

# Die Zauberflöte

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

1791

SUNG IN GERMAN  
APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 160 minutes

This many people first choice to approach Opera is one of the most notorious Mozart's piece of work. It is an opera in 2 acts to a libretto of Emanuel Schikaneder, who were also running the theatre where the opera premiered. Commonly belonging to the lowest part of society, the audience fell in love with the opera right away, so much that 1 year later, Die Zauberflöte had already been staged more than 100 times. The alternation of acting and singing parts makes it fully fall into the German Spiegel genre.

Whilst many people will not be able to get all the Masonic references everyone in the audience will be charmed by the majestic arias that were composed for this opera, such as Queen of the Night, Pamina, Tamino or Papageno.



# MAIN CHARACTERS

**Tamino**, Prince (tenor)

**Papageno**, bird catcher (baritone)

**The Queen of the Night**, (soprano)

**Pamina**, her daughter (soprano)

**The Three Ladies**, attendants of the Queen of the Night (2 sopranos, 1 contralto)

**Sarastro**, High Priest of the Kingdom of light (basso)

**Monostatos**, his Moorish servant (tenor)

**The Three Child Spirits** (1 alto, 1 mezzo, 1 treble)

**The Priest** (basso)

**Papagena**, engaged to Papageneo (soprano)

# THE PLOT

The opera tells the love story between Prince Tamino and Queen of the Night's daughter Pamina. Loquacious and innocently coward bird catcher Papageneo will help the young prince on his quest to rescue his beloved from the clutches of Sarastro, high priest of Isis and Osiris. However, for looks can be deceiving, our heroes will get to the truth only after a turbulent path.

## Act1

Having lost his way, young prince Tamino, finds himself facing a giant serpent that batters him leaving him senseless. The youngster is rescued by three mysterious ladies, attendants of the Queen of the Night which, after killing the serpent, quickly vanish. After regaining consciousness, the prince bumps into bird-catcher Papageneo, who dishonestly takes credits for the rescue. The three mysterious ladies return and after punishing Papageneo, hand the prince a picture of Queen of the Night's daughter Pamina, who Tamino instantly falls in love with. The queen of the night enters and begs Tamino to help and set her daughter free from High Priest Sarastro. In order to succeed, the Queen of the night equips the prince with a magic flute and gives Papageneo a magic carillon. The two men set off and Papageneo is the first to reach Sarastro's Temple where he sees the unfortunate young lady straggling with the horrible Monostatos. Tamino, on the other hand, gets to a different entrance of the temple where a priest tells him Sarastro is benevolent and that he should not trust the Queen of the Night.

## Act 2

In order to get to Pamina, Tamino and Papageneo are presented with several tests to overcome. Meanwhile, Pamina meets her mother, who tells her to kill Sarastro. However, he overhears the conversation and wittily talks Pamina out of it. One of Tamino's tests is to keep silence, which the prince manages to even when he meets the young princess for the very first time. His silence is perceived by the princess as a cold reaction and this puts her in despair making her suicidal. Papageneo, on the other hand, is too much of a chatterbox and ends up failing right away.

It comes the last test: walking through water and fire. Queen of the night alongside with her three ladies and Monostatos get swallowed by the ground while the final choir salutes and celebrates light's victory over the darkness.

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