shared the same wet nurse as babies? (She said: "You can see who got all the milk!")
  
4. Which soprano learnt her formidable skill at negotiating contracts with opera managements as a girl selling her family's farm produce at the local market?
  
5. Which male singer
  - (a) was flattered by the London weather forecast?
  - (b) could be mentioned in the Madrid weather forecast?

- 6a. Which Spanish female singer was born in Paris, died in Manchester, is buried in Brussels, and has a canal named after her in Venice?
- 6b....and what was her alleged connection with Maria Callas?
7. Dry toast with peaches seems an odd combination, but which Australian singer seems to have enjoyed them?
8. Which female singers might have struggled to build a career under the names:
- (a) Kalogeropoulos?
  - (b) Flaherty?
  - (c) López?
9. Which nightingale married a German who founded a famous London musical institution?
10. Which American soprano appeared onstage at the Met with a gaggle of live geese which she trained personally?

## **To enter the competition**

### **DEADLINE MIDNIGHT MAY 18TH**

Once you are ready with your answers, follow the big yellow button on the QUIZ email or via this link: [Dorset Opera Lockdown Quiz](https://forms.gle/zVmpQ539TUHH96Bn6)  
(<https://forms.gle/zVmpQ539TUHH96Bn6>)

Alternatively, you can fill the answers in on these pages, scan them and email to [quiz@dorsetopera.com](mailto:quiz@dorsetopera.com)

Answers and winners will be announced on or around May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our huge thanks to Hugh Watkins and Adrian Thorpe for spending many hours over the past weeks creating this quiz and for marking the answers. We look forward to receiving your responses! GOOD LUCK!