



San Francisco Opera's Donizetti's *DON PASQUALE*

Curriculum Connections California Content Standards Kindergarten through Grade 12

SOCIAL STUDIES

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Self-Identity & Cultural Identity.

Family (Immediate & Extended), Friends & Community.

Time: Past, Present, Future.

Place: Neighborhood, City, State, Continent, World, Universe.

CIVICS

Social Hierarchy: Class, Status. Ex. General, lieutenant.

Types of Government: Monarchy.

Political events during Donizetti's time.

Labor / Economics: What jobs and occupations were available to men and women?

What do average workers in different positions earn?

Relationship of Ernesto and Pasquale – heir/dependent. How does their relationship compare to modern day family dynamics?

Gender roles – Norina's disguise as Sofronia the "shrew" and the perception of the roles that women play. How does the audience respond while knowing that Norina acting versus Don Pasquale's perception about how Sofronia should act? How does their relationship reflect the time period in which this opera is set? What was the status of women in this time period in terms of access to education, reading and writing.

Arranged marriages – Is this an arranged marriage? How did society support men offering women up for marriage without their consent? Does this still happen today?

The relationship between money and social status – Discuss the importance of both during the opera's time period vs. today.

Discuss the benefits of colorblind casting. How might race affect the audience's reaction to a character within a particular situation? Ex. Norina disguising herself as Sofronia to bully Don Pasquale.

Was Don Pasquale truly the head of his household? What does it mean to be the head of a household? Discuss.

What does it mean to be a doctor? Was Doctor Malatesta a medical doctor?

GEOGRAPHY

The Opera's setting: Where is this place? What is this Culture?

Location of Donizetti's birth. Where else did he live?

Map Rome and Europe in the early 19th century. How has it changed today?

For a picture of Rome in 1843, read "Rome: as Seen by a New-Yorker in 1843-4," by William Mitchell Gillespie. Published by Wiley and Putnam, 1845. <https://archive.org/details/romeasseenbynewy00gill>

HISTORY

Chronology: Ex. What was life like in 1843?

Date when Donizetti was born. Time period when Donizetti lived. What are the differences and similarities to when Donizetti lived in Europe and now?

History of Opera: How Opera began, history of San Francisco Opera, history of the Adler Fellow Program.

Furs in fashion, in relationship to wealth and status, control and power.

Convent – What did it mean to be in a convent during that time?

Explore the history of marriage and arranged marriages, in particular.

ACTIVITIES

Timeline of Donizetti's life.

Trace Donizetti's travels throughout Europe. Compare maps of Europe then and now.

Listen to examples of *bel canto* opera.

Learn how commedia dell'Arte characters, such as those in *Don Pasquale* have evolved through time. Pasquale (Pantalone), Ernesto (Pierrot), Malatesta (Scapino) and Norina (Colombina). Create your own characters based on the archetype.

Create a comic scene using the popular music of today that explores the differences between behavior of men and women, then and now.