



## *Tosca*

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

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

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|  | <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"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOK8bhnG5tE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOK8bhnG5tE</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarpia (0:00-1:08)</li> <li>• Tosca (1:08-2:24)</li> <li>• Love theme (4:27-5:21)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This video also explores the Scarpia motif in particular (7:38):<br/> <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/video/arts/music/1247465192558/musical-motifs-in-tosca.html">https://www.nytimes.com/video/arts/music/1247465192558/musical-motifs-in-tosca.html</a></li> <li>• 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):<br/> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK3OnVvwPmI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK3OnVvwPmI</a></li> </ul> <p>3. Act I of <i>Tosca</i> (45 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch the first act of <i>Tosca</i> as a class. Have a small group of students focus on each motif. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When does each motif occur? How does the motif make you feel when it is played? How does it further the plot?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>4. Share out (15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group will present their assigned leitmotif and their findings/analysis.</li> </ul> |
| <b>EXTENSION</b>                             | Explore the music of Act II and III in <i>Tosca</i> . Are there any other motifs introduced? Identify and define them.  |
| <b>LEARNING SUPPORTS &amp; ACCOMODATIONS</b> | Small-group format; others as needed.   |
| <b>ASSESSMENTS</b>                           | <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>  |