

The Magic Flute - Music Links and Themes

First, listen to these three YouTube videos with music from *The Magic Flute* as a way further enhance the operatic experience.

1. **The duet** between the bird-catcher, Papagano as he finds a wife, Papagena, is both fun and famous (2:38 minutes):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZwhNkMV_V0
2. **Queen of the Night**, arguably the most famous aria in all of opera, is the one in which the queen demands that her daughter murder Sarastro – inheritor of the *Circle of the Sun*, or forever be disowned by her mother, the Queen (3:00 minutes):
https://www.google.com/search?q=m Mozart+queen+of+the+night+in+english+youtube+video&og=&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUgCQgAEEUYOxjCAzIJCAAQRRg7GMIDMgkIARBFGDsYwgMyCQgCEEUYOxjCAzIJCAMQRRg7GMIDMgkIBBBFGDsYwgMyCQgFEEUYOxjCAzIJCAYQRRg7GMIDMgkIBxBFGDsYwgPSAQ4xMDM3NTc4MzM4ajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:f73d69e1,vid:YuBeBjqKSGQ,st:0
3. **The Overture of *The Magic Flute*** has several different sections and contains some of the musical themes from the opera which set the mood for what the audience will experience. (6:40 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUoMuf9zdrs>

Then, think about how operatic music themes represent different people

How do the different sections make us feel?

After the Livermore Valley Opera performance, did you experience the emotions that you expected to feel? Here are two important themes to explore:

1. Music Reflects Characters

In *The Magic Flute*, there are several types of characters. The music associated with the characters reflects those differences.

Opera themes involve different kinds of people to bring about peace and harmony. Every Prince Tamino needs a Papagena.

Have your students pay attention to the music Mozart gives every character.

How does the music of Tamino differ from the music of Papagena?

How does the music of The Three Ladies differ from The Three Boys?

Does this delineation of simple and complex musical forms add to a feeling of balance in the opera?

2. Magical Music

The power of music and the imagination is one of the other themes present in *The Magic Flute*. Have your students be on the lookout for music that is played by the instruments that are a part of the story. This is the music of magic.

Music is present throughout the entire opera, and yet only some of it is treated as such by the characters in the opera (for example, Papagena's magic bells actually play music that affects the other characters but his arias are not heard as arias by the people around him).

This phenomenon is similar to what happens in a movie when there is music that characters *don't* hear and *can* hear (like the music on a radio).

How does Mozart distinguish between the two kinds of music?