



Name: _____

Date: _____

Opera for Everyone

Opera is a traditional performance that started in Italy in the 16th century and became popular around the world. These classical music performances are not held in theaters known as opera houses. Although going to the opera is usually expensive, recently audiences have been growing in size. This fact, of course, makes opera houses and their performers happy. According to current research, however, these growing audiences also hide a big potential problem the average age of audiences is high.

The average age at the State Opera in Berlin in Germany, for example, is now 54, while that at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City is 58. In Houston in the United States, the largest age group going to the opera is between 65 and 72 years old. This means that, although opera companies are enjoying a good income now, they are worried about their audiences getting much smaller in the future.

In order to preserve this traditional art form, opera houses have been working to attract more young people to their performances. One of the most successful examples of this is at the Paris Opera. In 2018, the Paris Opera managed to attract 95,000 people under the age of 28 to its performances - 30,000 more than the previous year. One way it has done this is by offering special shows for people under 28 at low prices. It has also produced a series of videos about opera aimed at young people that was released on the internet.

The Royal Opera in London has also seen an increase in young audience members. It says that now 39 percent of people booking tickets for their performances are 40 years old or younger. As the audiences have gotten younger, though, their behavior had begun to change. For example, when evil characters in the operas appear on stage, young audience members often shout or make angry sounds. Some older people were worried that the performers would be upset, but the performers have actually welcomed the reaction. They say that it shows audiences are becoming more relaxed and are enjoying the opera more.



1. What is one way opera has been changing in recent years?
 - a. The cost of performances has decreased more and more quickly.
 - b. It has finally become popular in many countries across Europe.
 - c. There has been an increase in the number of people who visit opera houses.
 - d. Opera houses research to learn what makes audiences happy.

2. Why are opera houses around the world concerned?
 - a. Many opera singers prefer working in Europe to working in the United States.
 - b. Opera is no longer popular in large cities such as New York and Berlin.
 - c. They have begun to lose profits after a number of small opera houses opened.
 - d. Their income is likely to decrease in the future because their audiences are getting older.

3. The Paris Opera
 - a. has begun to offer special services to encourage young people to get interested in opera.
 - b. gave free tickets to 30,000 young people to increase the number of people in its audience.
 - c. hired performers who are under 28 years old to attract new audiences.
 - d. has examined videos of young people on the internet to make performances that interest them.

4. What changes have occurred at the Royal Opera?
 - a. Performers feel more relaxed with more young people in the audience.
 - b. Audiences have gotten angry that performers are singing badly.
 - c. The way audiences react to performers is different from in the past.
 - d. It has become easier for people under 40 years old to purchase tickets.