



Palm Springs  
**OPERA  
GUILD**

# OPERA IN THE SCHOOLS



From Page to Stage  
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Teaching Toolkit | Grades K-6  
Presented by  
Palm Springs Opera Guild



# Dear Teachers,

We're so grateful for all you do to inspire, support, and guide your students every day. As part of our Opera in the Schools program, this study guide offers playful, standard-aligned tools designed to enhance your classroom experience before, during, and after the performance. We hope you'll explore these materials in advance and enjoy sharing the vocabulary, listening links, puzzles, and hands-on activities with your students.

Thank you for helping make arts education meaningful, accessible, and fun!!

Laurie Baldwin, IOM  
Executive Director  
Palm Springs Opera Guild



# Brief History

Opera began over 400 years ago in Italy during the late 1500s to blend music, storytelling, and theater. Originally performed for royalty and aristocrats, it soon spread across Europe, evolving into a beloved public art form. In 1637, the first public opera house, Teatro San Cassiano opened in Venice, Italy, with *L'Andromeda* by Francesco Manelli. This marked a turning point, allowing everyday citizens to experience opera firsthand. Over time, composers like Mozart, Verdi, and Puccini helped shape the opera we know today, full of dramatic characters, colorful costumes, and powerful music.

Today, opera remains a vibrant and relevant art form. Modern productions explore current themes like justice, identity, and climate change, while new technologies—like digital sets and livestreamed performances, make opera more accessible than ever. Whether performed in grand theaters or community spaces, opera continues to connect people through emotion, storytelling, and the magic of live performance.



# Program Overview

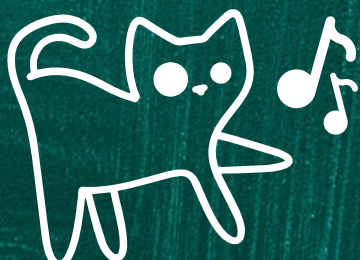
- ★ This 30-minute interactive performance introduces students to the expressive world of opera through storytelling, live music, and vocal exploration.
- Aligned with the California Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards, this program nurtures creativity, cultural appreciation, and musical literacy.



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Identify basic opera vocabulary (e.g., aria, duet, tenor, etc.)
- Recognize opera voice types and their storytelling function
- Participate in vocal warm-ups and sing an opera melody
- Practice respectful audience behavior and artistic reflection
- Explore emotional expression through music and movement



# VOCABULARY

Opera - A staged musical art form combining singing, acting & orchestration.

Aria - A solo song that expresses a character's emotion.

Duet - A piece sung by two performers.

Trio - A musical number for three singers.

Tutti - "All together"; the whole ensemble sings or plays.

Soprano - Highest female voice type.

Mezzo - Medium female voice, often bold or mischievous.

Tenor - Highest male voice type; often the hero.

Baritone - Medium-low male voice; often comic or villainous.

Pants Role - Female singer plays a young male character.

Bravo - Ways to cheer for male performers!

Brava - Ways to cheer for female performers!

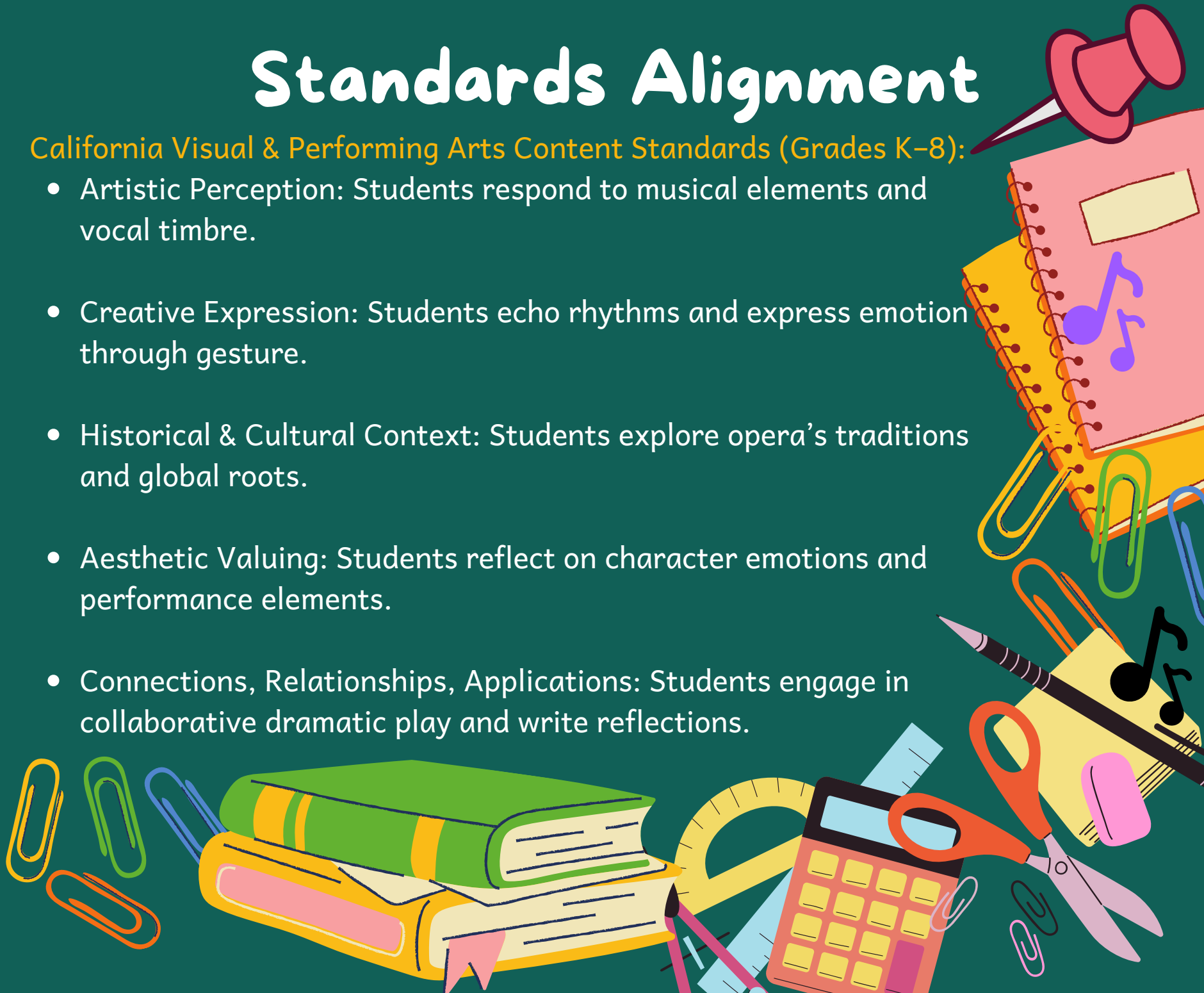
Bravi - Ways to cheer for a group of performers!



# Standards Alignment

## California Visual & Performing Arts Content Standards (Grades K–8):

- Artistic Perception: Students respond to musical elements and vocal timbre.
- Creative Expression: Students echo rhythms and express emotion through gesture.
- Historical & Cultural Context: Students explore opera's traditions and global roots.
- Aesthetic Valuing: Students reflect on character emotions and performance elements.
- Connections, Relationships, Applications: Students engage in collaborative dramatic play and write reflections.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Opera Vocabulary

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | Y | R | B | T | R | I | O | T | J | S | W |
| A | O | E | R | O | J | P | V | N | T | O | Z |
| R | P | B | A | R | I | T | O | N | E | P | B |
| I | E | S | V | D | U | E | T | C | N | R | R |
| A | R | W | O | Y | R | O | W | U | O | A | A |
| A | A | S | M | U | S | I | C | H | R | N | V |
| Z | O | R | C | H | E | S | T | R | A | O | A |
| Z | Q | J | M | U | H | B | R | A | V | I | M |

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → and ↓

**ARIA**  
**BARITONE**  
**BRAVA**  
**BRAVI**  
**BRAVO**

**DUET**  
**MUSIC**  
**OPERA**  
**ORCHESTRA**  
**SOPRANO**

**TENOR**  
**TRIO**

## Match Up

Instructions: Match each definition to the correct vocabulary word from the word bank below.

1. A performance by one singer
2. A cheer for a male performer
3. A cheer for a female performer
4. A cheer for a group of performers
5. A male singing voice that is lower than tenor
6. The highest female singing voice
7. A male singing voice that is higher than baritone
8. A dramatic story told through music and singing
9. A female singing voice that is between soprano and alto
10. A group of singers performing together

Bravo  
Mezzo-soprano  
Opera  
Baritone  
Solo  
Ensemble  
Bravi  
Soprano  
Tenor  
Brava

### **Bonus Activity** - Design Your Own Opera Character!

Voice Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Costume they would wear: \_\_\_\_\_

Song Emotion: (happy, sad, brave, silly, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your character below on the stage.



# LISTENING LINKS

Oriana in OPERAland!



THANK  
YOU!



Thank you for sharing the joy of opera with your students!  
We'd be delighted to receive their artwork and  
welcome your feedback on the Opera in the Schools program.

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