



Tosca

Sample Lesson Plan: Motifs in Puccini's *Tosca*

GRADE LEVELS	9-12
TIMING	two 45-min class periods
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE	N/A
AIM OF LESSON	Through the analysis of <i>Tosca</i> , students will understand the role of leitmotif and how it helps further and enhance the plot.
OBJECTIVES	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about and identify musical themes (leitmotifs) in the opera <i>Tosca</i>• Analyze the role and the use of leitmotif in <i>Tosca</i>
CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS	Language Arts Performing Arts; Music
MATERIALS	<i>Computer or another device with internet access</i> <i>Projector</i> <u>RESOURCES:</u> Famous Movie Leitmotifs (6:47): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpOr3vZpQKQ Tosca – Opera – Giacomo Puccini ACT I (00:00-46:50): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Snu-fFApzY
NATIONAL STANDARDS/ STATE STANDARDS	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3</u> Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES	1. Warmup/Intro (10 minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce the concept of leitmotif to the students. What is a leitmotif (recurring musical idea denoting a character/place/thing/state of mind and has an emotional connection)? One of the styles of Puccini's operas is the significant use of leitmotif.• Movies regularly use leitmotifs. Listen to this clip (YouTube link provided

	<p>above) and see if the students can identify the motifs.</p> <p>2. Introduction to <i>Tosca</i>'s leitmotifs (20 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOK8bhnG5tE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarpia (0:00-1:08) • Tosca (1:08-2:24) • Love theme (4:27-5:21) • This video also explores the Scarpia motif in particular (7:38): https://www.nytimes.com/video/arts/music/1247465192558/musical-motifs-in-tosca.html • Angelotti theme is a 4 note melody that occurs frequently in Act I. You can hear it at the beginning of this video and throughout (7:34): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK3OnVvwPml <p>3. Act I of <i>Tosca</i> (45 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch the first act of <i>Tosca</i> as a class. Have a small group of students focus on each motif. • When does each motif occur? How does the motif make you feel when it is played? How does it further the plot? <p>4. Share out (15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group will present their assigned leitmotif and their findings/analysis.
EXTENSION	Explore the music of Act II and III in <i>Tosca</i> . Are there any other motifs introduced? Identify and define them.
LEARNING SUPPORTS & ACCOMODATIONS	Small-group format; others as needed.
ASSESSMENTS	<p>Students can define "leitmotif."</p> <p>Students can identify musical themes in art works (movies, operas, etc.)</p> <p>Students can analyze the role of musical motifs in art works.</p>