



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA EDUCATION

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO OPERA**

An opera, like a play, is a dramatic form of theatre that includes a set, props, and costumes. However, in opera, the actors are trained singers who sing their lines instead of speaking them. An orchestra accompanies the singers. A conductor coordinates both the singers on stage and the musicians in the orchestra pit.

Opera consists of many dimensions that are combined to make it a unique whole: the human voice, orchestral music, the visual arts (scenery, costumes, and special effects), drama (tragedy or comedy), and occasionally dance. The combination of these elements can make you cry tears of joy or sadness, produce laughter or anger, but most importantly transport you to a magical land of music and song.

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