

Lyric

This *Backstage Pass!* belongs to:

HANSEL & GRETEL IN THE PARK

Original Opera by
Engelbert Humperdinck

Arranged by
Simon Bruckard

English Translation with kind permission from
Sir David Pountney

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generously supported by **Sylvia Neil & Daniel Fischel, Patricia A. Kenney & Gregory
J. O'Leary, Susan & Robert Morrison, an Anonymous Donor, and Virginia Tobiason.**

Lyric Opera of Chicago thanks its Official Airline, **American Airlines.**

HELLO!

In this edition of Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Backstage Pass!* you'll learn about the world of opera and this production of *Hansel and Gretel*.

op-er-a (noun) A play in which most or all of the words are sung, and the music helps tell the story.

Like a movie or a play, opera also uses visual arts, acting, and sometimes dance to help tell the story.

Some operas are timeless, which means people still want to see them, no matter how long it has been since they were created. The opera *Hansel and Gretel* was first performed in 1893 in a German theater. Today, we are performing *Hansel and Gretel* in a Chicago park. The costumes and venue have changed, but the story and music are timeless!



We have created a special experience for our younger audience members. Be on the lookout for this symbol and enjoy these special activities.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- The opera is 50 minutes long
- Everything is sung in English
- Today's performance includes 4 scenes that will take place in 3 locations within the park
- Our show requires you to be a quiet listener, but you can clap and cheer loudly at the end

LOOK FOR

- Scenery, props, and costumes that help tell the story
- Set changes that show different times of day
- Props and costumes that make characters seem magical

LISTEN FOR

- People singing their stories
- Different kinds of voices, from high (soprano) to low (baritone)
- Different sounds from the singers and orchestra: high, low, loud, quiet, imitations of nature

HANSEL & GRETEL IN THE PARK

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Performances at North Park Village Nature Center: May 27 - June 18, 2021

Gretel, a girl, soprano

Hansel, Gretel's brother, mezzo-soprano

Gertrud, Hansel and Gretel's mother, mezzo-soprano

Peter, Hansel and Gretel's father, baritone

The Sandman, a fairy who helps children fall asleep, soprano

The Dew Fairy, a fairy who wakes sleeping children, soprano

The Witch, an enchanter who turns children into gingerbread, tenor

Production / Director, Matthew Ozawa

Music Advisor, Michael Black

Scenic and Costume Designer, Scott Marr

Assistant Director, Jordan Braun

Music Supervisors, William C. Billingham, Noah Lindquist, Eric Weimer

Stage Manager, John Coleman

Assistant Stage Managers, Alaina Bartkowiak, Dan Sokalski, Bill Walters

Featuring members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus and Orchestra

Chorus / Stage Management and Direction: AGMA

Orchestra: CFM Local 10-208

Scenic Artists: IATSE USA 829

Stage Crew: IATSE Local 2

Wardrobe Crew: IATSE Local 769

Wigs & Makeup Crew: IATSE Local 746

Set fabricated and painted by McGuire Scenic

Costumes built by the Lyric Opera of Chicago Wardrobe Department; Maureen Reilly, Costume Director

Wigs built by the Lyric Opera Wig Department; Sarah Hatten, Wigmaster and Make-up Designer

Photography and recording of any kind are not allowed during the performance.

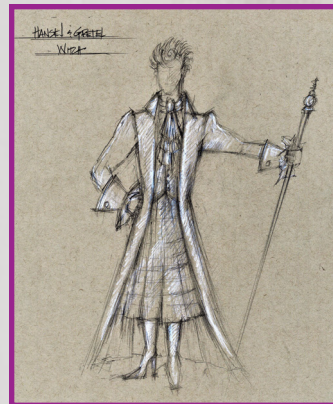
Silence cell phones and other devices.

OPERA STARTS WITH A STORY

Someone, usually a librettist or composer, finds a story they think would make a good opera. The story can be from literature, like myths or fairy tales, or from historical or present-day events. It can even be completely made up! *Hansel and Gretel* is based on a German fairy tale that was first recorded by the Brothers Grimm in 1812.

LIBRETTIST

In opera, the script is called the libretto. The person who writes the libretto is called the *librettist*. The original librettist of *Hansel and Gretel* was Adelheid Wette, the composer's sister. She wrote the words for the opera in German. Sir David Pountney translated the words into English.



THE CHARACTERS IN *HANSEL AND GRETEL*

Gretel	A girl
Hansel	Gretel's brother
Gertrud	Hansel and Gretel's mother
Peter	Hansel and Gretel's father
The Sandman	A fairy who helps children fall asleep
The Dew Fairy	A fairy who wakes sleeping children
The Witch	An enchanter who turns children into gingerbread

THE STORY OF *HANSEL AND GRETEL*

SCENE 1: HOME

Hansel and Gretel are home alone, trying to do their chores. They're tired of being hungry all the time, and begin dreaming of sweet things to eat. Gretel shows Hansel a secret: a jug of cream that their mother has hidden for dinner. Hansel wants all of it, but Gretel distracts him with a song and dance. The two siblings eventually tumble to the ground in laughter.

Gertrud, the children's mother, comes home, interrupting their fun. She is mad because they haven't done their chores, and in her anger, she turns and knocks over the jug of cream. It breaks and spills everywhere! She tells the children to leave at once. They must go to the woods to pick strawberries, since there is nothing else to eat.

Mother is left by herself, feeling tired and sad. She hears Peter, the children's father, singing happily as he comes home. He's had a good day, and can't wait to celebrate with his family. "Where are the children?" he asks. Mother tells him they are in the forest, and Father worries that they will be found by the Witch of Gibbet Wood. Everyone knows she lures children into her home with sweets, puts a spell on them, and roasts them for dinner!

SCENE 2: THE FOREST

Hansel and Gretel are in the forest, picking and eating strawberries. They play until they notice it is getting dark outside, and realize they're lost. The Sandman mysteriously appears, and sprinkles magic to help them sleep. The children say their prayers before going to bed for the night. In the morning, the Dew Fairy brings the daylight, gently awakening Hansel and Gretel. The children open their eyes and see a beautiful, delicious looking house in the distance.

SCENE 3: THE WITCH'S HOUSE

The Witch spies on Hansel and Gretel as they sample all the tasty treats, but the children are too excited to notice her. The Witch catches them and puts them under a spell. They are terrified at first, but Gretel is very clever and tricky. The Witch plans on pushing the children into the oven, but instead, the children push the Witch into the oven!

SCENE: 4: HOME AGAIN

All the other children who have been caught by the Witch are freed from her spell. Hansel and Gretel reunite with their parents, and everyone rejoices.

FAIRY TALES



A lot of fairy tales have been turned into picture books and movies. **Circle the fairy tales listed below that you have read or seen:**

CINDERELLA

**THE PRINCESS
AND THE PEA**

**SLEEPING
BEAUTY**

ALADDIN

**SNOW WHITE AND THE
SEVEN DWARFS**

**BEAUTY AND
THE BEAST**

**THE LITTLE
MERMAID**

After you have watched *Hansel and Gretel*, answer the following questions.

Fairy tales are stories that usually have:

- **Magical characters**
- **Wishes**
- **A happy ending**
- **A moral, or a lesson**

Which characters use magic?

Which characters wish for something?

Is the ending happy?

YES NO MAYBE

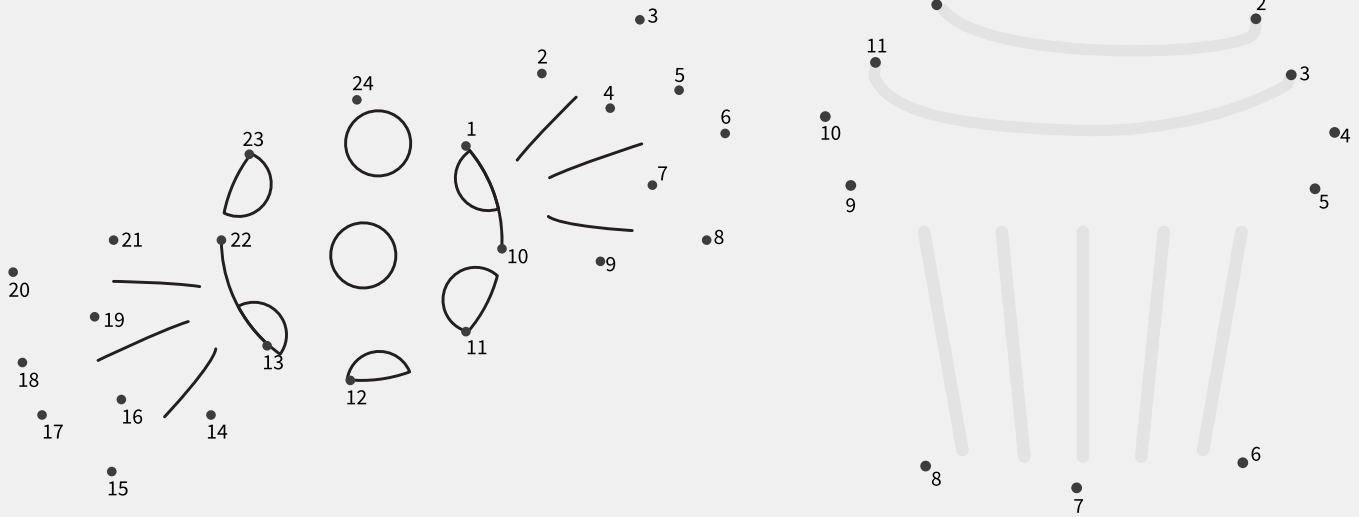
Did you learn anything from the characters? What different choices would you make if you were Hansel or Gretel?

*If you were able to answer each question, you have evidence that *Hansel and Gretel* is a fairy tale!*

Now, think about your favorite story. Is it a fairy tale? Answer the questions again to find out.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Connect the dots to see what kinds of delicious treats Hansel and Gretel wish to eat!



What is your favorite treat?
Draw a picture of it in the square below.



MUSIC'S ROLE IN OPERA

Music is an important part of telling the story in opera. It moves the action of the story forward. Music lets the audience know how the characters feel or what they are thinking. The music is written by the composer and is performed by the singers and orchestra.

SING IT LOUD!

Opera singers are a lot like athletes. Instead of training their bodies to run fast or jump high, opera singers train their voices to sing difficult music AND to be loud enough to be heard while the orchestra is playing.

Different people sing with different voices. Here are the main voice types found in opera:

SOPRANO (soh-PRAH-no)

The highest voice. Gretel, the Sandman and the Dew Fairy are all sung by sopranos.

MEZZO-SOPRANO (MET-soh soh-PRAH-no)

The middle high voice. Mezzos can be almost any type of character. In this opera Hansel and the mother are sung by mezzo-sopranos.

TENOR (TEH-ner)

Usually the highest male voice and often the leading role. In this version of *Hansel and Gretel*, the Witch is a tenor.

BARITONE (BEAR-ih-tone)

The middle low voice. Baritones play all sorts of roles. Here, the father is a baritone.

BASS (BASE)

The lowest, deepest voice. Basses often play old and wise characters, but they can also be villains.

WHY IS HANSEL SUNG BY A WOMAN?

Can you imagine learning the role of Hansel as a 10 year old boy? That sounds tricky. The music is challenging and it all must be memorized. Also, Hansel must have a loud enough voice to be heard over the orchestra. Last but not least, kids are in school or playing with friends while rehearsals take place. It makes sense to hire an adult for the job, doesn't it?

Since women sing in the same vocal range as boys, composers oftentimes write the music so that female singers can play the part of a boy on stage. Composers also write music to match a character's personality. The Sandman's music is high, which feels magical, just like the Sandman! The Witch's music makes quick changes between high and low, which feels unpredictable, just like the Witch!

COMPOSER

The composer writes the music in a way that best tells the story. The written-out music is called the score.

CAST

The cast includes all of the singers who perform the opera. *Hansel and Gretel in the Park* has two casts, and consists of members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Chorus.



Meet the full cast and crew at lyricopera.org/hansel or scan the QR code on your smart device.

ORCHESTRA

Operas are typically performed with musicians playing instruments along with the singers. In this performance of *Hansel and Gretel in the Park*, the singers are joined by musicians from the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra.

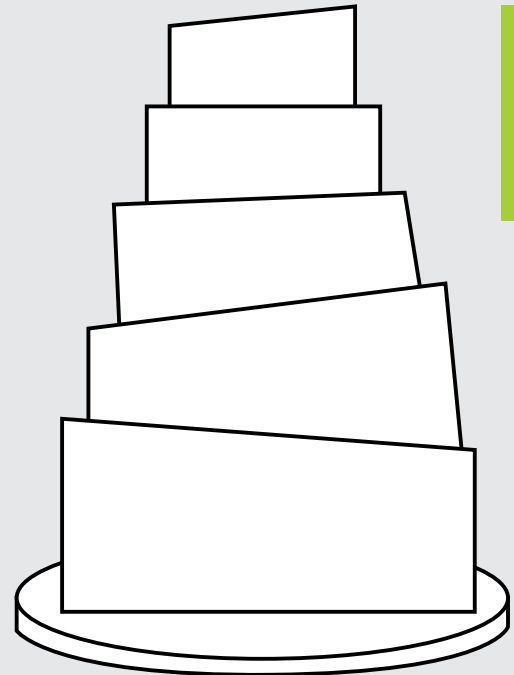
MUSIC ADVISOR

The music advisor leads music rehearsals, just like a conductor. In *Hansel and Gretel in the Park*, the music advisor helped the singers and instrumentalists agree on the pacing, volume, and musical shaping of each section.



Michael Black
Music Advisor

Now that you know the voice types of the different characters in *Hansel and Gretel in the Park*, write their names in the layer cake below. The characters with the highest voices should go on the top layer, the character with the lowest voice should go on the bottom layer. Can you figure out where to put the characters on the middle layers? And then be sure to decorate your cake!



LISTEN CAREFULLY

throughout the opera for moments when the orchestra tells the story instead of the singers.

Do you hear any music that might represent certain characters or actions? Do you hear any animals or other sounds depicting nature?

VISUAL ARTS SET THE STAGE

In opera, the music tells the story that you hear. Everything you see onstage is part of the **visual arts**.

The story in an opera can happen in many different places and times. The location of the opera is called the **setting**. Scenery, props, costumes, wigs, and makeup help create the opera's setting. Some operas also use lighting to help tell the story.

STAGE DIRECTOR

The **stage director** decides how the setting of the opera will look. They also determine how the singers will act on stage.



Matthew Ozawa
Production / Director

DESIGNERS

Designers work with the stage director to decide how the opera will look and how its story will be told. They create the scenery (or set), props, and costumes.

WIGS & MAKEUP

Like costumes, operas use **wigs and makeup** to change the performers into different characters. Makeup and wigs can make a performer look younger, older, magical, or anything else you can imagine!

SCENERY & PROPS

The **scenery**, or set, shows the location of the story. Sometimes operas happen in a cottage, the forest, or even a witch's house! **Props** are the objects performers use on stage to tell the story. Props can be anything: food, brooms, confetti, and more.



Scott Marr
Scenic and
Costume
Designer

COSTUMES

Costumes are the clothes performers wear in an opera. The costumes help tell you about the character – whether they are shy or bold, nice or mean, young or old, or where they might live.

BE A DESIGNER!

Now it's your turn to be a scenic and costume designer. Using what you know about *Hansel and Gretel*, design costumes on the gingerbread shapes below. Choose where you would like the opera to take place, and fill in the background with scenery.

The image contains a design activity. At the top, there is a green header with the word "Lyric". Below it is the title "BE A DESIGNER!". The main text instructs the user to design costumes and scenery for the opera *Hansel and Gretel*. The activity area consists of two large, empty gingerbread man outlines at the bottom. Above these outlines is a row of 14 vertical strips of forest scenery, each showing a different view of a forest with trees and foliage. On the right side of the activity area, there is a green square containing a circular icon of a gingerbread man.

ACTING & DRAMA

There are two main types of operas—**comedy** and **tragedy**. Comedies usually have a happy ending. Tragedies can be very sad. *Hansel and Gretel* has moments that are both of these.



- Which one of these masks is comedy?
- Which one is tragedy?
- How can you tell?

YOUR TURN TO TRY SOME ACTING

Opera singers change their faces, posture, and voices to show how their character is feeling. This is called acting.

Gretel sings the following sentence two times in a row. The second time, the music and emotions are a little different than the first time. Try speaking Gretel's words in 3 different ways:

“ ***Eat up now,
there's no excuse.*** ”

- **First**, speak them like you are under a spell with **no emotion**.
- **Second**, speak them like you are **very sad**.
- **Third**, speak them like you are **very happy**.

MOVEMENT & DANCE

Movement and **dance** are sometimes part of an opera. In opera, movement and dance can show dreams, fights, imaginary journeys, and more.

Performers use stage directions to help them know where to go during the opera.

HELP THE DEW FAIRY MOVE AROUND THE STAGE



Put a dot on the stage for each of these stage directions. Connect the dots with lines and arrows so the Dew Fairy knows where to move during the opera.

1. **Downstage Right**
2. **Center Stage**
3. **Upstage Left**
4. **Downstage Left**
5. **Downstage Center**



Stage Right
the right side
from the
performer's
point of view

Upstage
farthest from the
audience

**Center
Stage**

Stage Left
the left side
from the
performer's
point of view

Downstage
closest to the
audience

FROM PAGE TO STAGE:

HOW AN OPERA IS CREATED

You have learned a lot about the various roles in creating an opera. Now, see how they all come together from start to finish.



Librettist turns the story into a script.

Composer writes the music in a way that helps to tell the story.

Stage Director decides how the opera will look and how the singers will move and act.

Designers decide how the scenery and costumes will look.

Music Supervisor leads music rehearsals and performances.

Stage Manager controls everything that happens onstage during a performance through signals and whispered commands from backstage.

Crew works behind the scenes to make sure all sets and props are in the correct place throughout the performance.

Cast includes the singers on stage who perform the opera.

Audience is YOU. What would a show be without an audience? That's when everyone's hard work pays off!

TAKING A JOURNEY



A lot of stories in opera are about people looking for something important. Just like real life, looking for something can mean traveling from one place to another. It also might include obstacles, or things in the way. We call that a journey.

Hansel and Gretel take a journey and find their parents at the end. In this version of the opera, they are in three different places.

Draw a line to connect the part of the story in the first column that matches where Hansel and Gretel are in the second column.

In the beginning of the opera

That evening

The next morning

At the end of the opera

Hansel and Gretel go to the Witch's house.

Hansel and Gretel reunite with their parents.

Hansel and Gretel pick strawberries in the forest.

Hansel and Gretel are at home, alone.

On their journey, Hansel and Gretel see all kinds of things in the forest.

Circle the objects that you think they see:

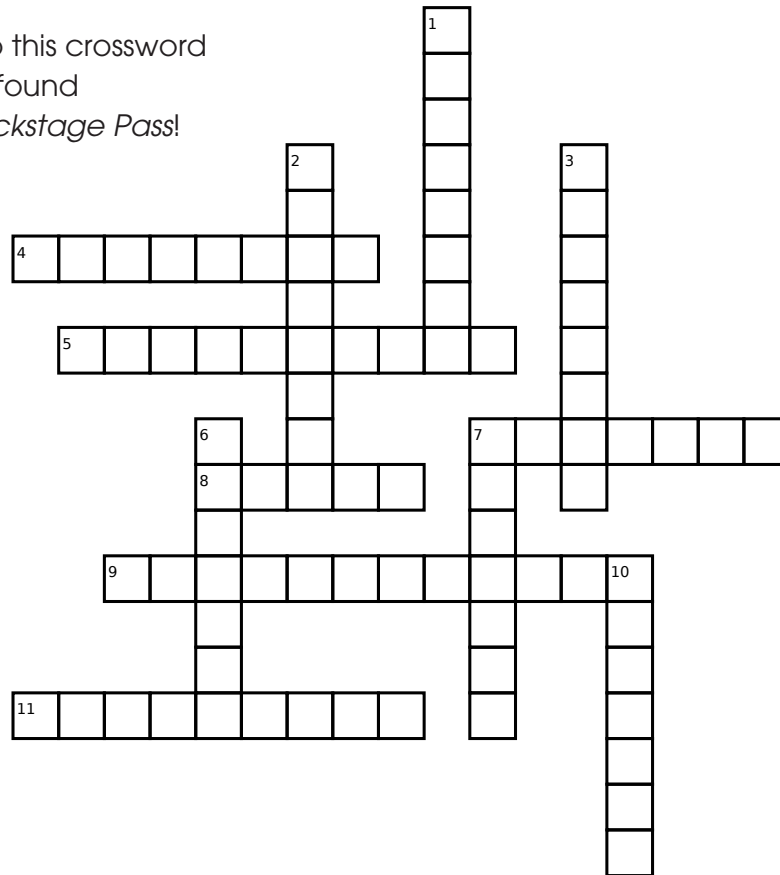


CAN YOU HELP HANSEL AND GRETEL COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEY?



HANSEL & GRETEL IN THE PARK

Find the answers to this crossword puzzle using terms found throughout the *Backstage Pass!*



DOWN

1. The clothes singers wear in an opera
2. The father's voice type
3. A person who writes music
6. A trip from one place to another, oftentimes with obstacles
7. The highest voice type
10. The character who helps Hansel and Gretel go to sleep

ACROSS

4. The character who awakens Hansel and Gretel
5. A person who writes the words or script of an opera
7. Visual art onstage that shows the location of the story
8. A story told through music
9. What Hansel and Gretel eat in the forest
11. A story that usually has magical characters and a happy ending

