

THE BENDIGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH BENDIGO CHORAL
AND BENDIGO YOUTH CHOIR PRESENT A CONCERT PERFORMANCE
SUNG IN ENGLISH AND CONDUCTED BY ROHAN PHILLIPS



THE
Magic
FLUTE

PROGRAMME

THE Magic FLUTE

Soloists

Jennifer Schatzle

Matthew Davine

Rob Blum

Andree Cozzens

Chris Stobie

Peter Hunt

Elizabeth Denk

Brenda Pitts

& Jane O'Toole as the **queen of the night**

The Magic Flute [Die Zauberflöte. K.620]

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Libretto by Emanuel Schikanedler. Composed 1791.

The Magic Flute was premiered in Vienna on 30 September 1791, at the suburban Freihaus-Theater auf der Wieden. At this first performance Mozart himself conducted the orchestra, Schikaneder played Papageno, while the role of the Queen of the Night was sung by Mozart's sister-in-law Josepha Hofer.

On the reception of the opera, Mozart scholar Maynard Solomon writes:

'Although there were no reviews of the first performances, it was immediately evident that Mozart and Schikaneder had achieved a great success, the opera drawing immense crowds and reaching hundreds of performances during the 1790s.'

The success of The Magic Flute lifted the spirits of its composer, who had fallen ill while in Prague a few weeks before. His delight is reflected in his last three letters, written to his wife Constanze [nee Weber] who was with her sister in Baden: 'I have this moment returned from the opera, which was as full as ever,' he wrote on 7 October, listing the numbers that had to be encoed. 'But what always gives me the most pleasure is the silent approval! You can see how this opera is becoming more and more esteemed.' Mozart attended the opera performance almost every night, taking along [friends and] relatives.

The Magic Flute celebrated its 100th performance in November 1792.

Since its premiere, The Magic Flute has always been one of the most beloved works in the operatic repertoire, and is among the top ten most frequently performed operas internationally.



Synopsis

One day, as Prince Tamino was hunting in an unknown forest, a monstrous serpent suddenly reared up in his path. The poor prince had run out of arrows and was forced to flee from the hideous creature. He twisted and turned among the trees and thorns and brambles, but still it pursued him until, utterly exhausted, he fainted and fell.

At that very moment three mysterious ladies appeared, and on their command the serpent lay dead. The three ladies looked down at the handsome young Prince Tamino and decided that they should tell their Queen, in the hope that he could restore peace in the land.

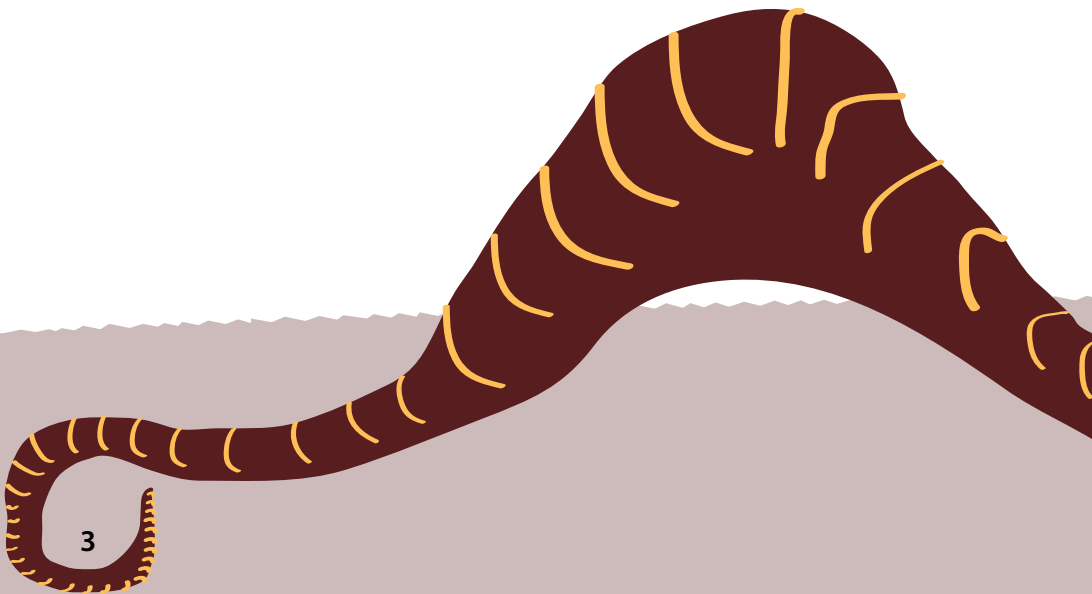
After they had gone Prince Tamino awoke to discover an odd fellow dressed in feathers and playing merrily on his pipes.

The fellow announced 'I am Papageno, the bird-catcher. I catch birds for the Queen of the Night'.

Papageno let Tamino think that he had slain the serpent. The three ladies returned and scolded Papageno for allowing this deception and closed his mouth with a padlock so he could tell no more lies.

The ladies showed Tamino a locket containing a picture of the Princess Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night. They tell Tamino that she has been abducted by the magician Sarastro and that she is held captive in his castle.

Tamino falls instantly in love and resolves to free her.



At Sarastro's castle they are met by the black-a-moor Monastatos, who terrifies Papageno and is himself terrified by this fellow dressed as a bird. Both believe the other is a devil.

Papageno returns and is able to rescue Pamina who now believes that he young prince is her true love.

Papageno expresses his wish for a little Papagena for himself to love.

Tamino soon discovers that Sarastro is not an evil wizard, but Tamina's father and that he has been protecting her from her mother's evil influence.

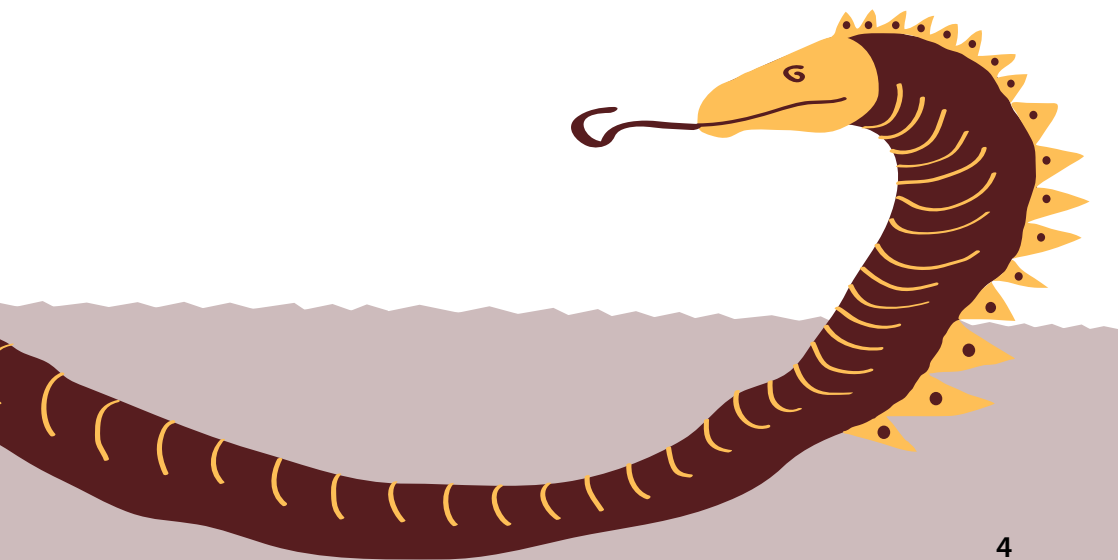
Tamino, overcome with joy, plays his flute and the wild beasts of the forest gather around him to listen to his song. Hearing Papageno's pipes in the distance, he answers with a trill from the magic flute and they begin to search for one another in the woods.

But Monastatos is also in the woods with a group of slaves and attempt to capture Papageno and Pamina, but are entranced by the sound of Papageno's magic bells and dance away.

Sarastro enters the wood in a chariot pulled by six lions. Pamina begs her father to forgive her for running away, pleading that her fear of Monastatos caused her to escape. Although he forgives her he will not let her return to her mother.

Monastatos enters with the captive Tamino, expecting to be rewarded for thwarting the attempt to rescue Pamina, but is in turn banished for his cruelty to her.

Tamino and Pamina instantly fall in love.



That night Monastatos attempts to abduct the sleeping Pamina but is stopped by the Queen of the Night who arrives out of the darkness.

The Queen of the Night exhorts Pamina to kill Sarastro to free herself. Tamino has been promised her hand if he can prove himself worthy, rejecting her advances by remaining silent. Pamina believing he has rejected her love, she attempts to kill herself.

Papageno, still looking for love, is confronted by an old crone, who offers him a drink, and her hand in marriage. Rather than remain alone any longer he accepts and she reveals herself as his little Papagena. She departs into the woods, and thinking she is lost to him Papageno attempts to hang himself, by the spirits call out to him to play his magic bells and she is found. They sing together of their love for one another, stuttering out their names over and over, promising to have a big family of many little 'birds'.

The three spirits find a distraught Pamina, and tell her that Tamino does love her, and that his silence was a test of his strength. The sprits bring them together, but for them to be united in love, they are first to pass an ordeal by fire. Tamino plays on his magic flute and they pass safely through the flames. They enter the ordeal by water and once again the song of the magic flute protects them.

The Queen of the Night, Monastatos and his slaves are banished by Sarastro into eternal darkness, and the two lovers are at last united as the chorus sings a great hymn of praise from the triumph of light, and love, over darkness and fear.



About the composer



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: 27th January 1756; Salzburg, Austria

Died: 5th December 1791; Vienna, Italy

Mozart, born into a musical family, is considered one of the great composers of classical music. Even from the age of three, he could pick out notes from a keyboard and at the age of five, he started composing. This was a sign of his future as a professional musician.

He created many compositions for churches along with symphonies, concertos, quartets and serenades. It was in the later years, however, that Mozart composed opera and *The Magic Flute* was one of his final and greatest works.



THE Magic FLUTE

Captivate yourself by the fantastic tale of *The Magic Flute* and be immersed in the adventures of Prince Tamino. Monsters, serpents and a mischievous bird catcher named Papageno are overcome in this magical tale of romance.

Sunday July 4th: 2:30 PM
The Capital Theatre, Bendigo

Adults: \$25

Earlybird (until 14 June): \$20

School Students: Free

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