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# Opera as a Multimedia Document

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# Opera as a Multimedia Document

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# *A multimedia document?*

- ◆ A multimedia document is a result of a documentation process in which something is demonstrated by using multiple media
- ◆ The media are always being used in a specific way within a specific framework
- ◆ A document can always be identified in time and space
- ◆ An opera is a result of a documentation process in which multiple persons have used media in some way

# *Who makes an opera?*

- ◆ Librettist – libretto – text
- ◆ Composer – score - music
- ◆ Singers – performance - song
- ◆ Musicians – performance – music
- ◆ dancers – performance – dance
- ◆ Director – staging – interpretation
- ◆ Choreographer – choreography
- ◆ Set designer – set design – props
- ◆ Technicians – sound, light, logistics
- ◆ opera manager – planning – casting



# *What media are used?*

- ◆ Words – voices
- ◆ Tones – music instruments
- ◆ Dance – movements
- ◆ Design – stage design and props

# *When opera was new*



- ◆ Florentine Camerata (1570–1600), a humanist group of philosophers, artists and merchants who discussed the art of the stage
- ◆ Monody (1600–1640), lyric poetry performed aloud
- ◆ Arias, or “recitatives,” were sung expressive melodies that emerged in 1700s and became a defining aspect of opera
- ◆ Opus (work): An opera document in multiple parts



# C. Monteverdi: *Orpheeo* (1607)

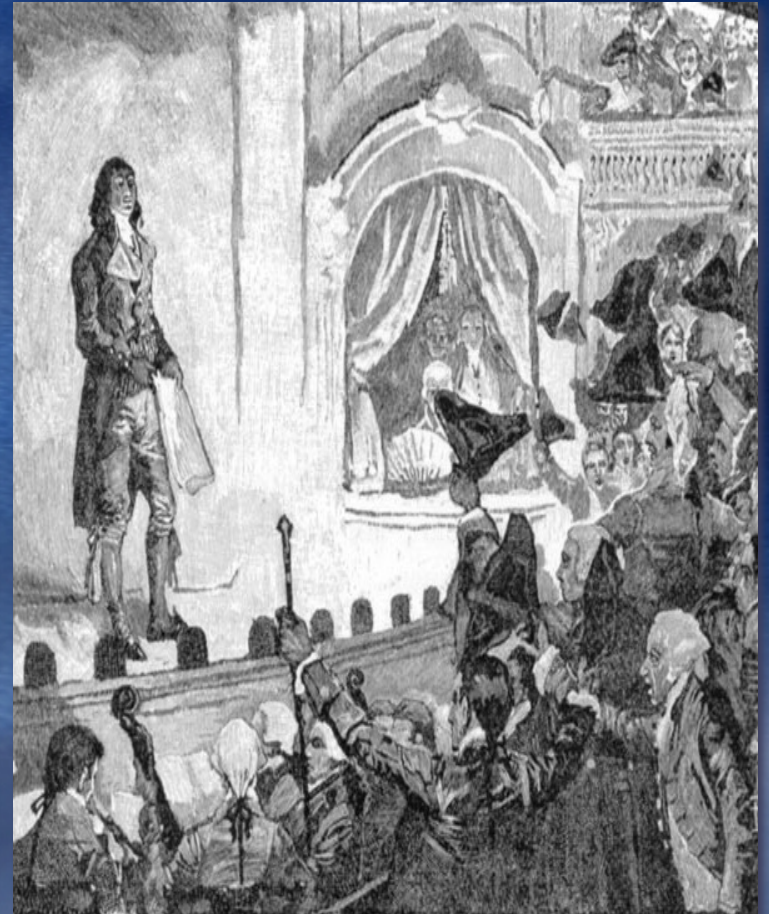
- ◆ Classical drama, but novel in incorporating both music and dance, making it an opera
- ◆ Was forgotten until 1911
- ◆ Click the image below to see a video of [Orfeo rosa del ciel](#)





# *In the meantime – opera in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries*

- ◆ Opera was composed of dance, drama and music in ways that could be changed from day to day
- ◆ Opera could be a part of one long night together with concerts and ballets





# Pergolesi: *La Serva Padrona*



- ◆ G.B. Pergolesi (1710–1736)
- ◆ Introduced intermezzo between acts in opera serie (il prigionier superbo)

View some examples of Pergolesi's work:

- ◆ [Sempre in contrasti](#)
- ◆ [Stizzoso mio](#)



# Mozart: *The Magic Flute* (1791)



- ◆ Employing dramatic light and darkness
- ◆ Emphasizing magical forces hidden in music
- ◆ Flute and bells

Compare these two examples:

- ◆ [Papageno glockenspiel 1971](#)
- ◆ [Papageno glockenspiel 2006](#)



# *G. Verdi: La Traviata (1853): Finale terzet*



G. Verdi was the first composer to be considered as the prime creative force of the opera—musical drama as modern opera.

- ◆ [Fleming, Villazon, Bruson](#)
- ◆ [Netrebko, Villazon, Hampson](#)

Directors and stage designers are important today to make opera new, but how will it be in the future?



# World Opera at World Theatre in Tromsø, Norway

Questions arise in modern opera:

- ◆ Is it directors, cameramen and media producers who define opera today?
- ◆ What about networked-based opera?



The Metropolitan Opera  
*Live in High-Definition*

Live in HD  
**På Verdensteatret i Tromsø**

Via satellitt fra New York City  
Lørdag 30. Desember 2006  
19.30

Billetter, kr. 160/135/110, kjøpes hos  
www.billettuka.no, Billetten.as på Fokus Kino  
eller i døra 30 minutter før forestilling

[www.theworldopera.org](http://www.theworldopera.org)

<b>26. DESEMBER 2006</b> Operas <b>Tryllesøyten</b> Regi Julie Taymor Solistene Anna Netrebko	<b>6. JANUAR 2007</b> Operas <b>I Puritani</b> Solistene Anna Netrebko
<b>13. JANUAR 2007</b> Operas <b>Den Første Keiser</b> Solistene Plácido Domingo	<b>24. FEBRUAR 2007</b> Operas <b>Eugene Onegin</b> Solistene Renée Fleming
<b>24. MARS 2007</b> Operas <b>Barberen fra Sivilia</b> Regi Barlett Sher	<b>26. APRIL 2007</b> Operas <b>Il Trittico</b> Dirigert James Levine

HD overføringene er gjort mulige gjennom et samarbeide mellom PBS og Toll Brothers, som bygger Amerikas lukkelytt.

Verdensoperaen i samarbeid med Verdensteatret The World Opera



# *World Opera: La Serva Padrona*

- ◆ Opera has always been changing
- ◆ A true experimental art form



Click the image to view [La Serva Padrona in world opera format](#)