



## San Francisco Opera's

### ***THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER***

Getty's *Usher House* and Debussy's *La Chute de la Maison Usher*

## Curriculum Connections

California Content Standards  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

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### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

#### MOVEMENT

Walking, dancing, jumping, balancing, leaping, lifting, etc. Ex. Move your body in different ways using the example of each character.

Choreograph stage fights for appropriate scenes in opera. Explore ways to keep stage fighting safe.

#### PHYSICALITY OF PERFORMING

Endurance & strength, posture, breathing techniques.

How do you make someone appear to be crazy? What movements and facial expressions?

How much emotion do you think is put in to a central role? Act out the scene where Madeline is revealed to Roderick.

What goes into portraying a real, well-known person, such as Edgar Allan Poe?

#### TEAM-BUILDING

Cooperative games encourage collaboration and build trust.

Play number games, where students have to gather in groups of two, three, and so on. The object is to get together as quickly as possible. They can also be instructed to create pictures with their bodies, or move in unison.

Construct relays around relationships between characters.

Explore the famous sextet. What are the key elements of making a successful sextet between the singers, conductor and orchestra?

Construct a venn diagram of important aspects necessary for a successful performance for both an opera company and a sports team.

Explore how you would integrate all the elements of making an opera...where would you start? How would you layer? How would you all work together?

Construct a mini-opera in your classroom.