



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PRESENTS

# Connecting with the Arts



## The History of the Opera

**The Opera** is a type of theater that became popular in 17th century Italy and began as a means of providing entertainment for the royal family and community gatherings. The Opera was used to celebrate community events such as weddings and political happenings. In an Opera, dramatists perform elaborate productions using a variety of singing styles; Opera performances are made up entirely of music and feature intricate costumes. There are many types of Operas.

Some of the singing styles that are used during Opera performances include: recitative, aria and bel canto. The recitative style of singing is a vocal style that resembles normal speech patterns. The aria style can also be referred to as a solo performance, or a single individual singing a complex melody. The bel canto style of singing, also known as the "fine singing" style, references simple tonal singing that may not necessarily be overly dramatic or powerful.

Just as there are a variety of singing styles, there are various types of Operas as well including: the serious opera, the comic opera, the grand opera, the opera semiseria, the opera cornique and the opera verismo.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH:

Look up each of the Opera types: serious operas, comic operas, grand operas, opera semiseria, opera cornique and opera verismo. Write a paragraph describing each Opera type including a brief history about each.

**Watch the following Videos** for examples of recitative, aria and bel canto singing styles:

- 1) Mindia Khitarishvili. Rock-Opera (The Ballad of Tavparavneli) Recitative and Aria Shief  
<https://youtu.be/HB7wNcKIsLY>
- 2) Opera Belcanto of York 2012  
<https://youtu.be/ndlmiaEcALS>

### EXTRA CREDIT:

**Attend a live performance.** OCCC presents Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars on Thursday February 11, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater located at 7777 S. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK.

