

OPERA
CAROLINA
OPERA EXPRESS

The Educational Touring Company of Opera Carolina
presents



featuring the music of
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
words & story adaptation by **John Davies**

2008-2009 STUDY GUIDE

Presenting Sponsor
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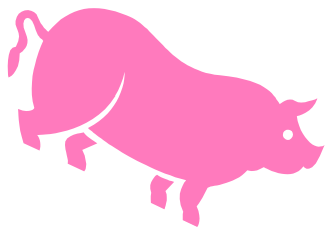
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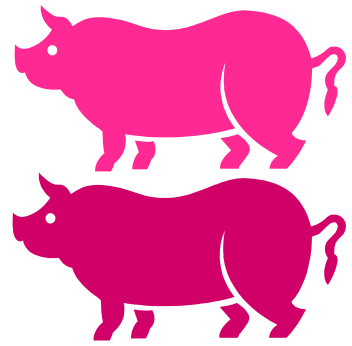
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The Three Little Pigs



General Information



The Three Little Pigs

music by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

words & story adaptation by **John Davies**

Cast

Despina, *a little girl pig who loves the library*

Jenny Chen, *soprano*

Cherubino, *Despina's younger brother*

Stephanie Davis, *mezzo-soprano*

Don Giovanni, *Despina's older brother*

Daniel Hinson, *tenor*

Wolfgang Bigbad, *the Big Bad Wolf*

William Roberts III, *bass-baritone*

Production Staff

Stage Director

Chad Calvert

Musical Director

Matthew Davis

Set Designer

Tim Parati

Costume & Properties Designer

Peter Smeal

Opera Carolina Staff

Education & Marketing Associate

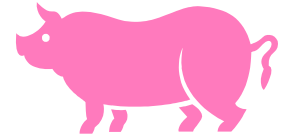
Anderea Dock

**Director of Education
& Community Relations**

Teresa Robertson



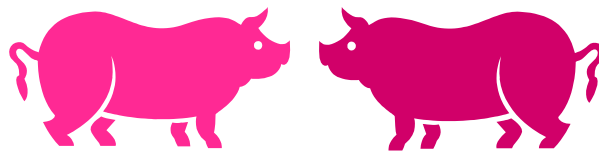
The Story of the Opera



Despina sits at home, reading a good book. Her brothers, Cherubino and Don Giovanni, try to play a trick on her by telling her that the Big Bad Wolf is coming to their house. An angry Despina reminds them that their mother has decided that the three little pigs are old enough to leave their parents' house. They must each build their own house to live in, as grown-up pigs do. The siblings argue about what is the best way to build a house. Despina decides to find some books about house-building at the Library. Her two brothers think books are silly and that they can build snug little houses without any help. Despina ignores them and heads off to the Library.

In front of the Library, Wolfgang Bigbad (the Big Bad Wolf himself!) paces back and forth. He is in a bad mood because he hasn't had anything to eat all day. He sees the Three Little Pigs approaching, and pretends to be a statue in hopes of catching them and turning them into a snack. Despina goes into the Library while Cherubino and Don Giovanni stay outside and pretend to sword-fight. When they notice the "statue," they are frightened at first. They dare each other to touch it, then invite it to dinner. To their surprise and terror, the "statue" nods that it will join them.

Later, the Little Pigs have each built a house. Wolfgang Bigbad sneaks out of the woods to Don Giovanni's house of straw. The wolf blows down the straw house and chases Giovanni to Cherubino's house of sticks. He blows down the stick house as well. The brothers run to Despina's brick house, only to find that she has taken her books back to the Library. When Wolfgang's efforts to blow down the house of bricks are unsuccessful, he reminds them that he has come to dinner, like they asked him to—only now they will be the main course! As he tries to get inside by coming down the chimney, Despina comes in and manages to trap the wolf in a big pot. A reformed Wolfgang admits that even big bullies can be shrunken down to size and joins Despina, Cherubino, and Giovanni in the moral of the story: "When you fear a thing that's scary, take your questions to Library."



This version of *The Three Little Pigs* is made up of scenes from four of Mozart's operas: *Don Giovanni*, *Cosí fan tutte*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *The Magic Flute*. The character of Despina comes from *Cosí fan tutte*; Giovanni is the title character in *Don Giovanni*; and Cherubino is originally a pants role from *The Marriage of Figaro*. (Wolfgang Bigbad doesn't appear in any of Mozart's operas, but he does share a first name with the composer.) This version of *The Three Little Pigs* was first performed in 1991 to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Mozart's death.

About the Composer



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756 - 1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born January 27, 1756. At the age of six, Mozart had accomplished much more than most would hope to accomplish as an adult. He composed short piano pieces and played the violin, clavier, and organ at this young age. Mozart composed many operas including *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and more. Mozart died on December 5, 1791. He was only thirty-five years old. He was a magnificent composer and inspiration for all.

Read more about Mozart at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart>.

Make a timeline of Mozart's life using the dates below as a guide.

1756

1781

1782

1786

1787

1791

Extra credit: 1984

Important Opera Terms

ARIA	A song in an opera that is sung by one person.
BARITONE	The middle male voice range, below tenor and above bass.
BASS	The lowest male voice range.
CHORUS	In opera, a group of singers who sing together; also a piece of music sung by such a group of singers.
COMPOSER	A person who writes musical works.
CONDUCTOR	A person who leads and coordinates a group of musicians playing instruments and/or singers.
CONTRALTO	The lowest female voice range (sometimes shortened to “alto”).
COSTUMES	Clothing worn by the performers which describes the historical era, the social rank, and the personality of the character wearing it.
DESIGNER	The person in charge of creating the sets, costumes, props, or lighting of an opera or play.
ENSEMBLE	A song in an opera that is sung by more than one person: “duet” = two people, “trio” = three people, “quartet” = four people, etc.
LIBRETTO	The text or words of an opera (Italian for “little book”). The person who writes a libretto is called a “librettist.”
MEZZO-SOPRANO	The middle female voice range, below soprano and above contralto.
OPERA	A drama expressed in music, in which the characters sing instead of speaking all or part of the time, usually accompanied by an orchestra.
PANTS ROLE	A male part sung by a female. Composers sometimes used mezzo-sopranos to sing the parts of young men, to make it sound like a boy whose voice hadn’t changed yet. Also called a “trouser role.”
PROPS	Articles, other than costumes or scenery, used as part of a play or opera (short for “properties”). Furniture and the like are “set props;” anything that performers pick up or hold (fans, knives, brooms) are “hand props”.
RECITATIVE	A style of operatic writing that approximates the rhythms and contours of normal speech; usually accompanied by simple chords in the orchestra or on a keyboard instrument.
SCENE	A part of an opera or play, with a fixed setting and continuous flow of time.
SETTING	The surroundings or location where a theatrical action takes place. Also called “scenery.”
SINGSPIEL	A form of opera that is like a play with singing (i.e. <i>The Magic Flute</i>).
SOPRANO	The highest female voice range.
STAGE DIRECTOR	A person who decides how to tell the story of the play or opera: the movements of the performers onstage, the look of scenery, costumes, and lights, etc.
TENOR	The highest natural male voice.

Things to Talk about Before the Opera

1. What is a fairy tale? How is a fairy tale different from real life?
2. Read the synopsis of ***The Three Little Pigs***. Ask the students to discuss the story and its characters. How would they tell the same story?
3. Discuss the differences between an opera and a play; a concert and a music video; watching a live performance and watching a performance on television.
4. What part does an audience play in an opera? What are some of the characteristics of a good audience?

Suggestions for Question & Answer Session

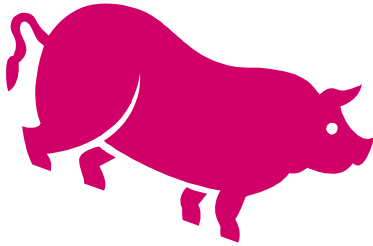
An integral part of our visit to your school is involving the students in the performance. There will be a short question and answer period immediately following the show.

Teachers are requested to prompt students to think of questions to ask before the date they are scheduled to see the opera. Students should be prepared to ask their questions in a voice loud enough to be heard by everyone.

Listed below are some sample questions.

1. What made you decide to become a singer?
2. What exercises do you use to warm up your voice and keep it in shape?
3. How do you learn the opera?
4. How much do you rehearse?
5. What is your favorite type of music?
6. Where did the set and props come from?
7. Who made the costumes?
8. How do you sing so loudly?

The
Three
Little
Pigs



Lessons
Activities
Assessments
for the
Classroom
Teacher

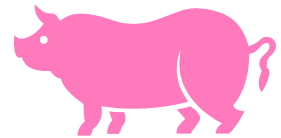
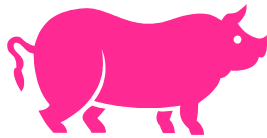
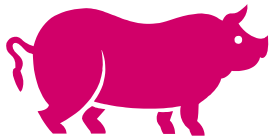


Investigate Opera

Opera was first created in Florence, Italy in 1597. The name of the first opera was *Dafne* by composer Jacobo Peri. Because opera was first popular in Italy, many of the words associated with it are from the Italian language. **Opera**, a word which literally means “work,” is a play that is sung throughout and is accompanied by an orchestra. Operas are sung throughout for many reasons. Two very important reasons are (1) to show off the beauty of the human voice and (2) when people sing together (a **duet**) they can express different feelings at the same time.

As in a play, **designers** must be called in to create the costumes, lights, sets, and make-up. As the actual performance approaches, the singers get to wear their new costumes and perform in front of the newly crafted **scenery** in a **rehearsal**.

In opera, the **composer** sometimes writes both the words and the music, but usually the words are written by someone else. The person who writes the words is the **librettist**. Often the words are adapted from a story or play, such as *The Three Little Pigs*. The story adaptation for *The Three Little Pigs* was written by **John Davies**. The music was written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

The person who writes the music is the _____.

The adaptation of *The Three Little Pigs* was written by _____.

The person who writes the words to an opera is called a _____.

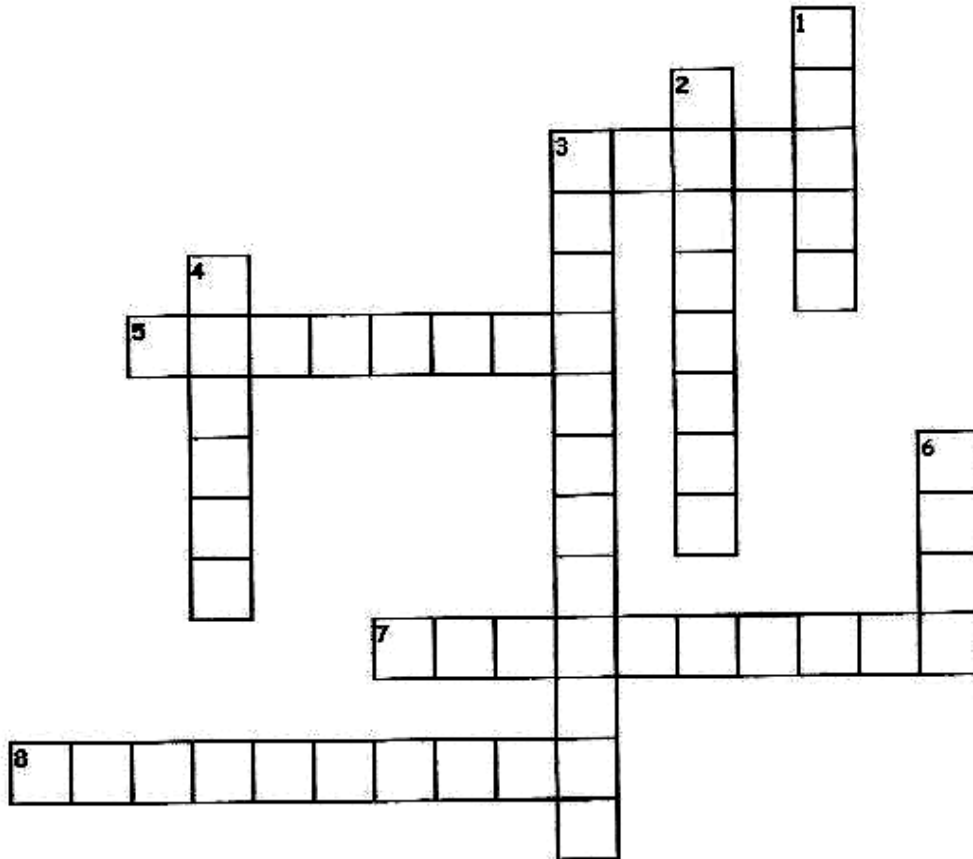
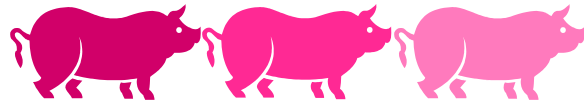
Opera was first created in _____.

The person who creates the costumes and sets is a _____.

A _____, is when two people are singing together.

A play that is sung throughout is called an _____.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. A play that is sung throughout.
5. The person who writes the music.
7. The person who writes the words or text.
8. The person who wrote the adaptation of *The Three Little Pigs*.

DOWN

1. The first opera ever was created in this country.
2. The person who creates the costumes and/or the sets.
3. The company who performed the opera for you.
4. The music for this opera was written by this famous Austrian composer.
6. When two people sing together.

Critic's Corner

Directions:

- Pretend you are an opera critic for a newspaper.
- Answer the review questions below.
- Be sure to report both the pros (positive) and the cons (negative) accurately.
- Have your teacher send us your review.

The Daily Newspaper

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BY: _____ GRADE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

Review of *The Three Little Pigs*

1. My favorite part of the opera was _____

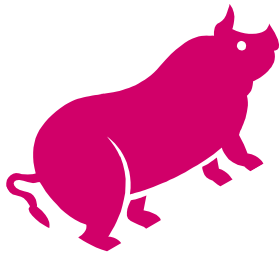
2. The opera was funny, sad, scary, etc. because _____

3. The performers did a good job when they _____

4. The part I enjoyed about the music most was _____

5. Who were your favorite characters and why? _____

6. Why did Opera Express use a book as the set? _____



The Three Little Pigs

Lessons

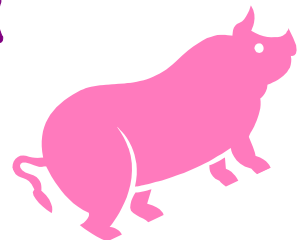
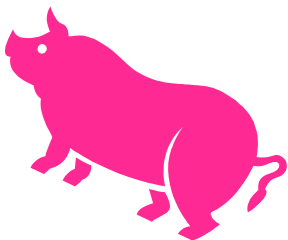
Activities

Assessments

for the

Music

Teacher



Activity 1: The Wolf is Hungry

Objective: To learn a famous aria from Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*.

Procedures: Teach students the melody shown below that is sung by the character Wolfgang Bigbad in *The Three Little Pigs*.



On the go from morn' 'til night, have - n't
had a sin - gle bite. If I don't meet at least one li - brarian, I may be -
come a veg - i - tarian.

Teach the students the simple ostinato shown below. Transfer the ostinato to percussion instruments if you like.



Ba - con, knife and fork.

Divide the students into two groups and have one group perform the ostinato and the other group sing the melody.



Activity 2: Despina Has the Answer

Objective: To learn part of an aria in English and in Italian

Procedures: Teach the students the melody for Despina's aria in English.



I know the an - swer, I hold the key.



Ev - ery thing you want to know is at the lib - ra - ry.

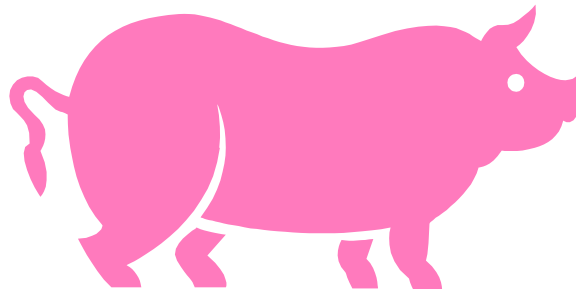
Teach the students the Italian words for Despina's aria and have them practice singing it.



Voi, che sa - pe - te che co - sa e' a - mor,



Don - ne ve - de - te s'io l'ho nel cor



Activity 3: Wolfgang Bigbad vs. the Queen of the Night

Objective: To understand why John Davies, the arranger of *The Three Little Pigs*, selected music from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* as the basis for Wolfgang Bigbad's song, "Now I am really very, very hungry."

Procedures: Explain to the students that composers use voice types, i.e. soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and baritone/bass, to represent different character stereotypes.

For example:

Soprano: usually the heroine (always gets the hero) – often young and pretty

Mezzo-Soprano: usually the heroine's best friend, mother, or maid – often older than the heroine, sometimes the villain (the bad guy)

Tenor: usually the hero (always gets the girl) – often young and handsome

Baritone/Bass: usually an older character – often either a person of wisdom (father, priest, etc) or the villain (the bad guy)

Explain that the music selected from *The Magic Flute* for this song is taken from a very famous aria that is sung by the character of the Queen of the Night. She is a soprano and must be able to sing very high and very fast. She also is a very evil character and is trying to cause trouble for the hero and heroine. Ask the students why Mr. Davies selected this song for Wolfgang Bigbad (include in your discussion the fact the character Wolfgang Bigbad is sung by a baritone and NOT a soprano).

Find a recording of this aria sung by the Queen of the Night ("*Der hölle Rache*").

