

OPERA QUIZ: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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1. In which city was the premiere performance of Strauss' *Salome*?
 - a. Paris
 - b. Dresden
 - c. Munich
 - d. London
2. Where does this one-act drama take place?
 - a. Salome's bedroom
 - b. A private room at an inn
 - c. A terrace in the Palace of Herod
 - d. A great hall in Buckingham Palace
3. In which city was *Salome* banned and when it finally was performed there two years after its debut, was a modified version?
 - a. London
 - b. Berlin
 - c. Dresden
 - d. New York
4. Where does the opening act of *Dido & Aeneas* take place?
 - a. Dido's court in Carthage
 - b. A villa in Constantinople
 - c. Dido's palace in Thebes, Egypt
 - d. Aeneas' fort in Zabid, Yemen
5. Where did the first known performance of *Dido & Aeneas* take place?
 - a. At the Metropolitan Opera
 - b. At a girls' school in London
 - c. At the Glyndebourne Festival in England
 - d. At La Scala in Milan
6. Where does the opening act of Donizetti's *La fille du régiment* take place?
 - a. The Tyrolean Alps, Switzerland
 - b. A chateau in Paris, France
 - c. Military headquarters in Hamburg, Germany
 - d. A square in Vienna, Austria
7. In what country is another famous Donizetti opera, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, set?
 - a. Italy
 - b. Scotland
 - c. Ireland
 - d. Spain

8. Which Winnipeg entertainment venue officially opened in February 1907 with a performance of the English version of *Madama Butterfly*?

- a. Pantages Playhouse
- b. Princess Opera House
- c. Dominion Theatre
- d. The Walker Theatre

9. Which Winnipeg entertainment venue opened in 1968?

- a. Manitoba Theatre Centre
- b. Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre
- c. Rainbow Stage at Kildonan Park
- d. Centennial Concert Hall

10. What was Manitoba Opera's first fully staged production at the Centennial Concert Hall in 1972?

- a. *Carmen*
- b. *Il Trovatore*
- c. *Madama Butterfly*
- d. *Nabucco*

ANSWERS:

1. b. **Dresden**

Salome was first performed at the Court Opera in Dresden on December 9, 1905, and then at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1907, where it was pulled after a single performance due to complaints about the subject matter.

2. c. **A terrace in the Palace of Herod**

In the opening scene, Narraboth (Captain of the Guard) is seen gazing from a terrace in Herod's Palace into the banquet hall at the beautiful Princess Salome. Tired of the feast and its guests, Salome soon flees to the terrace as well.

3. a. **London**

Due to the combination of the biblical theme, the erotic, and the murderous, *Salome* was banned in London by Lord Chamberlain's office until 1907. When it did premiere in London under Thomas Beecham (English conductor and impresario), it was modified, much to Beecham's annoyance and later amusement.

4. a. **Dido's court in Carthage**

The opera opens with Dido in her court with her attendants. Belinda is trying to cheer up Dido, but Dido is full of sorrow. Belinda believes the source of this grief to be the Trojan Aeneas, and suggests that Carthage's troubles could be resolved by a marriage between the two.

5. b. **London**

The first known performance of *Dido and Aeneas* was at Josias Priest's girls' school in Chelsea, London no later than July of 1688, although there has been speculation that it may have been written for an earlier performance at the court of Charles II or James II. Following the Chelsea performances, the opera was not staged again in Purcell's lifetime. Its next performance was in

1700 as a *masque* incorporated into an adapted version of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* in London.

6. a. The Tyrolean Alps, Switzerland

The story begins shortly after the French military victory at the Battle of Marrenngo, an event which figures prominently in Puccini's *Tosca*. A group of villagers, including the Marquise and her attendant, Hortentius, are approaching Austria, and fearing the advancing French forces, they pray to a statue of the Virgin Mary for protection.

7. b. Scotland

This early Romantic opera is based on Sir Walter Scott's novel, *The Bride of Lammermoor*, which in turn, is based on a true story. It is set in Scotland in 1695, the land of warring clans and haunted castles.

8. d. The Walker Theatre

The Walker Theatre is the oldest of Winnipeg's surviving grand theatres. Built in 1906, its official opening on February 18, 1907, was a gala social occasion; the Lieutenant Governor, the premier, and the mayor gave dedicatory speeches. The audiences, many in full evening dress, enjoyed a triple production of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* in English, just three years after the opera had opened in La Scala, Italy. C.P. Walker brought to Winnipeg, the finest old and new plays, musicals, operas, and symphony concerts from New York, Boston, Chicago, and London.

9. d. Centennial Concert Hall

The Centennial Concert Hall was built as a Canadian Centennial project. The Honorable Duff Roblin, P.C. and Maitland B. Steinkopf, MBE, QC formed the concept of a Manitoba Centennial Centre in 1960 to commemorate Canada's centenary and initiate a broad scheme of urban renewal in Winnipeg's Point Douglas area. The 253,014-square-foot concert hall cost \$8 million to build and opened in March of 1968.

10. c. Madama Butterfly

While Manitoba Opera presented a concert version of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* for its first production in 1972, the company's first fully staged production at the Concert Hall was *Madama Butterfly* in March of 1973. The first regular season began the following year with *La Traviata* and *Tosca*.