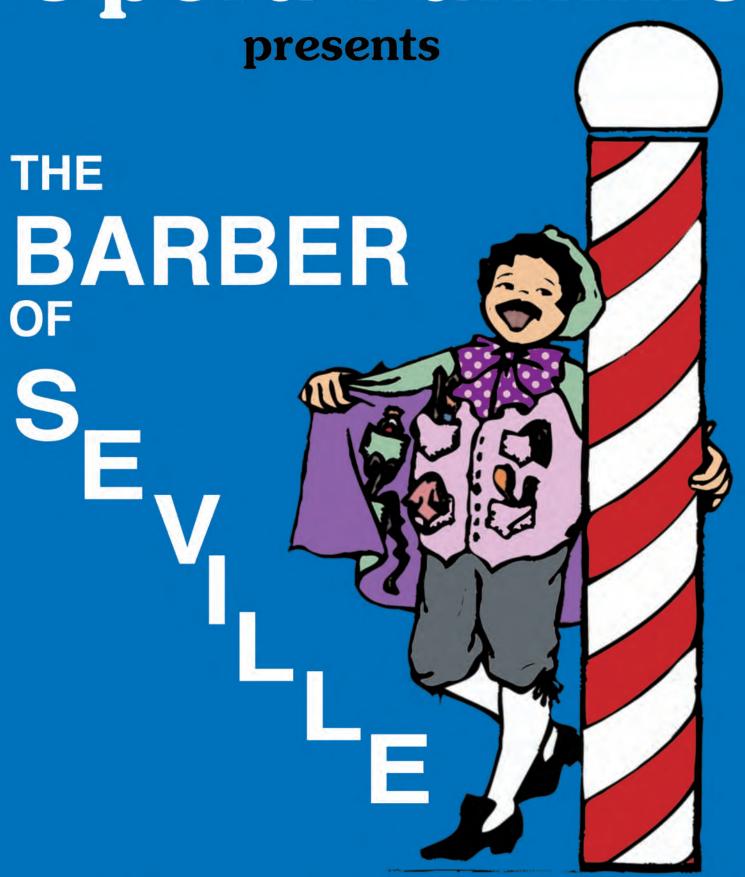
Opera Funtime



by Gioachino Rossini

#### **OPERA FUNTIME COLLECTION**

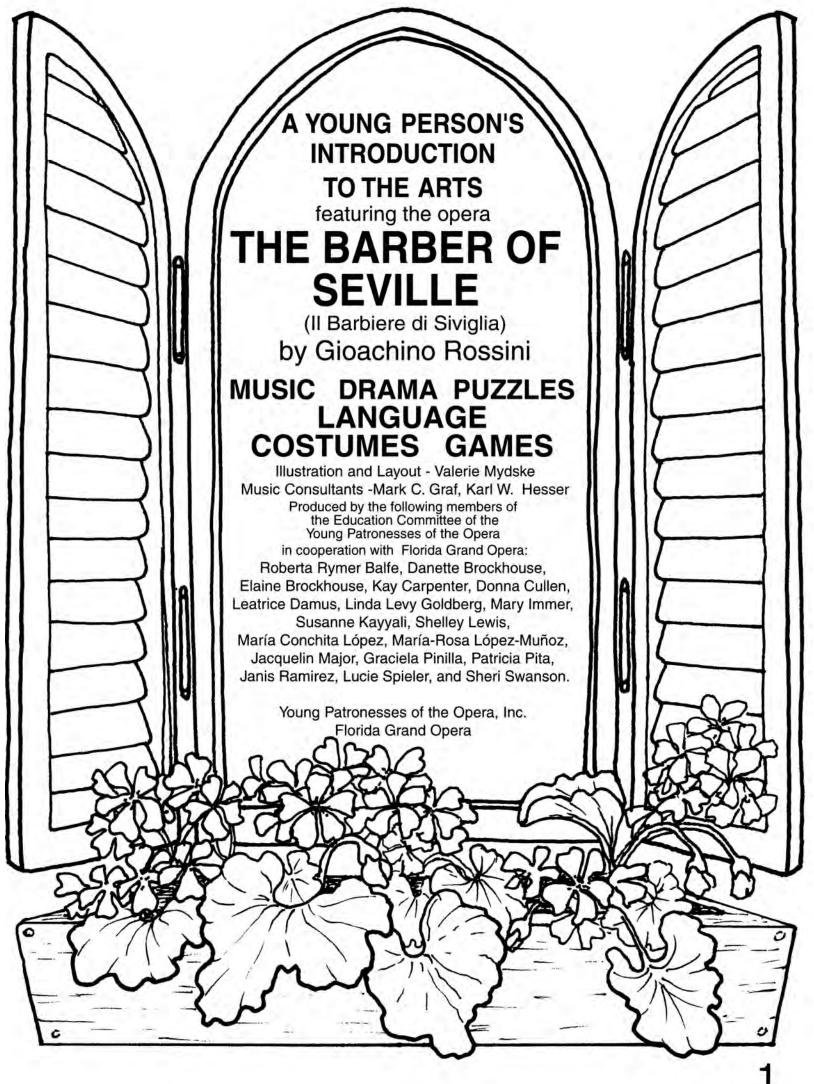
The Abduction from the Seraglio	Mozart
Aida	Verdi
The Barber of Seville	Rossini
La Bohème	Puccini
Carmen	Bizet
La Cenerentola	Rossini
Cosí fan Tutte	Mozart
Cristoforo Colombo	Franchetti
Don Giovanni	Mozart
Faust	Gounod
Die Fledermaus	J. Strauss
Hansel and Gretel	Humperdinck
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Pagliacci	Leoncavallo
Rigoletto	Verdi
Roméo and Juliette	Gounod
The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La Traviata	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini

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#### PIERRE AUGUSTIN CARON de BEAUMARCHAIS

(Bo-mar-SHAY) 1732-1799

The story of *The Barber of Seville* is based on the first of three comedies by the French playwright Beaumarchais. The three plays are *The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, and The Guilty Mother.* Figaro, the Barber, is the hero in all three plays. The comedies are all known for being funny and full of action. Figaro had a personality like that of his creator - witty and clever.

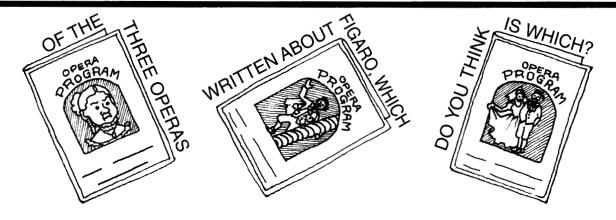
Beaumarchais was born in Paris. He was a watchmaker who later served in the French court, undertook secret diplomatic missions, and sent aid to the colonists during the American Revolution.

The Barber of Seville was written in 1775. Rossini's opera of the same name was first performed at the Argentina Opera House in Rome in 1816.

The person who wrote the libretto was Cesare (CHAY-sah-reh) Sterbini (stair-BEE-nee). He lived from 1784 to 1831. The libretto is a book that contains the lyrics (the words of the opera). Sterbini did an excellent job adapting the story for Rossini's music.

How many words (of three letters or more) can you find in this man's name?

#### **BEAUMARCHAIS**



#### **GIOACHINO ROSSINI**

(Jo-ah-KEE-no Ro-SEE-nee) 1792-1868

Born on February 29, in Pesaro, Italy, Gioachino Antonio Rossini was a leap year baby. That may have been the first sign that he would be a very special man.

Rossini was born into a musical family. His mother was a singer and his father was a trumpeter. By the age of fourteen he had learned to play horn, violin, cello, and harpsichord. He had also sung professionally and written short comic operas.



The Barber of Seville was completed in thirteen days.

During that time Rossini was so busy writing the music that he didn't shave!

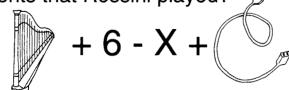
Once you hear Rossini's music, you will find it easy to identify his melodies. They are lively and full of action. His music may be heard in many Bugs Bunny cartoons, in *The Little Rascals* series, and in the theme of the *Lone Ranger*.

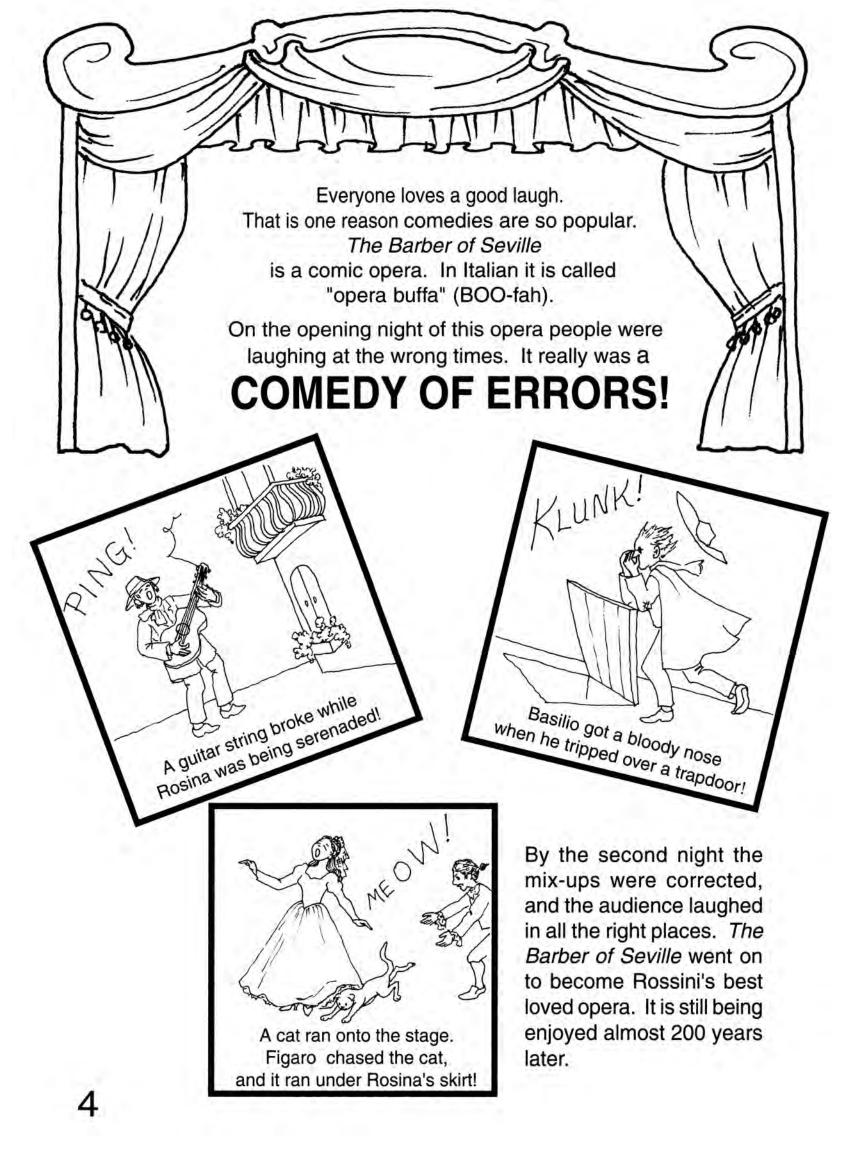
The composer was well known for his operas and for his wonderful parties. He loved to eat well and to entertain the most interesting people of his day. Many famous dishes are named after him; one of them is a beef dish called "Tournedos Rossini."

Rossini died in Paris on Friday, the thirteenth of November, 1868, where over four thousand people attended his funeral. He is buried in Florence, Italy, near the graves of Galileo and Michelangelo.

Can you unscramble four of the instruments that Rossini played?

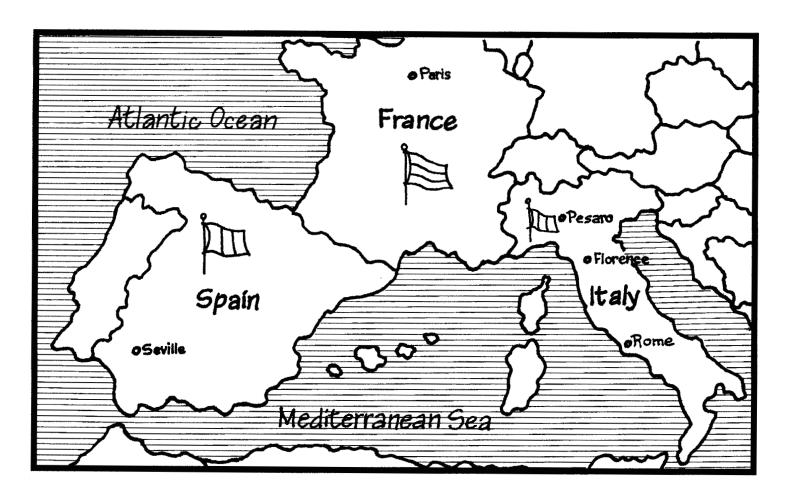
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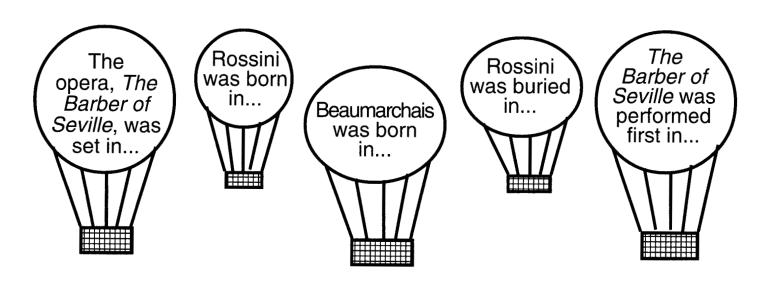


## **OPERA GEOGRAPHY**

Color Spain's flag red, yellow, and blue; France's flag blue, white, and red; and Italy's flag green, white, and red.

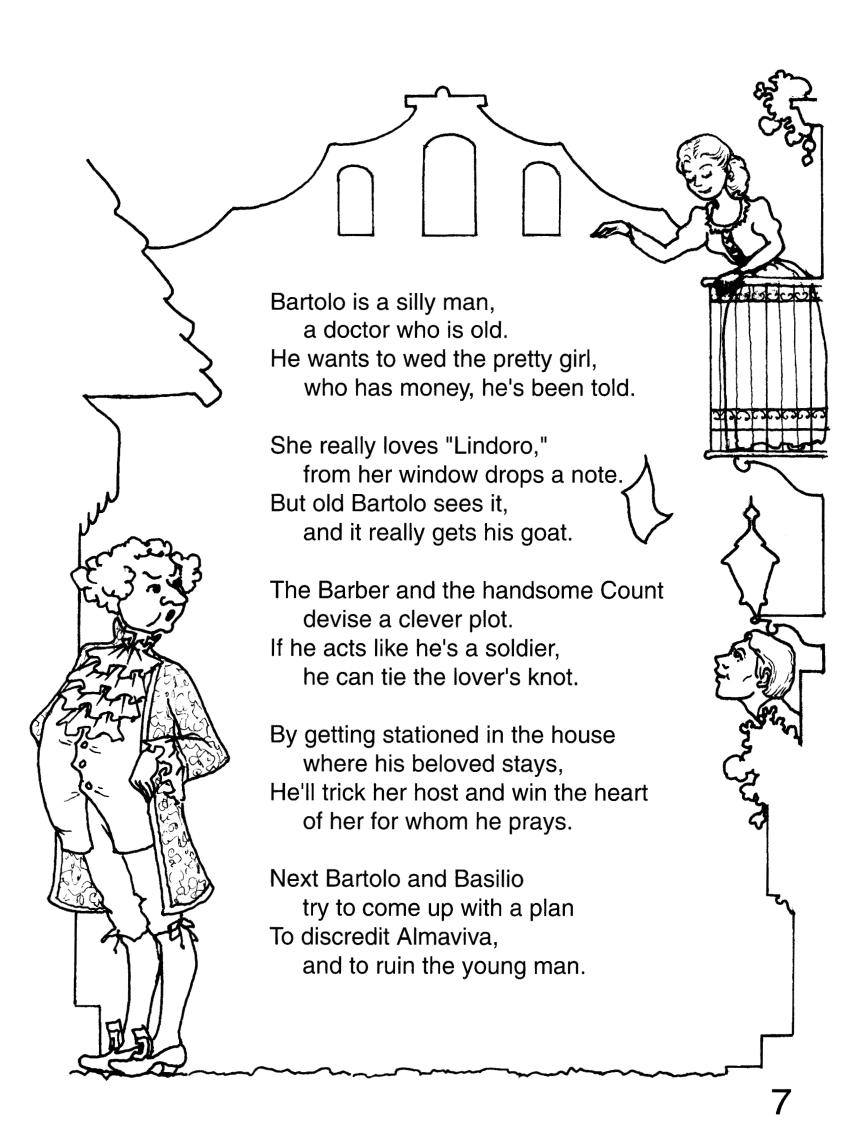


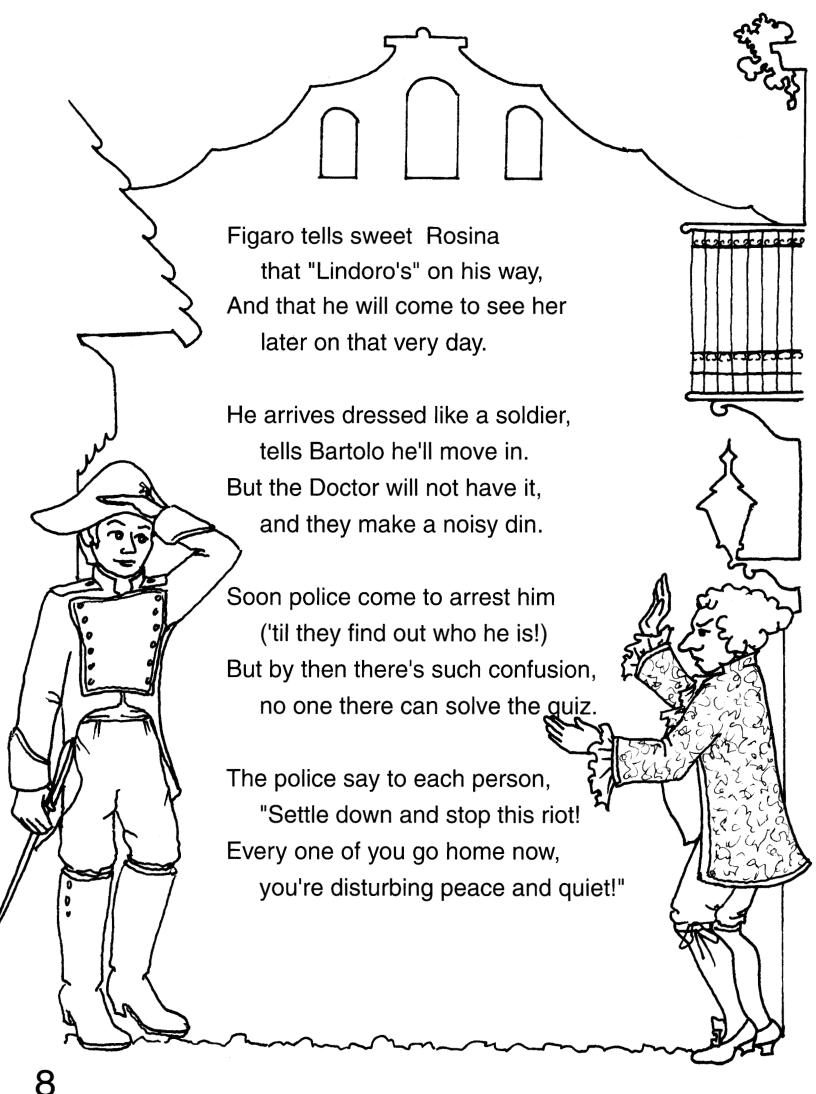
Draw a line to connect each fact to its place on the map.

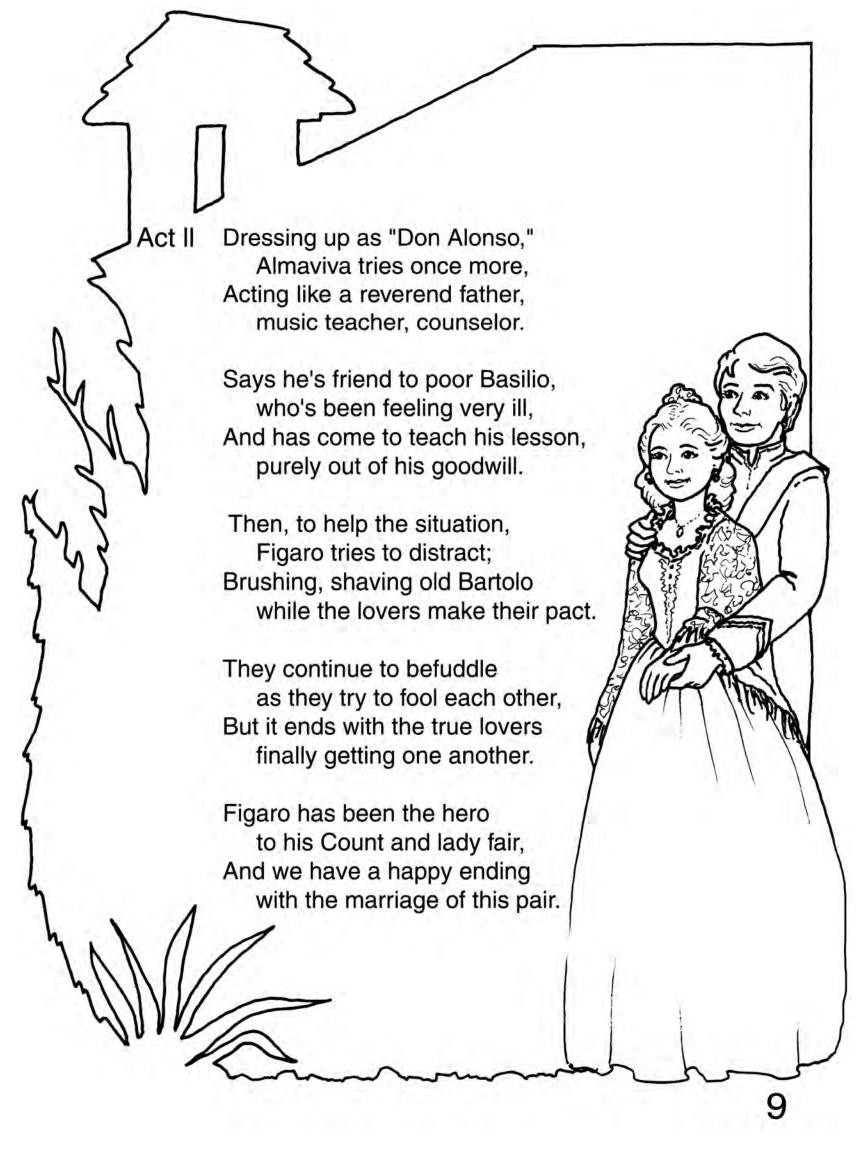


#### THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

ACT I On a street in old Seville a handsome Count stands singing. It's Almaviva and a band. his words of love he's bringing. It is Rosina that the Count has come to serenade, And there beneath her balcony his troubadours parade. When down the street strolls Figaro, jack-of-all-trades is he, A Barber who'll do anything - for a little fee! The Count asks him to help him meet the girl of whom he dreams, But he doesn't want his title to be what she most esteems. So he pretends to be quite poor, a student, on his own, Hoping she will marry him for love, not wealth alone. He says he is "Lindoro," and he offers her his heart. He soon finds out her guardian is keeping them apart.







## **ACT-IT-OUT**

#### **PROPS NEEDED:**

basin strop (wide belt)
apron razor (popsicle stick)

piano music book towel piano seat wig barber chair keys extra set of keys,

soft brush

books, or blocks for sound effects

upstage right upstage left

center stage

downstage right downstage left

Upstage is away from the audience

Downstage is toward the audience

In this scene from Act II, Figaro is doing all he can to keep Doctor Bartolo busy so Rosina and Count Almaviva (disguised as 'Don Alonso' the music teacher) can make their plans to elope.

(Bartolo is singing and dancing.)

Bartolo: My heart beats wildly in my chest; I pop the buttons off

my vest;

I dance the minuet the best, when I'm with my sweet

Rosina.

(Bartolo jumps up and clicks his heels.)

(Figaro comes in with his basin and razor. He stands behind Bartolo and mimics him.)

Rosina: Ouch! I have a cramp in my foot.

"Don Alonso": Please have a seat over here.

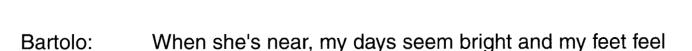
(Helps her to sit at the piano on the other side of the

room from Bartolo.)

Now that you are seated, may I hear you sing?

(When Bartolo's back is turned, 'Don Alonso' kisses her

hand.)



(Bártolo jumps and whirls. When he turns around, he sees

Figaro making fun of him.)

Bartolo: That's not funny, Mr. Barber! What are you doing here

anyway?

very light.

Figaro: I came to shave you.

Bartolo: Not today! Come back tomorrow!

Figaro: I can't come tomorrow.

Bartolo: Why not?

Figaro: Because I'm very busy tomorrow!

Bartolo: No shaving today!

Figaro: Look here, I am not just any barber! I am the Barber of

Seville! If I can't shave you today, I quit!

Bartolo: All right, all right! Go get a towel from my closet. Here are

the keys. But don't break anything! (Bartolo gives Figaro his keys.)

Figaro: (in a whisper)

We'll use these later to escape!

(Figaro exits; loud crashes are heard off stage.)

Bartolo: That clumsy fool!

(Bartolo goes to see what happened.)

(The lovers are left alone.)

"Don Alonso": That Figaro is wonderful! Now, my love, will you marry me?

Rosina: Of course, I will marry you.

(Figaro and Bartolo return. Figaro is dusting himself off.)

Figaro: It was so dark in there I couldn't see my hand in front of my

face. I could have broken my neck!

(Beginning to sharpen the razor on the strop)

All right, can we start now?

Bartolo: Okay, but be careful!

(Figaro ties apron around Bartolo's neck and the chair and

begins lathering all over his face.)

('Don Alonso' is sitting next to Rosina at the piano. They pretend to be studying the music.)





"Don Alonso": We'll come for you at midnight. And we'll leave this house

forever. Doctor Bartolo won't know until we are far away

from here.

Rosina: Thank you for saving me from that silly old man!

Figaro:

Oh no! Oh no!

(Going down on one knee with his hand over his eye)

Bartolo:

What's the matter?

Figaro:

I have something in my eye. Can you see it? Can you see it?

(Bartolo looks in his eye and starts to touch it.)

No, don't touch it! Just try to blow it out!

(Bartolo blows and blows.)

"Don Alonso":

I'm sure glad that this "Don Alonso" disguise worked.

(Bartolo overhears and begins inching his chair over toward

the piano.)

Bartolo:

"Don Alonso" disguise? "DON ALONSO" DISGUISE?

(Bartolo pulls 'Don Alonso's' wig off.) You cheats, you traitors! So you thought you could fool me? Get out of

this house!

Rosina,

"Don Alonso," Stop your ranting and your raving! Look how badly you're

and Figaro:

behaving!

Bartolo:

Get out of here!

Rosina,

"Don Alonso," We'll tease him a little first. (They circle around him while and Figaro: he's tied into his chair. Finally, they pull the bottom of his

apron up over his face and leave him there. Before they exit, Figaro holds up Bartolo's keys, and they all let out a cheer! Bartolo tries to get up, and walks around taking his

chair with him.)



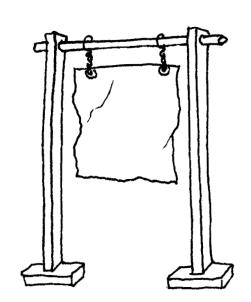




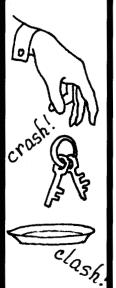
#### **SOUND EFFECTS**

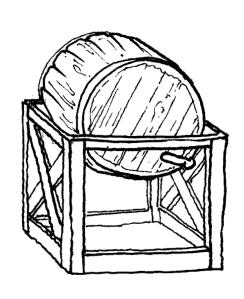
CLAP:

When Rossini wrote his operas, there was no electricity for sound effects. The sound of thunder was made by rattling a large sheet of thin metal hung by ropes from a wooden frame. Sounds of rain and wind



were made by rotating a barrel-like drum partly filled with dried beans. Turned slowly, the effect of rain was produced; turned quickly - sometimes slowing, then





speeding up - wind seemed to whistle through the opera house. Clever! Can you think of other ways to make sound effects using objects from around your home? See if you can match the objects in the margin with the sounds they might produce.



whop!

1.A slap

7.Rain

2.A train whistle

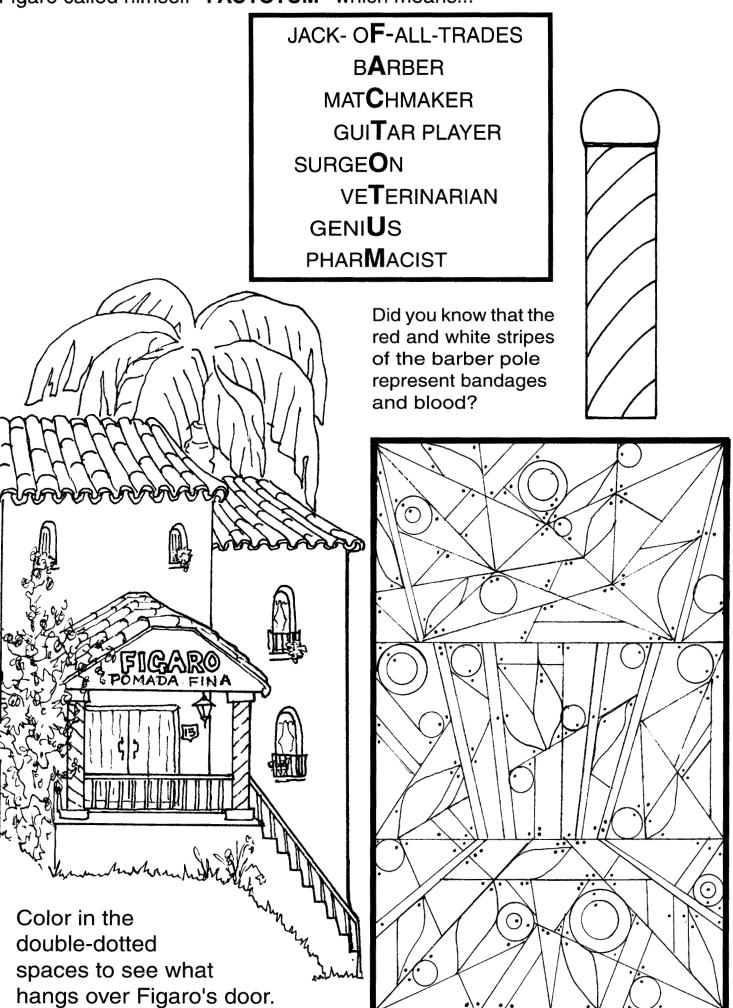
6. A door slamming

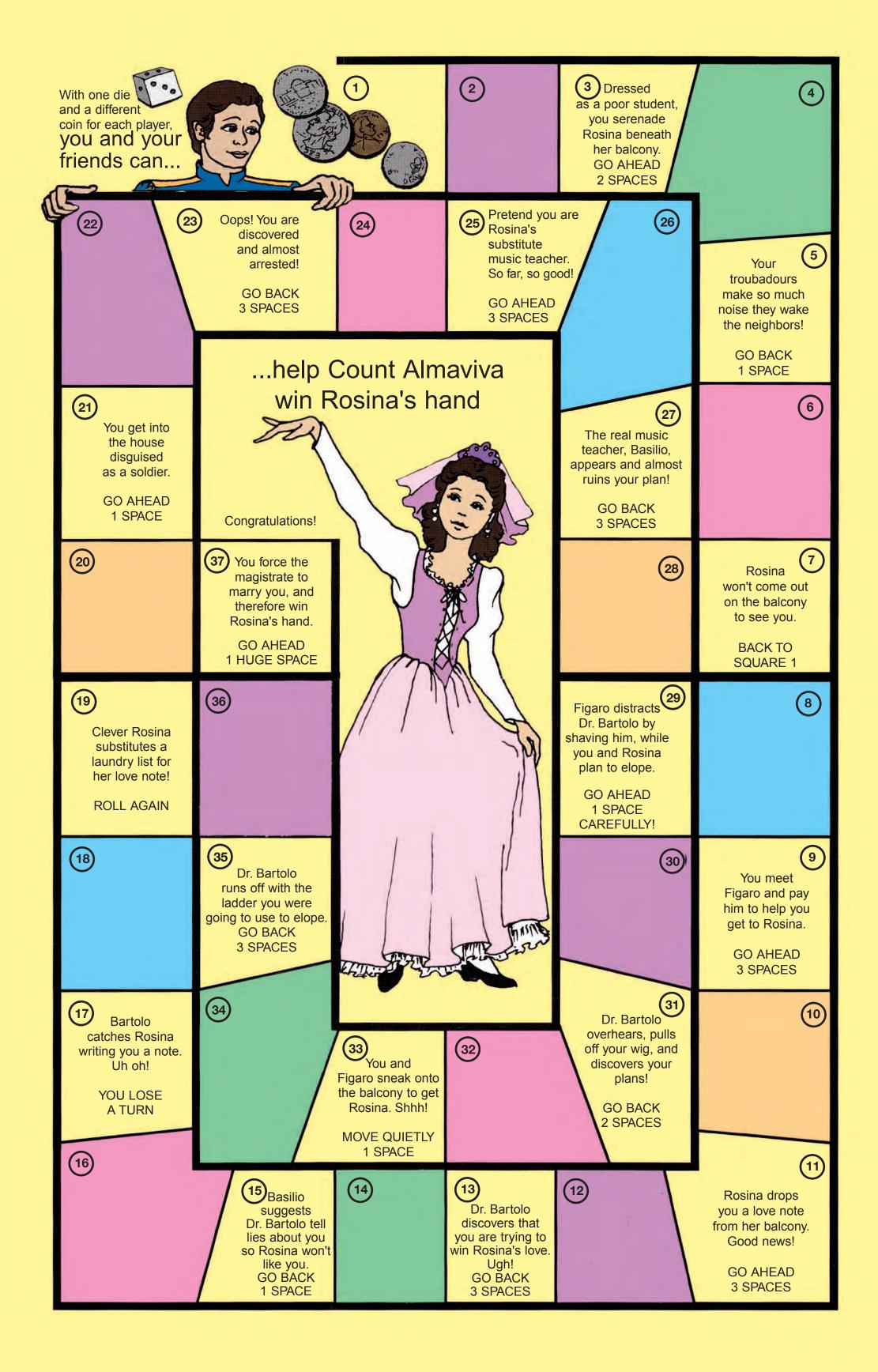
3.A horse's trot

5. Glass breaking

4. Winding a clock





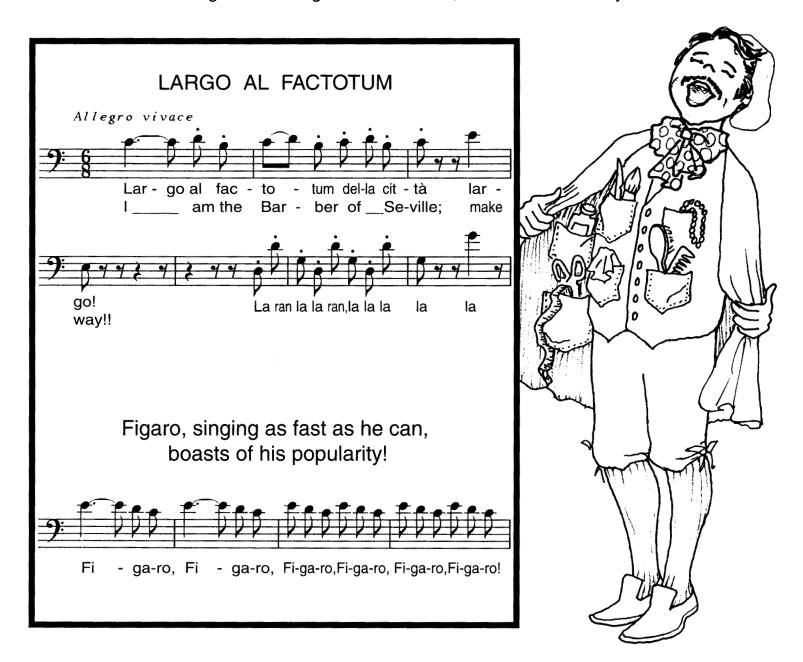


# Allegro vivace lively and quickly.

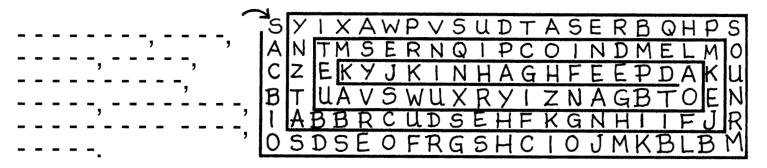
## **FIGARO**

(FEE-gah-roh)
Baritone

The Barber of Seville is a lovable jack-of-all-trades who helps Count Almaviva to win Rosina's heart. Here he brags about the great life he leads, and how he is always in demand.



Starting at the arrow, take every other letter to spell out the items on Figaro's person:



## DRESS THE COUNT

Count Almaviva, in his pursuit of the beautiful Rosina, assumes three different disguises to get around the watchful eye of Rosina's guardian, Doctor Bartolo.

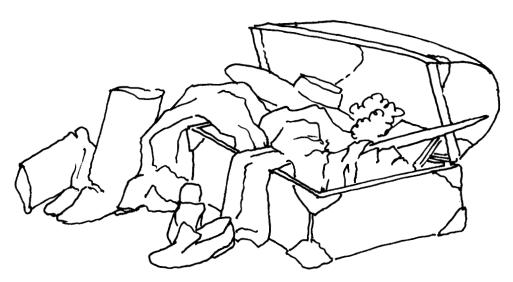
First he pretends to be a penniless student, "Lindoro," to see if Rosina would love him without a title.

He then tries to get near Rosina by posing as a soldier who has orders to be stationed at Doctor Bartolo's house. His deception is found out; so this attempt fails.





As a substitute for the ailing music teacher, Basilio, Almaviva once more seeks a way to meet his lovely Rosina. He masquerades as "Don Alonso." This time his trick works, and the happy pair marry.



## **COUNT ALMAVIVA** Andante = at an

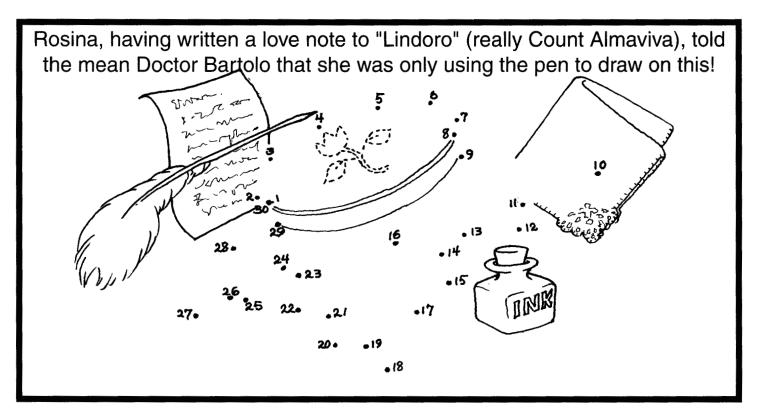
(Ahl-mah-VEE-vah) Tenor

easy pace

The handsome and wealthy Count (disguised as 'Lindoro') serenades lovely Rosina beneath her balcony window...



Which role does Almaviva play with each set of props?



Unscramble these letters to describe it . . .

#### SARISO'N EDEPETILNON

Rosina has looked everywhere for her needlepoint, ink bottle, handkerchief, love note, quill pen, gold seal, and laundry list. Can you find them for her?



## ROSINA

(Roh-ZEE-nah) Mezzo Soprano

The young Spanish beauty declares her love for the student, "Lindoro."

(Count Almaviva in disguise!)



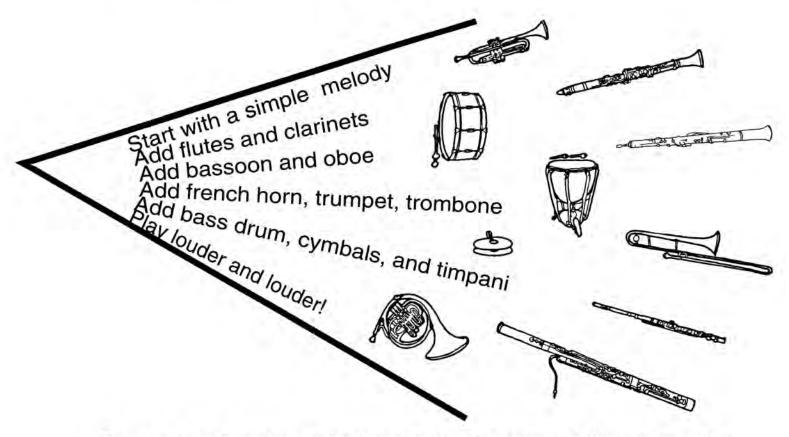
Scratch through the word which does not describe Rosina:

LOVELY AGREEABLE BEAUTIFUL PRETTY OBEDIENT RESPECTFUL UGLY FAIR SWEET

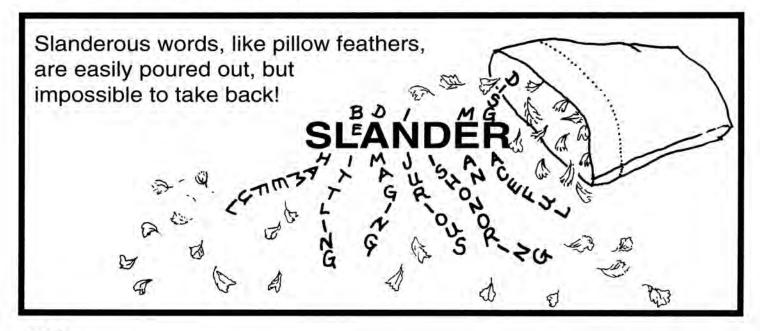
## ROSSINI'S CRESCENDO

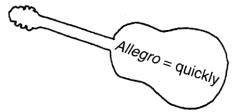
is the musical symbol for crescendo (creh-SHEN-doh)

Basilio uses the crescendo to mimic the message of his song. Slander (spreading a rumor about someone) begins like a whisper and ends up loud and dreadful! Gradually adding instruments and volume makes a great crescendo!



Draw a line from each instrument to its name in the crescendo.





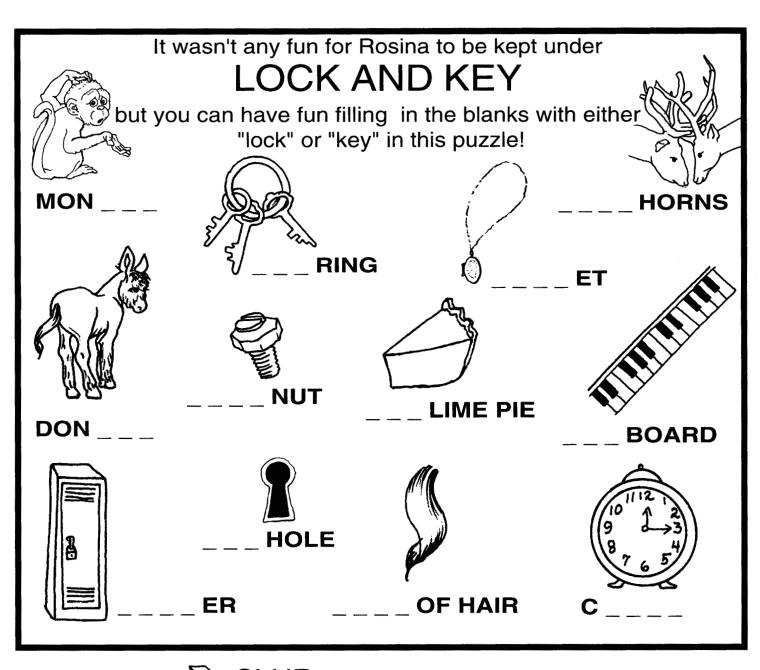
## **BASILIO**

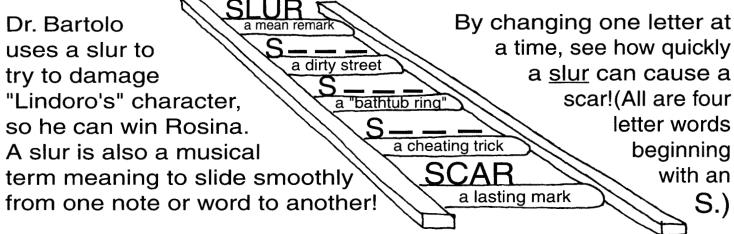
(Bah - ZEEL - yoh) Bass

As Rosina's music teacher and Doctor Bartolo's adviser, he plots to slander Almaviva...



Basilio describes how slander spreads. It may start as gently as a breeze - with an untrue word or a tease. But it grows and grows until all have heard it, causing terrible damage like an earthquake or a hurricane!





Scratch through the one word which does <u>not apply</u> to Dr.Bartolo:

SELFISH SNEAKY NASTY

GREEDY LOVABLE UNTRUE

OLD MEAN SUSPICIOUS

## DOCTOR BARTOLO

(BAR-toh-loh) Bass

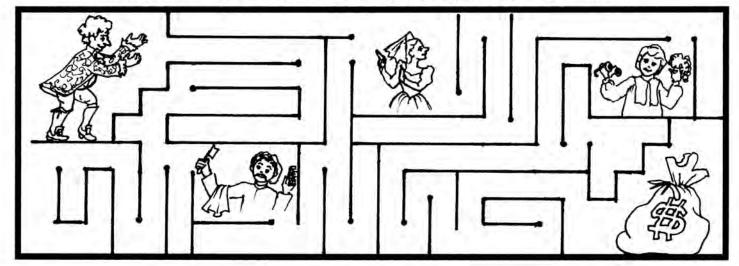
slowly with feeling A mean and selfish old man, Rosina's legal guardian keeps her under lock and key.



Andante maestoso



Dr. Bartolo overcomes Rosina's rejection, Figaro's tricks, and Count Almaviva's disguises in order to get his hands on Rosina's inheritance money. Can you trace his path?



# Andante means at an easy pace

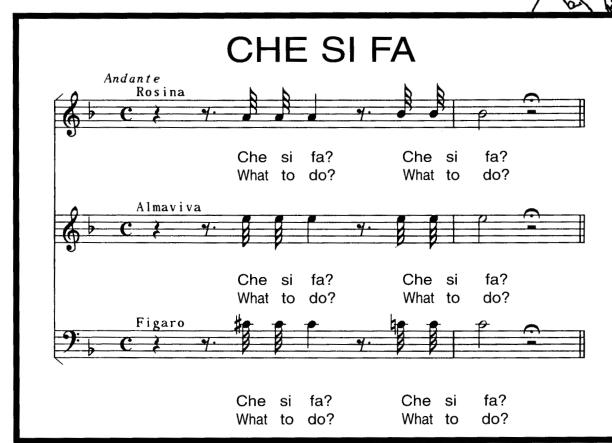
### **TRIO**

Almaviva has just told Rosina that he is really the Count.

Rosina says she will marry him anyway!

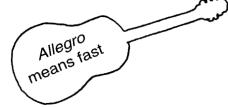
Figaro is helping them to get away from Dr. Bartolo,

when suddenly they hear someone coming!





### **TRIO**



Count Almaviva sings, then Rosina and Figaro join in. They start softly, but by the end they are all shouting!



When they get to the balcony window, they realize that Dr. Bartolo has stolen the escape ladder!

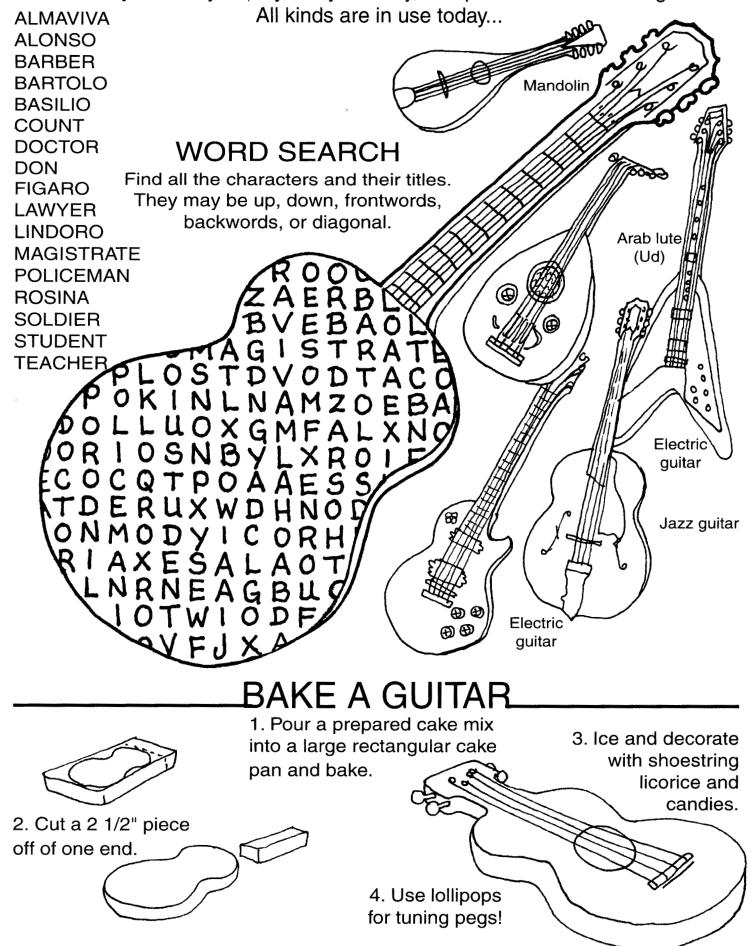


27

## **GUITARS GALORE**

In the street scenes of this opera, the Count and Figaro both play guitars.

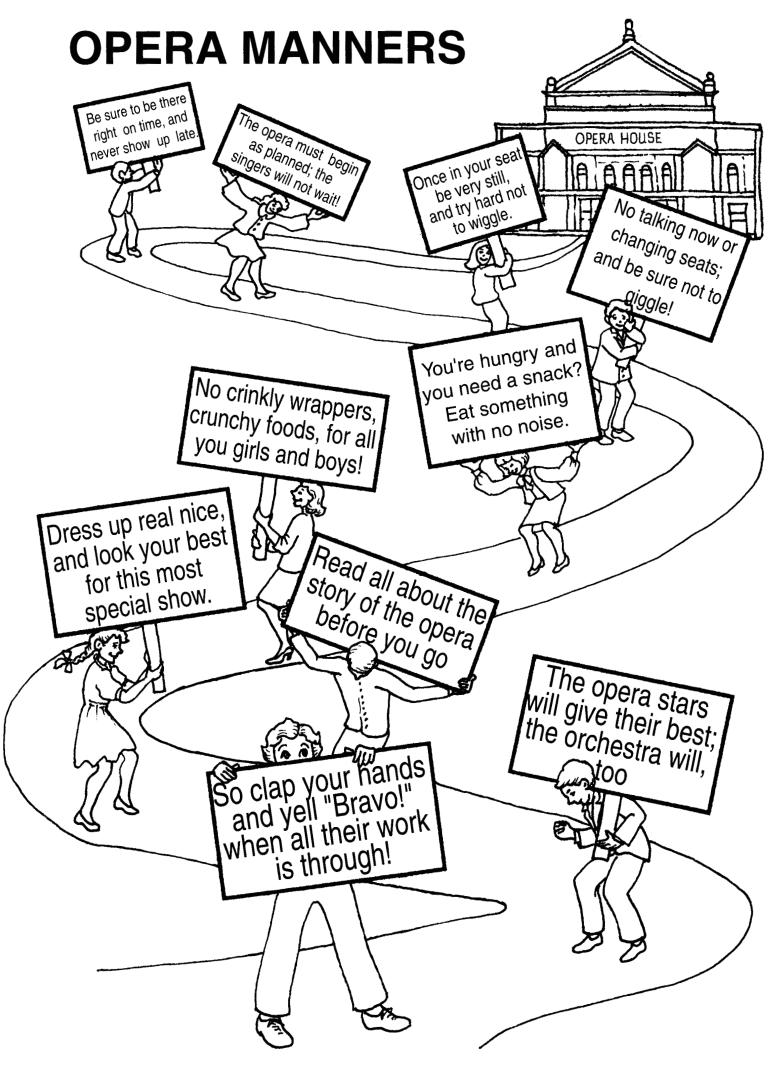
They are easy to play, easy to carry, and perfect for serenading!



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ROYAL DENTIFICA	TION	7.	Ros
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11/	<i>-</i> 3	8.	Wh
	.1 _	_	

## PROPS PUZZLE

	$/ \sqrt{2}$
1.	Figaro loans his to "Lindoro" so he can
	serenade Rosina.
2.	Rosina drops ato "Lindoro" from her
	balcony.
3.	Rosina uses a on her love letter to "Lindoro." \ ก็อายิ
4.	Bartolo accuses Rosina of using one of the sheets
	of paper from his and his to write a
	letter.
5.	Rosina says that she used the pen to draw a
	flower on her
6.	Count Almaviva, dressed as a soldier, shows his
	to Bartolo in order to get into his
	house.
7.	Rosina hides her love letter to "Lindoro" by
	When Bartolo reaches for her letter she
8.	
	substitutes it with a
	Basilio, the music teacher, carries a
10.	Almaviva, dressed as a soldier, waves his
	at Bartolo.
	Bartolo shows "the soldier" his exemption
12.	Count Almaviva shows the police chief his royal
	so he won't be arrested.
	nosina and Don Alonso sit at the
	Bartolo gives ins to rigare.
15.	Count Almaviva gives Basilio a so
	he'll leave.
16.	Figaro carries a to light the way while he
4	and Count Almaviva sneak onto Rosina's balcony.
17.	Bartolo removes the, so the lovers can't
4.0	escape.
18.	Count Almaviva gives Basilio a choice between a
	aimed at him and a diamond, in order
4.0	to get him to witness his marriage to Rosina.
19.	Basilio signs the marriage



## **OPERA GYMNASTICS**

Opera singers are special "voice athletes." They spend many hours exercising and training their voices and their breathing. Microphones are not often used in operas.



#### WARM - UP

Like athletes, opera singers must warm up, often singing vocal scales.

Try warming up your voice by singing this scale:





#### **WORKOUT**

An opera singer's "workout" is his or her performance. For your "performance" try pronouncing these words in Italian (you will hear them in the opera) and then in Spanish (the language of Seville). Don't forget to trill your rr's!

1	ГΑ	ı	ı	Δ	Λ	I
		L	_ 1 /	~	ı١	4

Amore (ah-MOH-reh)

Bella (BELL-lah)

Chitarra (kee-TAHR-rah)

Conte (KOHN-teh)

Ecco (EHK-koh)

Nome (NOH-meh)

Oro (OH-roh)

Perchè (pair-KEH)

Piano (pee-AH-noh)

Soldato (sohl-DAH-toh)

Zitti (TZEE-tee)

#### **SPANISH**

Amor (ah-MOHR)

Bella (BAY-ah)

Guitarra (ghee-TAHR-rah)

Conde (KOHN-day)

He aqui (ay ah-KEE)

Nombre (NOHM-bray)

Oro (OH-roh)

Por qué (pore-KAY)

Suave (SWAH-vay)

Soldado (sohl-DAH-doh)

Quieto (kee-YET-toh)

#### **ENGLISH**

Love

Beautiful

Guitar

Count

Behold

Name

Gold

Why

Softly

Soldier

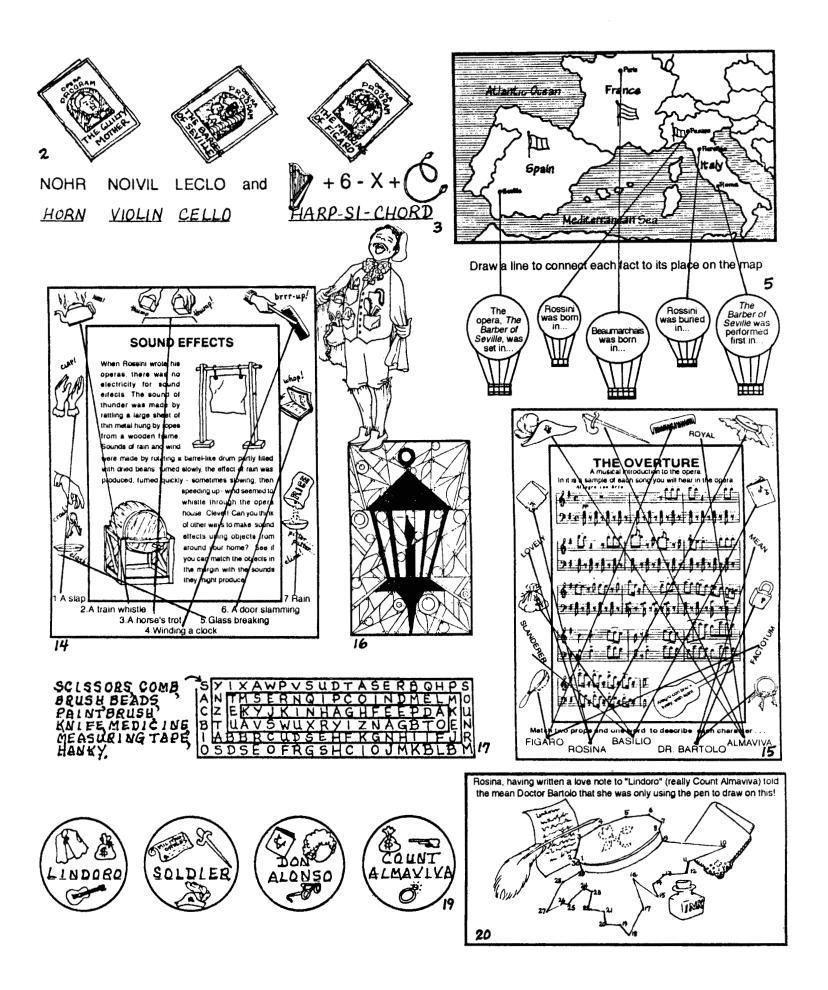
Quiet

#### **COOL DOWN**

Since singers do not sing well on full stomachs, they often cool down after their performance by having refreshments. Treat yourself to something cool and refreshing!



## **PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



#### **OPERA FUNTIME COLLECTION**

The Abduction from the Seraglio	Mozart
Aida	Verdi
The Barber of Seville	Rossini
La Bohème	Puccini
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The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La Traviata	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini

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## OPERA'S FUN FOR EVERYONE



