



# What is OPERA? (Part One)

**Age Range:** Elementary

**Learning Objective:** Students will understand that opera is storytelling through music. Students will receive an introduction to the art form through listening.

## ENGAGE students

**INTRODUCE.** "Raise your hand if you've heard of opera." (*Pause.*) "Today, we will watch a video about opera."

## EXPLORE sounds

**WATCH.** Listen and watch the [Class Notes Video Opera: Lesson One](#). (8 min.)

**Teaching Tip:** Be prepared to pause if children need more time to respond to questions. During the video, Victoria will ask students to guess the 'story' in three short excerpts, sung by three different singers.

**WRITE.** Use the [Mini-Aria Worksheet](#) to organize thoughts and ideas while listening to each short singing excerpt. Adapt the activity to various ages by encouraging full sentences, describing words, and drawings as appropriate. Ask students what clues they heard in the music that helped them come up with their guess.

## EXTEND learning

**REVIEW.** Ask students these questions for discussion, reflection, or journaling:

- What is opera?
- Do you remember the name for a little "mini story" that is part of an opera?
- What is an *aria* (AH-ree-ah)?
- Describe the voice of someone who sings *soprano* (suh-PRAN-oe).
- Describe the voice of someone who sings *bass* (base).

**PREVIEW.** In Class Notes Opera Lesson #2, we will be telling our own stories. What story do you think you might want to tell through singing and music?