



THE MAGIC FLUTE

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE OPERA BEFORE. WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE LIKE?

It's great fun! You can expect to hear lots of great music and acting. All operas tell a story with performers who act and sing on a stage in costume whilst a band of musicians (aka an orchestra) play along. The opera that you'll be coming to see is called 'The Magic Flute' and it's written by a composer called Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

WASN'T MOZART AROUND A LONG TIME AGO? IS 'THE MAGIC FLUTE' A REALLY OLD OPERA?

Yes, Mozart lived over 200 years ago and 'The Magic Flute' was first performed in 1791. However, all the costumes and the set are all brand spanking new and of course all the people performing aren't 200 years old!

The costumes, set, lighting and the way the performers act is what's known as the production, all created by a team of people led by a director. You'll be coming to see a new production of 'The Magic Flute' today. If you see another production of 'The Magic Flute' in the future, it'll look totally different to this one!

IS THE WHOLE OF 'THE MAGIC FLUTE' SUNG?

Not all of it. 'The Magic Flute' is a type of German opera called a 'singspiel' which means there are several moments where the performers speak instead of singing.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE OPERA WILL BE IN GERMAN?

Yes it does! But don't worry. There are words up on a screen with English translations.

DO I HAVE TO STAY QUIET ALL THE TIME?

Well the performers need to concentrate and their voices are not amplified, so it's best not to chat while they are singing or speaking, but there are loads of opportunities to clap, cheer or show if you loved (or hated) it...!



WHO ARE THE CHARACTERS IN 'THE MAGIC FLUTE'?

There's a quite a few characters who appear in 'The Magic Flute', here's a few to look out for:



Pamina – Daughter of the Queen of the Night and potential girlfriend of Tamino



Tamino – A noble prince who's fallen in love with Pamina after seeing a picture of her



Papageno – A stupid but loveable bird catcher who really really wants a girlfriend



The Queen of the Night – Pamina's mum



Sarastro – A powerful man, who's kidnapped Pamina

The story of 'The Magic Flute' is about Tamino's quest to rescue Pamina, but it's not a simple tale of rescue...



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SO, WHAT'S THE STORY?

In the first half...

'The Magic Flute' is based around the story of a man, Tamino, who's fallen in love with a woman, Pamina. Tamino is shown a picture of Pamina by three ladies and immediately falls heads over heels in love with her, even though he's never met her in real life. There's a bit of a problem though... she's been kidnapped.

Tamino meets Pamina's mum (aka The Queen of the Night) who sends him on a quest to rescue Pamina from Sarastro. A wacky bird catcher, Papageno, is also called upon to help him on his journey along with three young boys. The Queen of the Night gives the team some magic bells and (yep you guessed it) a magic flute. The team set off for Sarastro's temple, but quickly get separated...

Papageno finds Pamina but she's not having a great time. She's desperate to leave Sarastro's temple and one particularly nasty slave called Monostatos is treating her badly. After an attempt at escaping, the duo are recaptured pretty quickly. Meanwhile, Tamino finds himself at the entrance of Sarastro's temple. He was expecting to find a dark and evil empire, but is surprised by how impressive the place actually is.

Tamino is then captured, and briefly meets Pamina for the first time who falls immediately in love with him. Sarastro offers Papageno and Tamino the chance to join his temple. Papageno will get a girlfriend and Tamino will win Pamina if they go through a series of trials...





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In the second half...

In the first trial, the duo have to simply not say anything. Easy right? Well not exactly...

Papageno isn't interested in taking part in the trial at all. He'd much rather keep talking, even when he's promised a girlfriend. Tamino decides to attempt the trial but really struggles when Pamina arrives. She thinks he doesn't like her anymore and so is pretty upset.

The Queen of the Night arrives and tells her daughter to kill Sarastro, which she doesn't want to do. Sarastro hears this and promises to keep Pamina safe, first by getting rid of Monostotos. Sarastro might not be the baddie we first thought he was.

Papageno then comes across a rather mysterious individual who offers him a glass of wine and claims to have a boyfriend called... Papageno!

Will Tamino complete rest of the trials?
Will Pamina and Tamino be safe in Sarastro's temple?
Will Papageno find a girlfriend?

You'll have to wait and see what happens at the opera...

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY 'THE MAGIC FLUTE'. YOU CAN TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH #INOMAGICFLUTE