

1. Dido's lament (Dido and Aeneas) - Purcell

Opera doesn't come much sadder than our heroine dying (spoiler alert) at the end of this early English opera.

2. Pastorello d'un povero armento (Rodelinda) - Handel

Handel was making political thrillers like 'Rodelinda' centuries before 'House of Cards' came along. Having climbed the bloody mountain of power, Grimoaldo tries to find sleep as solace from the monster he's become.

3. Verdi prati (Alcina) - Handel

This aria is a still and calming meditation on the decay of nature. One of the older pieces in our jukebox, you can expect a very unique style of music if you choose this aria.

4. Che farò senza Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice) - Gluck

Sung by Orfeo after Euridice dies (again) following his failed attempt to fetch her back from Hades.

5. Non più andrai (The Marriage of Figaro) – Mozart

After poor Cherubino discovers he's being sent off to the military, Figaro sings this aria to tease the young boy: bullying at its most melodious.

6. Deh vieni non tardar (The Marriage of Figaro) - Mozart

Susanna, the humble maid, disguises herself as the Countess as part of a plan to trap the Count and sings this song to lure him. Think 'My Fair Lady' meets 'Fatal Attraction'... sort of...

7. Se a caso madama la notte ti chiama (The Marriage of Figaro) - Mozart

Making lives difficult for Susanna and Figaro is their boss, the Count. Listen out for the 'ding ding' in this duet representing the ringing bell of the Count to summon his servants.

8. Sull'aria (The Marriage of Figaro) – Mozart

Fans of 'The Shawshank Redemption' may recognise this one. Unfortunately Morgan Freeman was busy...



INO JUKEBOX

WORLD OPERA DAY
25 OCTOBER | 4PM

9. Là ci darem la mano (Don Giovanni) - Mozart

A rather innocent sounding duet, despite the fact that Don Giovanni is seducing a young girl on her wedding night to somebody else.

10. Soave sia il vento (Così fan tutte) – Mozart

This golden trio is sung as two women watch their lovers sail away to war, or so they think...

11. Ach ich fühl's (The Magic Flute) – Mozart

A classic(al) breakup song. A cavalier hero gives his damsel in distress the silent treatment much to her dismay. Unbeknownst to her is the fact that he's actually doing this as part of a trial to prove his love to her. Awkward...

12. Terra adorata de padri miei (Don Sébastien) - Donizetti

Donizetti wrote an astonishing seventy operas in his lifetime, 'Don Sébastien' being his last. Sung by Zayda, a Moor princess, caught between the Portuguese empire and her homeland of Morocco.

13. Quel guardo il cavaliere (Don Pasquale) – Donizetti

The first piece of music we hear Norina sing. In the process of scheming to rob a wealthy man of his inheritance, this aria certainly gives a good indication of Norina's character.

14. Stride la vampa (Il trovatore) – Verdi

If you like 'Carmen', but want to be a bit trendy and alternative, then choose this aria. Azuncena is seeking vengeance for the death of her mother who was burnt to death under suspicion of being a witch. It's an aria that suitably hisses and crackles, like the fire Azuncena describes.

15. Parigi, o cara (La Traviata) – Verdi

'La Traviata' isn't the only opera to end in death, but the final act of this opera is particularly painful. In Violetta's dying moments these lovers dream of running away together.

16. Habanera (Carmen) – Bizet

This aria is sung by the seductive cigarette factory worker, Carmen, in the style of the Habanera dance. It's as Spanish as tapas in Madrid, except for the fact it's sung in em... French.

17. Je veux vivre (Roméo et Juliette) - Gounod

This aria appears right at the start of the opera when Juliet is full of the joys of youth. Contains one of the sassiest openers in the operatic canon.

18. Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix (Samson et Dalila) - Saint-Saëns

Literally translating as 'my heart opens to your voice' this aria has all the trappings of a textbook love song. Don't be fooled though, Dalila's true plan is to ensnare Samson to learn to secret of his strength.

19. Olga's aria (Eugene Onegin) – Tchaikovsky

Olga is the playful younger sister of the more thoughtful Tatyana. Olga explains how her joie de vivre is more fun than Tatyana's melancholy. It's a truly YOLO philosophy.

20. Lensky's Aria (Eugene Onegin) - Tchaikovsky

Lensky has challenged Onegin to a duel and sings this deeply tragic aria reflecting on his life. This doesn't strike me the best tactic to winning a duel if I'm honest. You've only yourself to blame, Lensky!

21. Barcarolle (Les contes d'Hoffmann) – Offenbach

A barcarolle is a Venetian folksong typically sung by the Gondoliers. Listen out for the gentle motion of the gondola along the canal in the piano in this operatic realisation by Offenbach.

22. Flower Duet (Lakmé) – Delibes

One of opera's most recognisable duets, despite coming from a very rarely performed opera. You might recognise this from an old British Airways ad.

23. Si può? Si può? (Pagliacci) – Leoncavallo

A luscious prologue to a miniature masterpiece of an opera. In this opening aria, the audience are directly addressed and reminded that the people on stage are actually acting.

24. Va! laisse couler mes larmes (Werther) - Massenet

Arguably the saddest aria on our jukebox. Charlotte is married to the wrong man and longs to be with the poet, Werther.

25. Die Hexe (Hansel and Gretel) – Humperdinck

The witch is a true panto villain. There's nothing mysterious or unsettling about the music she sings here. It's simply pure joy for an opportunity to cook these small children. I'm sure she's nice when you get to know her

26. Evening Prayer (Hansel and Gretel) – Humperdinck

'Hansel and Gretel' are lost in the woods and sing this gentle duet to send them to sleep. It's as sweet as a gingerbread house..



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27. Vecchia zimarra senti (La bohème) – Puccini

Strapped for cash, Rodolfo is struggling to keep his dying Mimi alive. In an effort to buy a muff to keep her hands warm, their friend Colline pawns his coat and sings this farewell aria to the coat. It's honestly not as weird as it sounds...

28. Donde lieta uscì (La bohème) – Puccini

The most devastating of break-up songs. Mimi bids farewell to Rodolfo, not because they have fallen out of love, but because Mimi is dying of tuberculosis and is a burden on the penniless Rodolfo.

29. Song to the moon (Rusalka) – Dvořák

'Rusalka' is the essentially 'The Little Mermaid' but with better music. Controversial, I know, but this aria so vividly encapsulates the stillness of the water and the moon in the night sky, it's very hard to beat.

30. Chi il bel sogno di Doretta (La rondine) – Puccini

Hearing a soprano sing Chi il bel sogno is a thrilling experience. This is an aria that requires the soprano to sing high, very quietly. It's a real skill to pull off but is very effective.

31. Lonely House (Street Scene) - Weill

Those of you partial to some jazz tunes may like this one (Kurt Weill's most well-known piece is 'Mack the Knife'). Street Scene paints the picture of a hot summer in 1940s Manhattan. This aria encapsulates that solitary feeling when you're on your own at the dead of night.

32. Fair Lady, Gracious Gentlemen (The Rake's Progress) - Stravinsky

Written in a neo-classical style, 'The Rake's Progress' is opera that sounds like it was written by an over-caffeinated Mozart. This aria introduces the character Nick Shadow, and as the name suggests, he's rather shady...

33. Quint, Peter Quint (The Turn of the Screw) – Britten

A truly victorian ghost story. After Mrs Grose hears of the sighting of a mysterious man she recognises to be Peter Quint, she explains who this sinister man was, and more importantly, what became of him...

34. I bought this Suitcase in New York (Flight) – Dove

'Flight' tells the story of a collection of characters, all stranded in an airport due to bad weather. As the rest of the passengers sleep, one pregnant woman sings of her apprehension of becoming a mother.

INO Jukebox Menu curated by James Bingham