

SEATTLE OPERA.



THE MAGIC FLUTE SENSORY GUIDE

Runtime

The Magic Flute takes place in two acts. The first act is approximately 69 minutes, intermission is 25 minutes, and the second act is 76 minutes with a total run time of 170 minutes (2 hours 50 minutes).

Environmental Considerations for *The Magic Flute*

Patrons who are sensitive to visual intensity should be aware that *The Magic Flute* is a very visually intense show. The set is a white screen, spanning the full stage from right to left and top to bottom. The show has the feeling of an old silent animated movie, complete with scrolling effects and flickering lights. The singers are placed as if it were a 2-dimensional presentation for the vast majority of the show as moving images are projected around them. The singers frequently interact with the projected images. The images are fast moving, with swirling, spinning and scrolling illusions to create depth. Rapid movements include birds, stars and other images quickly swirling around the performers. Because of the animated movement, some patrons may not tolerate *The Magic Flute*.

Because the screen is used throughout the entire opera, individual moments of visual intensity involving the screen are not noted in this guide unless they are significant. Patrons who are visually sensitive should consider the movement of the projections when attending *The Magic Flute*.

Other environmental considerations

1. McCaw Hall is an expansive, 2,900 seat auditorium. The sensory experience is very much affected by the seat chosen in the performance space. There are three main seating areas: orchestra, first tier and second tier. Generally, the orchestra section is closer to the stage and feels more open with the ceiling rising over 100 feet above the seats. The first tier starts approximately 85' feet from the stage. All seats in this section look down on the stage. The second tier starts approximately 120' from the stage. This section feels more sheltered as it is closest to the ceiling and farthest from the stage. Please see the sensory seating guide for more specific information.
2. There is a 48-piece orchestra with 27 stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, and double bass), 7 brass (trumpet, trombone, and horn), 9 woodwinds (flute, piccolo, oboe, basset horn, and bassoon), and 5 percussion (timpani and other percussion).
3. An English translation of the German lyrics is projected above the proscenium.

Performance Content Considerations for *The Magic Flute*

1. The performance contains moments of animated violence, characters expressing suicidal ideation, and characters threatened by wolves.
2. Each of the main characters in *The Magic Flute* has a distinct vocal type. This impacts the type of sound you will hear from the performer.
 - a. Pamina- Soprano
 - b. Tamino- Tenor

- c. Papageno- Baritone
- d. Sarastro- Bass
- e. Monstatos- Tenor
- f. The Queen of the Night- Soprano
- g. The three Ladies, a trio- multiple vocal types
- h. The boys' trio- sopranos

3. Volume ranges as heard from the front row of the orchestra level average around 75-80 dB and reach up to 95 dB briefly during moments with the full ensemble and orchestra at fortissimo. 70 dB is about the volume of a noisy restaurant. 80 dB is about the volume of a vacuum cleaner. 90 dB is about the volume of a lawn mower. The dB scale does not take into account the timbre and resonance of a sound and is only one component of how pleasant or unpleasant one might experience a sound. Moments of music with an outstanding timbre or resonance are noted below. Those who are sensitive to loud, full sound may wish to wear noise dampening headphones.

Key to Symbols




Visual Intensity
















Auditory Intensity











Emotional Intensity

<p>Introduction Tamino and the three women</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tamino is chased and swallowed by a dragon - The orchestra swells with full, bright sound - Images of slowly rippling blue light patterns symbolizing water are projected on the scrims - Stage fog fills the performance space. - Both continue through the entirety of Scene I
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Aria Papageno		
Aria Tamino	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rippling gold and green waves fill the scrims - The orchestra swells with full, bright sound
Recitative and Aria The Queen of the Night	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strobe Effect of Lightning - Papageno is stuck in the Queen of the Night's web
Quintet Tamino, Papageno, the three Ladies		
Trio Monstatos, Pamina, Papageno		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pamina is threatened by three wolves - Pamina sings about suicide - Papageno is threatened by a wolf - Monstatos sings about how Pamino will be his
Duet Pamino and Papageno		
Finale The 3 Ladies, Tamino, speaker, Pamina, Papageno,	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A large head, representing the Speaker of the Temple, appears on stage - The head flashes

Monostatos, Sarastro, Chorus		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The chorus is amplified by microphones - Threatening wolves appear - Flashing lights
Act II		
March of the Priests		
Aria and Chorus Sarastro		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pamina has a nightmare about Monostatos in bed with her
Quintet The three Ladies, Papageno, Tamino		
Aria Queen of the Night		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Queen of the Nights sings that Pamina must kill or be disinherited
Aria Sarastro	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A bright red flashing image of a dragon is projected on the scrim and gold streams rain down
Trio The Three Boys	 	

<p>Aria Pamina</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considers suicide
<p>Chorus</p>	 	
<p>Trio The Three Boys</p>	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their images are projected larger than life onto a scrim, enhanced with glowing effects
<p>Chorus</p>		
<p>Aria Papageno</p>		
<p>Finale 3 Ladies, Pamina, Tamino, Papageno, Monstatos, Queen of the night, The 3 Ladies, Chorus</p>	  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lightning flashes - Pamina considers suicide - Papageno considers suicide by hanging himself by a gallows - Very loud drawn out sound of exploding noises accompanied by intense visual stimuli -

