

“A Night at the Opera”

	National Anthem
Mozart	Overture to <i>Marriage of Figaro</i>
Bizet	"Danse Boheme" from <i>Carmen</i>
Bizet	"Votre toast je peux vous le rendre" from <i>Carmen</i>
Bizet	Seguidilla from <i>Carmen</i>
Bizet	La fleur que tu m'avais jetee (Flower Song) from <i>Carmen</i>
Bizet	Habanera from <i>Carmen</i>
Puccini	"Vissi d'arte" from <i>Tosca</i>
Puccini	"Nessun Dorma and Finale" from <i>Turandot</i>
	INTERMISSION
Rossini	Overture to the <i>Barber of Seville</i>
Verdi	La donna mobile from <i>Rigoletto</i>
Wagner	"Dich, teure Halle" from <i>Tannhäuser</i>
Wagner	"Pilgrim's chorus" from <i>Tannhäuser</i>
Wagner	"Heil! Der Gnade Wunder Heil" from <i>Tannhäuser</i>
Dvorak	"Rusalka's Song to the Moon" from <i>Rusalka</i>
Lara	<i>Granada</i>
Verdi	"Brindisi" from <i>La Traviata</i>

Program Notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*

Mozart's sparkling overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* sets the stage for one of opera's most beloved comedies. Brimming with wit, energy, and precision, it captures the mischievous spirit of the servants Figaro and Susanna as they outwit their aristocratic master.

Georges Bizet – “Danse Bohème” from *Carmen*

This lively dance bursts with Spanish color and rhythm, showcasing Bizet's gift for exotic atmosphere. Its festive flair makes it a highlight of *Carmen*, embodying the vibrancy of Seville.

Georges Bizet – “Votre toast je peux vous le rendre” (Toreador Song) from *Carmen*

One of opera's most famous arias, Escamillo's rousing entrance celebrates bullfighting with swagger and bravado. Its infectious chorus invites the audience to share in the excitement of the arena.

Georges Bizet – “Seguidilla” from *Carmen*

Here Carmen seduces Don José with a teasing Spanish dance. The sultry rhythms and playful text reveal her irresistible charm and dangerous allure.

Georges Bizet – “La fleur que tu m'avais jetée” (Flower Song) from *Carmen*

In this heartfelt aria, Don José recalls the flower Carmen once gave him, now withered but cherished. Bizet's tender music conveys his deep, conflicted devotion.

Georges Bizet – “Habanera” from *Carmen*

Carmen's signature aria, the “Habanera,” declares that love is a rebellious bird that cannot be tamed. Its hypnotic rhythm and unforgettable melody perfectly capture her fiery independence.

Giacomo Puccini – “Vissi d'arte” from *Tosca*

Floria Tosca reflects on her life devoted to art and love, asking why God has rewarded her faith with suffering. Puccini's soaring, lyrical lines make this one of the most poignant soprano arias in opera.

Giacomo Puccini – “Nessun dorma” and Finale from *Turandot*

This triumphant aria, made world-famous by Luciano Pavarotti, expresses Prince Calaf's unwavering hope of winning Princess Turandot's love. Its climactic “Vincerò!” (“I will win!”) is one of opera's most thrilling moments, leading to the opera's triumphant finale.

INTERMISSION

Gioachino Rossini – Overture to *The Barber of Seville*

Rossini's overture is full of wit, charm, and dazzling crescendos, perfectly setting the tone for his comic masterpiece. Its sparkling energy has made it one of the most beloved overtures in the repertoire.

Giuseppe Verdi – “La donna è mobile” from *Rigoletto*

This jaunty aria, sung by the Duke of Mantua, mocks the fickleness of women while ironically revealing his own shallow character. Its catchy tune quickly became one of Verdi's most popular melodies.

Richard Wagner – “Dich, teure Halle” from *Tannhäuser*

Elisabeth greets the hall of song with pure joy, celebrating music's power to uplift and inspire. Wagner's radiant writing captures her innocence and devotion.

Richard Wagner – “Pilgrim's Chorus” from *Tannhäuser*

One of Wagner's most stirring choruses, the pilgrims' hymn is written for male voices only, conveying both spiritual yearning and ultimate redemption. Its noble simplicity has made it a favorite concert piece apart from the opera.

Richard Wagner – “Heil! Der Gnade Wunder Heil” from *Tannhäuser*

This final ensemble brings the opera to a climactic resolution, as grace and forgiveness triumph. Wagner's majestic harmonies embody the opera's theme of spiritual salvation.

Antonín Dvořák – “Song to the Moon” from *Rusalka*

In this luminous aria, the water nymph Rusalka asks the moon to carry her love to the prince. Dvořák's glowing orchestration and tender vocal line have made it a favorite of sopranos worldwide.

Agustín Lara – “Granada”

A passionate hymn to the Spanish city, “Granada” blends operatic grandeur with popular song. Its sweeping melody and exuberant spirit made it a signature piece for tenors around the world. The composer, Agustín Lara, was one of Mexico's most beloved songwriters, celebrated for his romantic boleros.

Giuseppe Verdi – “Brindisi” (“Libiamo ne' lieti calici”) from *La Traviata*

One of opera's most beloved drinking songs, the “Brindisi” celebrates love, joy, and life's fleeting pleasures. Its sparkling ensemble writing ensures a jubilant finale to the evening.