



Opera: *Going to a performance*

What to See

New Zealand Opera presents three mainstage productions every year. We also work with partner orchestras and festivals on smaller-scale performances. If you haven't been to an opera before or haven't heard of the works being performed, have a look at the individual production pages of our website to find out more about the production, the plot, performers and music. You can also speak to our box office staff who'll be happy to recommend the best performance for you.

Which Tickets to Buy

Our single tickets range in price from \$50 to \$190. We offer savings for seniors, students and subscribers - those who buy tickets for more than one production. We also offer a Vanguard subscription programme for those under the age of 29.

When you're choosing tickets, have a look at the venue maps. It's no different to purchasing tickets to the cinema or a sporting event – you may prefer to sit on an aisle, right up front or at the back of the theatre. If you're unsure, our box office staff will be able to help you pick a seat.

Prep your visit

Have a look at New Zealand Opera's website and social media channels for more information about the production and the performers. We have information about the storyline and performers. At many performances, we also offer free pre-show talks with our General Director or a member of the creative team.

What to wear

It's fair to say that while there's no dress code for our performances, jandals and a singlet don't really cut it! Some people do like to take the opportunity to dress up for the opera – especially on opening night - so feel free to go all out.

Before curtain up

Don't be late! If you are unavoidably late, ushers will only be allowed to let you in during a suitable point in the performance so the performers and other audience members are less disturbed. At most of our venues, you can watch the action on a TV screen outside the auditorium while you wait.

Arriving with time to spare means you can grab a bite to eat, something to drink and soak up the atmosphere. We have free programme sheets, so have a read through the synopsis to give you an idea of what to expect (hint – avoid if you don't like spoilers!) If you're unsure where your seat is, check with an usher. Avoid the wrath of those around you by ensuring your phone's turned off – remember that vibrating phones can be just as annoying as noisy ones!

Just prior to curtain up, the orchestra will take their seats. The conductor's arrival in the orchestra pit is usually signalled by a round of applause.

During the performance

Figuring out when to applaud can be confusing – if you're unsure, go with the flow. Most operas are composed, and therefore, sung in a language other than English. Where this is the case, surtitles will allow you to follow the dialogue. At our productions, these will either be side of stage or above the stage.

Interval

Our productions usually have a 20-minute interval – enough time to go to the loo, stretch your legs and grab a drink. A bell will usually sound to let you know the interval is coming to an end.

Enjoy!

If you enjoy the performance, don't hold back – clapping, shouting and crying are all perfectly acceptable responses to what you've seen!