



DUNEDIN CONSORT

The Dunedin Consort Guide to Opera



Creating an Opera – Part 6 (25 minutes)

Now that you have learned about the many different elements that make up the opera world, and the many jobs that come with them, it's time for you to get your imagination rolling and think about which part of the opera world you might want to be involved in!

Opera can sometimes seem unfamiliar and even exclusive, but if you are interested in creating your own operas, then there is definitely a place for you in the opera world! We are going to try a few fun exercises to help figure out what would suit you the best.

Something to think about:

When you think about your future and what you want to do, the sky is the limit! But there are a couple of things that are worth thinking about: picking the best future for yourself is all about finding the perfect balance between what you are **GOOD** at, and what you **ENJOY**.

Wait a second... does that mean that they aren't the same thing, that they don't always come together?

That's right! Sometimes you can be good at something, but not actually enjoy it that much.

On the other hand, you can *really* enjoy things that you aren't very good at. For example, you might love cooking but always burn your dinner! The good news is that if you love something enough, you can work hard and get much better at it, so sometimes it doesn't matter if you aren't the best at something to start with — skills can be learned!

Warm up Exercise:

To help you figure out what kind of job you might both enjoy AND be good at in the opera world, we are going to fill in two **skill scribble boxes** below. First there is the '**GOOD**' scribble box for you to write down some things you are good at, and then there is an

‘ENJOY’ scribble box for you to write down the things you enjoy. There are some words already there that you can circle if you like, but try to come up with a few of your own too.

What skills are you **GOOD** at?

Maths	Sports	Reading	Gardening
Writing	Arts	Music	
Performing		Technology	DIY
	Video games	Cooking	
Speaking		Languages	Crafts
	Science	Nature	

Top Tip:

If you get stuck thinking of skills you are good at, try to think outside the box! School subjects aren't the only skills you can be good at — what about some of the things you do at home? Like cooking or drawing or cycling?

There isn't any such thing as 'good' or 'bad' skills, so don't be too shy to put something down that feels a bit odd or unimportant in a school setting.

What skills do you ENJOY?

Maths Sports Reading Gardening

 Writing Arts

Performing Technology Music

 Video games Cooking

Speaking Languages Crafts

 DIY Driving

 Science Nature

Now, there are a whole set of different skills that we haven't talked about at all, which are called:

SOFT SKILLS

Despite their name, soft skills don't involve making pillows or cuddly toys! They are different to the kind of skills we've already talked about, because rather than being teachable or practical things (hard skills), they are more to do with what kind of person you are — just like character traits in an opera — and how these personal traits compliment your knowledge and skills.

When you plan your future it's really worth thinking about your soft skills, because they can help you to figure out what you enjoy! For example, if you love opera but you don't like working under pressure, then being stage manager might not be right for you, but being part of the crew who do the 'get-ins' and 'get-outs' might be a perfect fit!

Maybe you have some of the following soft skills? Circle any that you think apply to you:

Attention to detail	Great communicator	Organised
Good in a team	Good listener	
Enjoys working alone	Creative	Problem solver
Curious	Sees the 'big picture'	Perfectionist
Friendly	Emotionally Aware	Dedicated
Works well under pressure	Adaptable	

Main Exercise:

Now that you've had a chance to think about what you are great at, and what you like doing, let's figure out what kind of job in opera would suit you!

Let's revisit some of the people in the opera world that we have met:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Singer | Dancer | Composer |
| Musician | Projection mapper | Conductor |
| Director | Flys coordinator | Circus performer |
| Costume designer | Props maker | Lighting engineer |
| Scenic Artist | Electrician | Wigs & make-up artist |
| Surtitlist | Pyrotechnics | Stage manager |

