

IT'S CRAZY, IT'S FUN, IT'S..

CLASS ACT OPERA

BRINGING OPERA TO NEW
ZEALAND SCHOOLS SINCE 1990

Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPERAS

There are many different types of operas in many different languages such as Italian, German, French and Russian. Most operas were written in the 18th & 19th century, although there are famous operas written in the 20th century such as operas written by Benjamin Britten like *Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Billy Budd*.

The Opera that is usually performed in this country is the type where all the dialogue as well as all the songs is sung. Composers who wrote this type of opera include Verdi and Puccini and some of the famous operas include *La Traviata*, *La Boheme* and *Rigoletto*. *Singspiel* is the other type of opera. That has sung opera arias and spoken dialogue. This is mostly German in origin. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* & Beethoven's *Fidelio* are great examples of this style.

Other operas have recitative in them. This is sung dialogue and often describes the action that is taking place. After the recitative, an aria is sung. Aria is the Italian word for song and describes the emotions or feelings of the singer such as sadness, anger, love, and happiness. Often in opera the singers sing together and this can sound very exciting because of the singer's different sounding voices and the overall harmony. This type of singing is called ensemble singing.