

**FACT 1.** Opera was invented in Florence Italy towards the end of the 16th century. That means we have been listening to and singing opera for over 400 years! It is like a play but instead of saying the words we sing them.

**FACT 2.** Opera is a Latin word which literally translates to the word 'work'.

**FACT 3.** Opera singers can shatter glass BUT only if the natural frequency of the glass resonates at the same time and tone of the glass. It is a feat very rarely achieved but often talked about.

**FACT 4.** The longest curtain call recorded was on February 24 1988. The opera audience clapped for over an hour and a total of 165 curtain calls. Who were they clapping for? Famous tenor Luciano Pavorotti.

**FACT 5.** The longest opera is Wagner's Ring Cycle, which goes for 18 hours (including intervals)! It is made up of four "parts", Das Rheingold, Die Walkure, Siegfried, and Götterdämmerung and is normally performed in these four shorter performances.

**FACT 6.** Our singers do not use microphones to sing in our home at His Majesty's Theatre. Their years of training enables them to project their voices across the orchestra and to the very back of the theatre.

**FACT 7.** Composer Rossini wrote his famous opera The Barber of Seville in only two weeks! Looney Tunes created a very clever animation with Bugs Bunny called The Rabbit of Seville.

**FACT 8.** When composer Charles Gounod's opera Faust wasn't selling tickets a very clever producer gave away free tickets to people who lived out of town and declared the first 3 performances were SOLD OUT! Wondering what they were missing out on the public began buying tickets. Faust became a hit.

**FACT 9.** Opera singers must attend their first rehearsal knowing all their music. West Australian Opera rehearsals are generally only 4 weeks long. This is a time for the cast to meet and learn the stage directions. It can take up to a year (sometimes longer) to learn a principal operatic role.

**FACT 10.** We love it when our audiences shout and scream "Bravo" at the end of our performances.

**BRAVO**  
*bravo*  
*bravo*  
**BRAVO**  
**BRAVO**

## OUR TOP 10 OPERA FACTS