

Myths and Misunderstandings about Opera

I don't like opera. How do you know if you've never been? Add it to your 'things to do' list, it's an experience not to be missed.

I can't afford opera tickets. You can purchase tickets from as little as \$10*. (Even a few years ago, Pink was \$99.90 to \$129.90; Coldplay \$110.00 to \$140.00)..

They sing in a foreign language. If they do, English translations are projected above the stage, and programs which detail the storyline and a rundown of the artists, are handed out free upon entry into the theatre. And when did you last get all the lyrics in a rock concert anyway?

I don't know anything about opera. A typical opera theme is that someone dies at the end but still has time to belt out one last spectacular number. But seriously, if you want to know more, free pre-performance talks are conducted to give patrons an insight into the production. Comprehensive information about each production is also available throughout the website.

I went to the opera once and didn't like it. Did you stop going to the movies after seeing one you didn't like?

Opera is for old people. More and more young people are attending the opera and loving it, at least 20% of our audience are under 30.

Opera does nothing for me. Are you really sure? Opera offers more goose bumps per song than any other musical form.

I don't know the music. Yes you do! Music from opera is everywhere. It's used in commercials, movies and pop songs. You'd be surprised how much of it you're exposed to in your daily life.

When do I clap? I don't want to embarrass myself by clapping at the wrong time. It's no different to a rock concert. Clap when the song finishes. Don't be afraid to show your appreciation for the artists and orchestra.

I have nothing to wear. Wear what you like. Many dress up for a special day out, others prefer a casual look.

Opera is a fat lady singing. Not anymore. Singing opera requires muscle, stamina, strength and technique. Today's opera companies not only want artists with superb voices but they want them to also look the part. Think supreme athletes – opera singers are their musical cousins, without the sweat and liniment.

Now that we've dispelled some of the myths about opera, there's no excuse not to go!