

### **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	
Die Fledermaus	J. Strauss
Hansel and Gretel	Humperdinck
Idomeneo	Mozart
Madame Butterfly	Puccini
The Magic Flute	Mozart
The Marriage of Figaro	Mozart
Otello	Verdi
Pagliacci	Leoncavallo
Rigoletto	Verdi
Roméo and Juliette	
The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La Traviata	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini

Copyright © 2008 by Young Patronesses of the Opera, Inc. (YPO) All rights reserved by YPO, Inc.

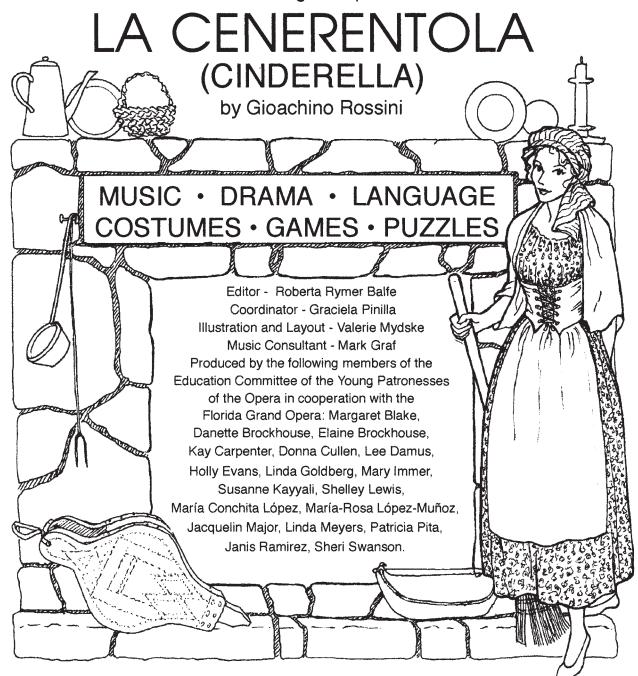
No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission from YPO, Inc.

For information and additional copies write Opera Funtime, <sup>C</sup>/o YPO, Inc., 8390 NW 25th Street, Miami, FL 33122 or <u>www.YPO-Miami.org</u>.

"La Cenerentola" is lovingly dedicated to Roberta Rymer Balfe, who pioneered the concept of "Opera's Fun for Everyone."

# A YOUNG PERSON'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS

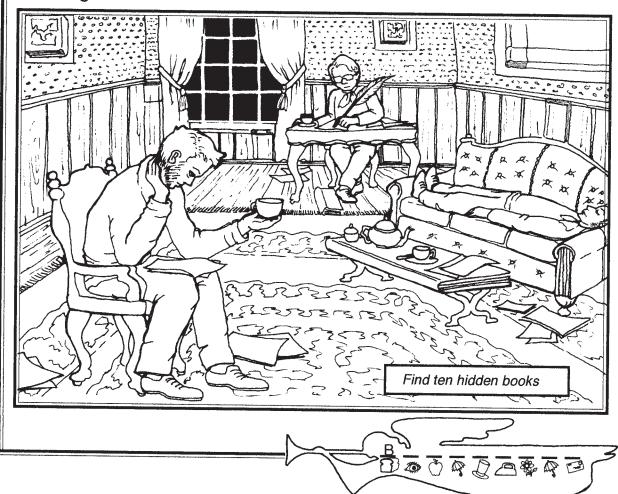
featuring the opera



### LIBRETTIST

Late one cold December night in 1816, Gioachino Rossini met with his librettist, Jacopo Ferretti, and Pietro Cartoni, impresario of the Teatro Valle in Rome. Rossini was supposed to have a new opera ready in less than a month, but the censors had not approved the libretto. The three friends had to choose a story that would make a good libretto and be acceptable to the censors. Rossini had to compose the music in time for the opera to be ready for the winter carnival season. After much discussion, Ferretti suggested an adaptation of the Cinderella story. Rossini asked, "When can the libretto be ready?" Ferretti, without a moment's hesitation, responded, "In the morning, if I stay up all night." Laying down a cup of tea, Rossini yawned contentedly and promptly fell asleep.

Twenty-four days later the opera, "La Cenerentola," was ready for the first performance! Jacopo Ferretti wrote the libretto based on a French story by Charles-Guillaume Etienne. The first presentation was at the Teatro Valle in Rome and became enormously successful throughout Italy. It was heard in many European countries and, in 1844, became the first opera ever staged in Australia.



# Gioachino is sometimes spelled with two "c"s.

### **COMPOSER**

Rossini didn't live to celebrate 20 birthdays, and yet he died at the age of 76. Can you guess how this could be? He was born in Pesaro, Italy, on February 29, 1972 -- a leap year. Therefore he had an "official birthday"

every fourth year.

Rossini's mother was an opera singer and his father, the town trumpeter. Musically gifted, the boy sang and learned to play different instruments while living in Bologna, Italy. He began composing opera as a teenager. Did you know Rossini was one of the first composers to earn his living by writing opera? Before that time composers depended on the help of a rich or influential person.

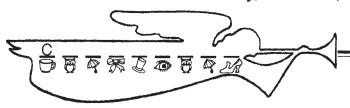
Rossini wrote comic and serious operas, and he composed them incredibly fast. "The Barber of Seville" - the greatest of all buffa (comic) operas - was composed in only 13 days. His music became the rage of every opera house in Europe. When "La Cenerentola" was written, Rossini was quite famous and wealthy, and only 25 years old!



GIOACHINO ANTONIO ROSSINI 1792-1868

He was a delightful and colorful personality, and there are many anecdotes told about Rossini. Perhaps not all are true, but they help tell us about his interesting life. At 37, Rossini had written 39 operas! He stopped composing operas and spent many years in Paris as a famous host.

Rossini's parties were called "samedi soirs" (Saturday Evenings). The evenings were filled with music and the presence of witty intellectuals, composers, artists and famous singers of the day. Everyone in Paris wanted to attend the elegant parties and taste the wonderful food, especially Rossini's favorite: "foie gras and truffles" (goose liver and mushrooms). Many gourmet (fancy) dishes are still named after Rossini. He died at his villa in Passy in the outskirts of Paris on Friday, the 13th, 1868.



### MUSICAL FINGERPRINTS

Like other great composers, Rossini's music has certain identifying traits. We call them his musical "fingerprints!"

#### **OVERTURE**

This is the music played at the beginning of an opera, before the curtain goes up. Rossini's overture is lively, exciting, and sets the mood.



#### CRESCENDO

Some people call Rossini "Signor Crescendo." In a crescendo the music begins softly and becomes louder. Rossini repeats the same music, adding new instruments and voices. With each repeat, the music becomes louder and louder.

crescendo

ff

Rossini was also famous for his storm music. Listen for the crescendo in the storm music from Act II.



### **COLORATURA**

The coloratura singer sings "decorated" musical notes. Rossini was one of the first composers to write in the score exactly what fancy musical notes a singer could sing to show off a fine voice.







**BELLINI AND DONIZETTI:** We will never lose bel canto as long as people treasure

the beauty of the human voice as the finest musical

instrument.

CHILD: Excuse me, sirs, but what is bel canto?

THREE COMPOSERS: We are known as the bel canto composers. You could say

that bel canto is:

BEAUTIFUL SINGING of BEAUTIFUL MUSIC by BEAUTIFUL VOICES.

CHILD: But wasn't opera always that way?

THREE COMPOSERS: Yes, but it used to be more serious and formal. Later the

music became fancy with more melody and feeling.

CHILD: Please tell me more. Was this music harder to sing?

THREE COMPOSERS: In the bel canto method, singers did study very hard. But

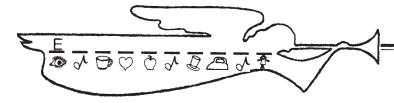
> they learned to breathe properly and they trained their voices to move quickly and smoothly from note to note.

CHILD:



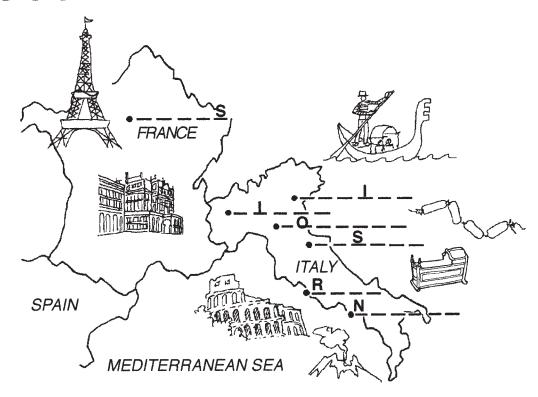
And they do! It's amazing how Cenerentola's voice goes up and down the scale - up and down, up and down, just like a bird.

THREE COMPOSERS: We're so happy you like our music!





### ROSSINI ON THE MAP. . .



Unscramble these words to find the major cities in Rossini's life.

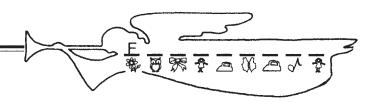
Who was known as "the little Mozart" because of his brilliant use of the orchestra? The underlined letters (already on the map) answer this question!

OMRE
NAOLBOG
SPAIR
EPARSO
CENVIE
PANESL
LANIM

### . . AND IN THE KITCHEN

Rossini loved to eat! He spent the last few years of his life in Paris enjoying the French cuisine. Many foods were named after him. Have you heard of poached eggs Rossini, chicken Rossini, or cannelloni Rossini?





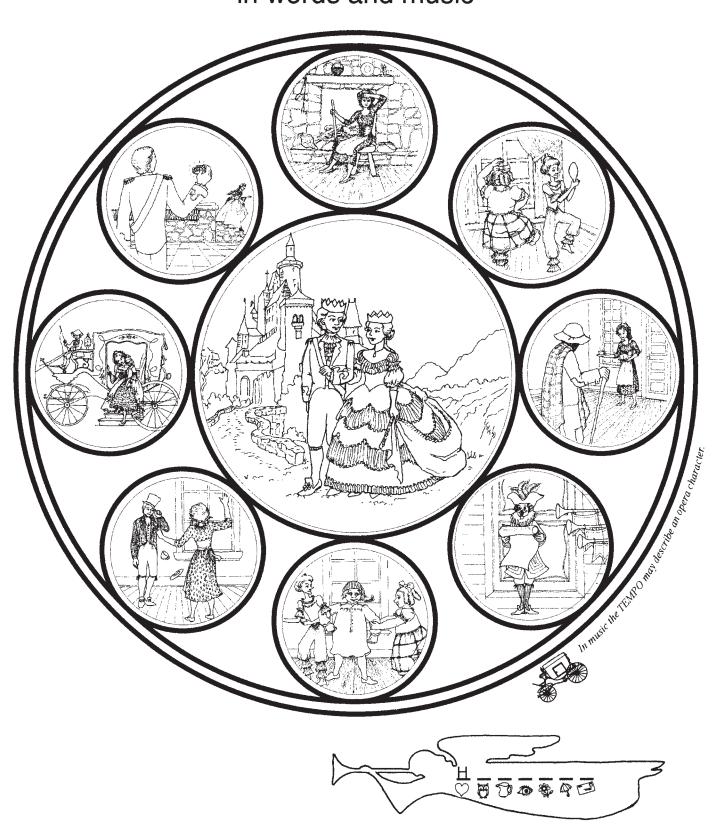
### ONCE UPON A TIME....

You probably already know that Cinderella is a fairy tale, but did you know that there was a Chinese version over 1000 years ago? And even then it was said to be very, very old. In fact, there are more than 300 different stories about Cinderella. Some say that the story of Cinderella is as old as time itself. Maybe that is why so many stories begin with "Once upon a time..."

Each country's Cinderella is just a little bit different. In one tale she goes to the ball in a canoe. We know about the glass slipper, but not every Cinderella story has one. How did so many people come to know about Cinderella? In the olden days people lived and worked together in small groups. At night they might gather around a fire and tell each other stories. Told over and over in different lands and languages and across many centuries, fairy tales taught the virtues of goodness and kind deeds and gave people courage and hope. For many years the stories were handed down by "word of mouth." Finally, one day, books were invented. Then about three hundred years ago, in France, a man named Charles Perrault decided to write down the story of Cinderella. At the time Rossini was composing, the Grimm Brothers, living in Germany, were busy collecting their fairy tales, including the one of Cinderella. This Opera Funtime tells the story of how Rossini, an



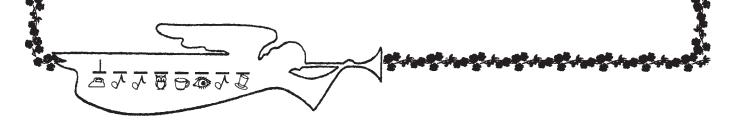
# The story of "La Cenerentola" in words and music

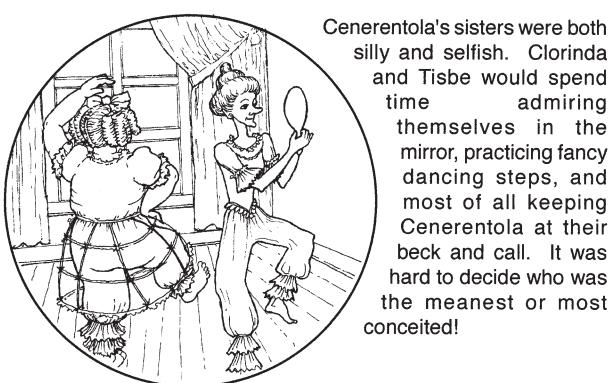


Once upon a time there lived a young maiden. Her real name was Angelina, which "angel", means but everyone called her Cenerentola. She lived with her stepfather and stepsisters who treated her shamefully - like a lowly servant girl. Cenerentola was patient and kind and never complained. she Sometimes while she was sweeping or tending the hearth, she

would find comfort singing softly about a King.



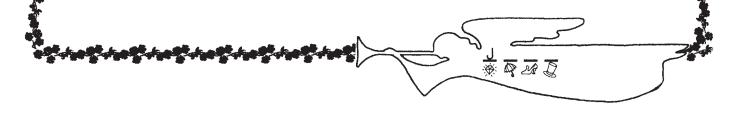




Cenerentola's sisters were both silly and selfish. Clorinda and Tisbe would spend admiring time themselves in the mirror, practicing fancy dancing steps, and most of all keeping Cenerentola at their beck and call. It was hard to decide who was







One day a stranger came to the door. He looked like a beggar, and indeed he asked for only a little kindness. The stepsisters shooed him away, but Cenerentola, feeling sorry for him, gave him some coffee and bread. For this the stranger was very grateful. Mysteriously, he promised that Cenerentola's kindness would be rewarded. No one imagined that this beggar, dressed in tatters, was really Alidoro, the Prince's trusted tutor. And no one imagined that a very special plan was now unfolding.

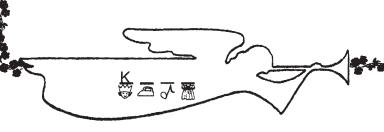
Soon after, royal courtiers arrived with a special proclamation: Because the king had died, the Prince would have to choose a bride. The courtiers also announced that the Prince would soon come to invite all young maidens to his castle.

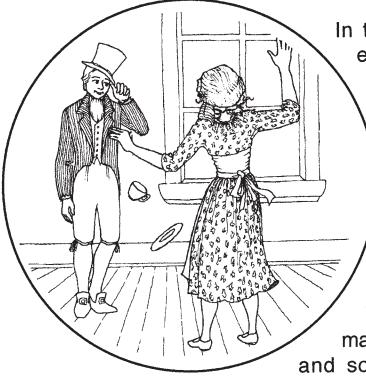
The silly sisters were in a tizzy of excitement and couldn't wait to tell their father, Don Magnifico, the

wonderful news. Clorinda was absolutely sure the Prince would marry her because

she was the elder. Tisbe decided the Prince would choose her because she was the younger and would take longer to grow old! Don Magnifico was even more excited. He didn't really care which of the two the Prince would

marry. Either way, he would become important and rich.





In the meantime, someone else came to visit. It was Prince Ramiro dressed like an ordinary servant. This, too, was part of Alidoro's plan.

Cenerentola appeared carrying a tray of coffee and almost bumped into the stranger. Crash went the coffee cups! What happened next, you may find in fairy tales, dreams and sometimes in real life. It happened to Ramiro and Cenerentola.

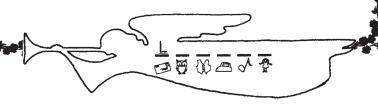




All at once I have a feeling Growing deeper, growing stronger, That my heart is mine no longer; I have given it away.

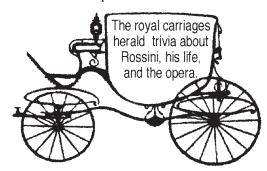
Prince Ramiro was totally confused. Alidoro had promised him that in this house he would find the perfect bride. He had not yet met the daughters of Don Magnifico . . . and yet this lowly servant girl stirred something in his heart. Could he be falling in love?



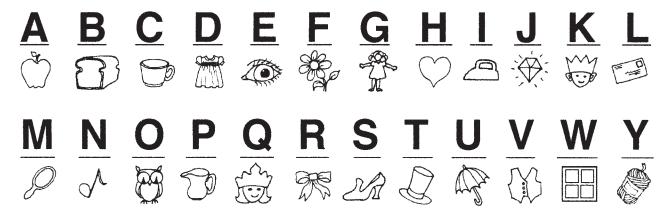


## WITHIN THESE PAGES . . .

You'll find lots to do! Several games and puzzles will acquaint you with the Opera "La Cenerentola".



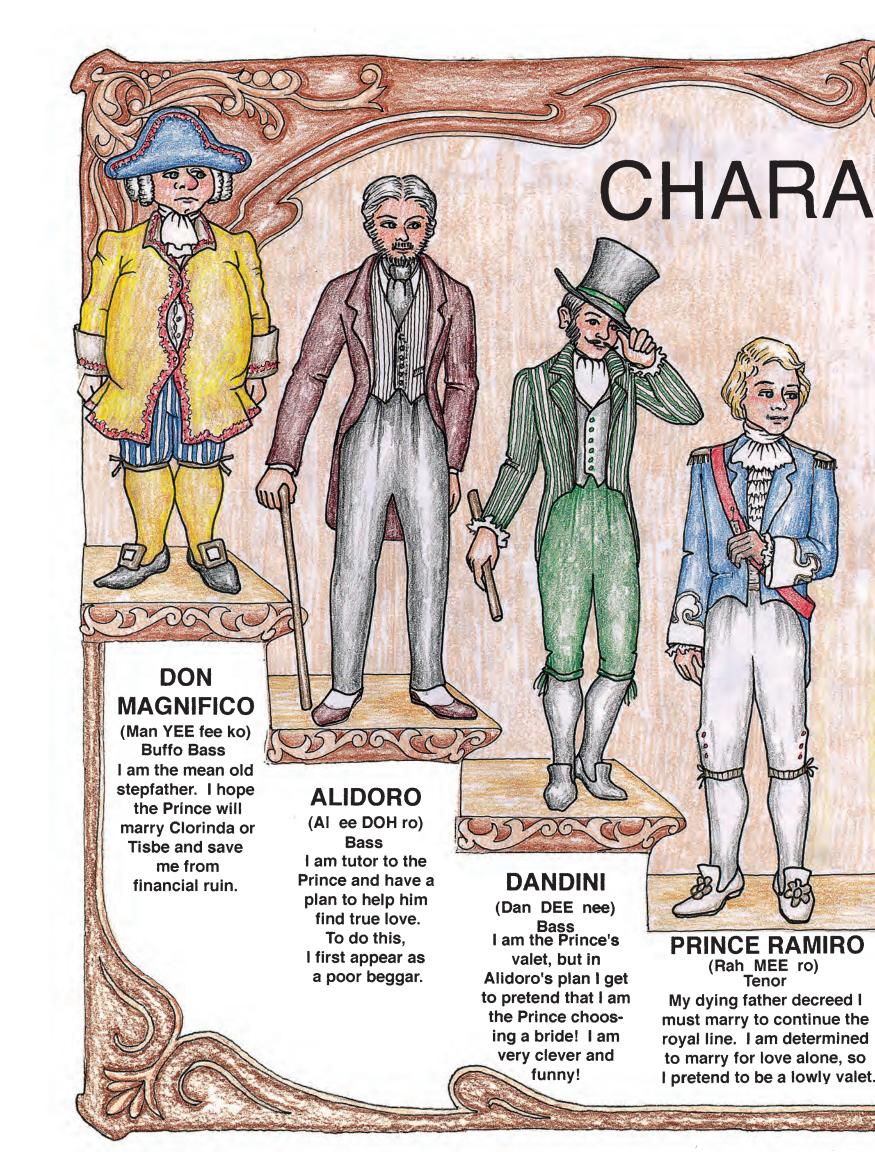
On each page, in an angel form, you will find a word that describes Cenerentola. We have given you the first letter of each word, but you will have to de-code the rest, using this alphabet:



For instance, the first word is:



And the answers to all the puzzles are inside the back cover!







Just then, with a flurry of trumpets, cavaliers announced the arrival of the royal Prince. Pretending to be the Prince, Dandini, the valet,

entered! Dandini was having a jolly

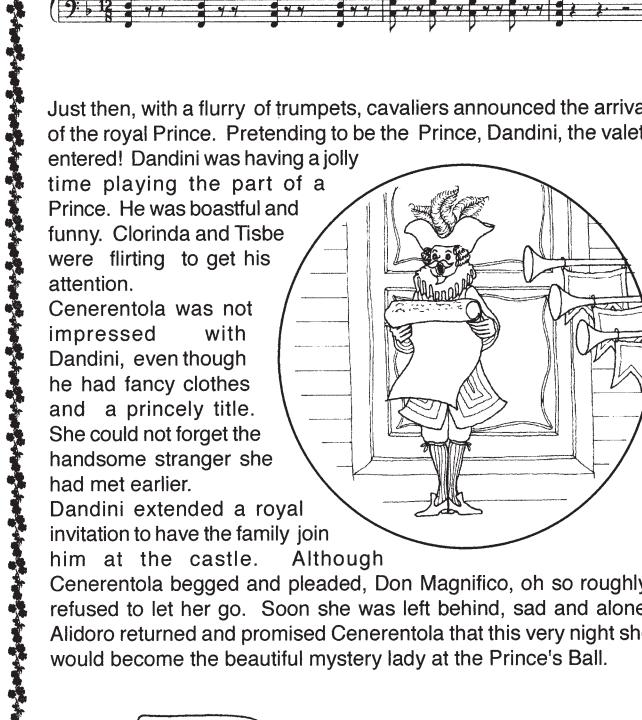
time playing the part of a Prince. He was boastful and funny. Clorinda and Tisbe were flirting to get his attention.

Cenerentola was not with impressed Dandini, even though he had fancy clothes and a princely title. She could not forget the handsome stranger she had met earlier.

M 5 7 7 5 8 5 8

Dandini extended a royal invitation to have the family join

Cenerentola begged and pleaded, Don Magnifico, oh so roughly, refused to let her go. Soon she was left behind, sad and alone! Alidoro returned and promised Cenerentola that this very night she







Meanwhile at the Salerno Palace, Dandini and Prince Ramiro met in the pavilion outside the castle. The true Prince was anxious to find out Dandini's opinion of Clorinda and Tisbe.

(TRY ACTING OUT THIS PART OF THE OPERA)

RAMIRO: Tell me, tell me, and be truthful - your opinion of Clorinda

and her sister!

DANDINI: Softly, softly, I assure you! Flirty, flighty and conceited

as can be!

RAMIRO: Zitto, zitto, piano, piano. Must I marry either Tisbe

or Clorinda?

DANDINI: Don't be silly, don't be silly! They're both selfish and

bad tempered as can be.



RAMIRO: But how can Alidoro be wrong? He promised I would

find my true love in Don Magnifico's home.

DANDINI: Oh, my Prince, do you

really believe Alidoro

is a royal match maker?

### NARRATOR:

Suddenly, everyone's attention is drawn to the arrival of a mysterious lady in a fancy carriage.





DANDINI: Good evening.

CENERENTOLA: Thank you. This is indeed a wonderful ball.

DANDINI: How lovely you are even under this delicate veil.

Would you please reveal the beauty beneath it?

CENERENTOLA: (slowly removes the veil that covers her face)

MAGNIFICO: She looks so like our Cenerentola.

TISBE: She can't be Cenerentola!

CLORINDA: Cenerentola is not elegant, and she certainly

doesn't have a fancy ball gown.

RAMIRO: I think she's looking at me. She likes me!

ALIDORO: Prince Ramiro is surely in love. The plan is

working.

DANDINI: Oh, fairest lady, will you marry me?

CENERENTOLA: I cannot accept because my heart belongs to

another, your valet.

DANDINI: (insisting) Would you so easily give up riches

and a princely title?

CENERENTOLA: A true and faithful heart means more to me than

rank and riches.

NARRATOR: Upon hearing these words, the true Prince

rushes to Cenerentola.

RAMIRO: My heart is bursting! That soft and loving voice

- it must be hers!

(takes Cenerentola's hand) Will you marry me?

CENERENTOLA: Take this bracelet. Search until you find its

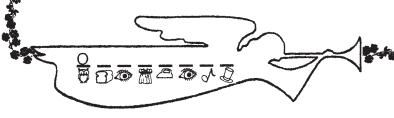
companion. Only then will I give you my answer.

(exits)

RAMIRO: What shall I do? Where will I find her?

ALIDORO: You must follow your heart. (turning to audience)

The masquerade must now end!





Dandini confessed to Don Magnifico that he was not really the Prince. Don Magnifico left with Tisbe and Clorinda in a huff.

Prince Ramiro, Alidoro, and Dandini were caught in a storm outside Don Magnifico's mansion. Seeking shelter, they entered. Don Magnifico was shocked to learn the identity of the real Prince. The Prince was amazed to find the beautiful bracelet he was looking for. Cenerentola was wearing it! Ramiro exclaimed: "You were the veiled lady at the ball!"

Cenerentola replied, "And you are the Prince, not the valet?" This time Cenerentola accepted Prince Ramiro's proposal.

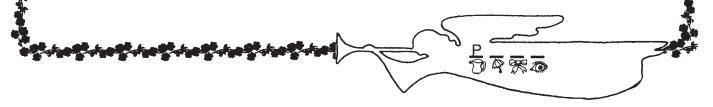
Alidoro now spoke: "Cenerentola, perhaps now we should call you by your real name, Angelina."

Prince Ramiro, with his bride to be, was ready to teach Don Magnifico, Clorinda and Tisbe the lesson they deserved.

True to her name, Angelina now had a special favor to ask of her Prince. "Please forgive them... Love cannot grow in an unforgiving heart."

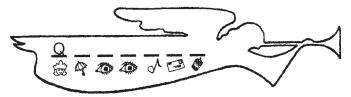
And so they celebrated a wedding blessed with love. Don Magnifico, Clorinda and Tisbe, humbled by the power of Angelina's goodness, attended the festivities and came to live with her in the Palace.





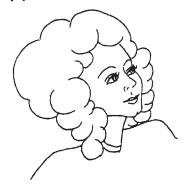


In Cenerentola's wedding picture look for a book, a mirror, a broom, bellows, a heart, a loaf of bread, a cup, a saucer, a trumpet, a fan, a stocking cap, and a carriage.



### Use a double- headed mop:

You can arrange this on your head in whichever style suits you. Split the mop with a ribbon tied under your chin, then flip the mop partially back and you have an instant "Pompadour" look. Or, pull the pieces back and tie with a ribbon or bow for a more formal appearance.





Or use Cotton Batting: You need a stapler to help mold and shape the cotton into a head-fitting wig. This resembles a ski hat. Then you can curl some cotton around your fingers to make small curls, called "tendrils", and staple these to your new wig.



### **CHARACTER REBUS**

Find the names of all seven characters in the opera "La Cenerentola" and the composer.

$$P + P + O = Tr's + D - B = -$$

$$Dan + D + f = _{-}$$

# Chen + - ch + N + 2 + la = \_ \_ \_ \_

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

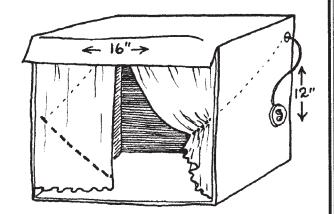
Find as many words (of three letters or more) in the name "CENERENTOLA". We found 140.



# MAKE A STAGE!

You can easily construct your own miniature theater by following this clever plan:

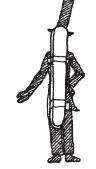
- 1. Remove front & back from a box (about 12" high by 16" wide) but leave a 2" flap on the top front. Behind this, tape a divided curtain.
- 2. Sew a thread through both curtains as shown. Punch a hole in the upper back corner of the box sides, and draw the thread through, sewing a button on the end.



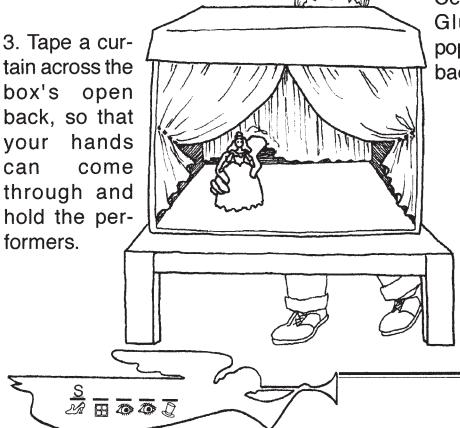
When you pull the button, your curtain opens!

4. Now draw the characters in "La Cenerentola."
Glue or tape a

Glue or tape a popsicle stick to the back of each one.



Your "stick" figures can act out the story.



# **GET ACQUAINTED**

with the opera,"La Cenerentola," the composer, librettist, props, etc. Write the appropriate words in each place so that they interlock with the others.

			R														S
E			Α														Т
Ν			G														Ε
E			S														Р
R																	F
E																	Α
Ν																	Т
T					T												Н
0						-											Е
																	R
Α				Γ					P	R	1	Ν	С	Ε			
								1									
								l									
					T												
							C	,	Α	R	R	1	Α	G	E		
								l									
					T												
					Ι												

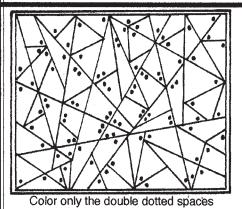
3 letters C R Y C U P D I E N O R O L D S I R	6 letters BEGGAR PRINCE RAMIRO TRICKS
4 letters A C H E B A L L D U E T F I N E G A R B	ALIDORO DANDINI RIBBONS ROSSINI SLIPPER
NICE PINE PLAN RAGS RUSH SNAG VEIL	8 letters CARRIAGE CLORINDA FEATHERS LIBRETTO NECKLACE PRINCESS
5 letters A S H E S B R E A D C L O C K C U R S E D A N C E F L I N G	9 letters BRACELETS ETIQUETTE GIOACHINO MAGNIFICO
HEART	CINDERELLA

HOUSE STEPFATHER

TISBE CENERENTOLA TUTOR STEPSISTERS

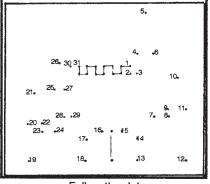
letters

SONGS STAGE 11

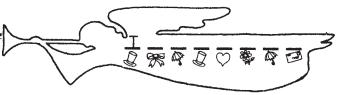


This will be placed upon the head of the lovely girl the Prince will wed.

They'll live here happily ever after
Prince and bride, with love and laughter.



Follow the dots



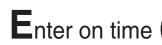
NOisy candy wrappers distract others

Prepare by reading the story before you go

No sleeping, Especially if you snore

Photographs and **R**ecording are forbidden

Audiences should Applaud





No ema ling

Be Quiet – no talking or singing

Yo**U** may yell "Bravo! Brava! or Bravi!"

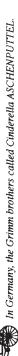
Cell phones should b **E** turned off

Stay seated until The end of the opera

Do not wear a ha







### LEARN A LANGUAGE

Here are some words you will hear in the opera: they are in English!

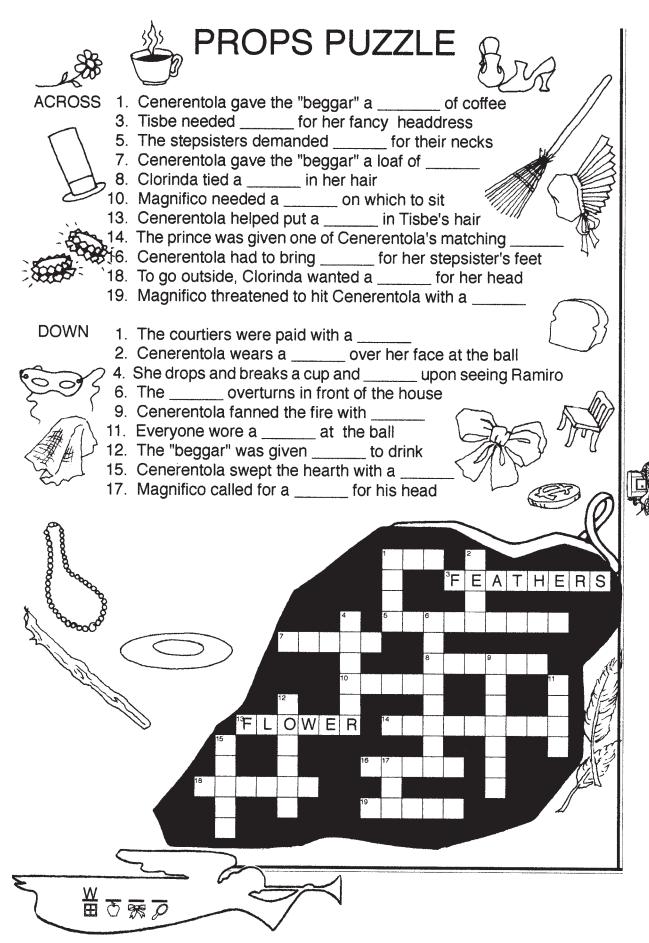
FAIRY TALE, CINDERELLA, STEPSISTERS, DREAM, BEGGAR, DISGUISE, COFFEE and BREAD, INVITATION, BALL (dance), PALACE, CARRIAGE, HELLO, GOODBYE, THANK YOU, PRINCE, PRINCESS, PLEASE, BRACELET, BRIDE.

Many are very much like their Italian and Spanish counterparts.

Write the matching English word in between the Italian and Spanish words.

You didn't know you were a translator, did you?

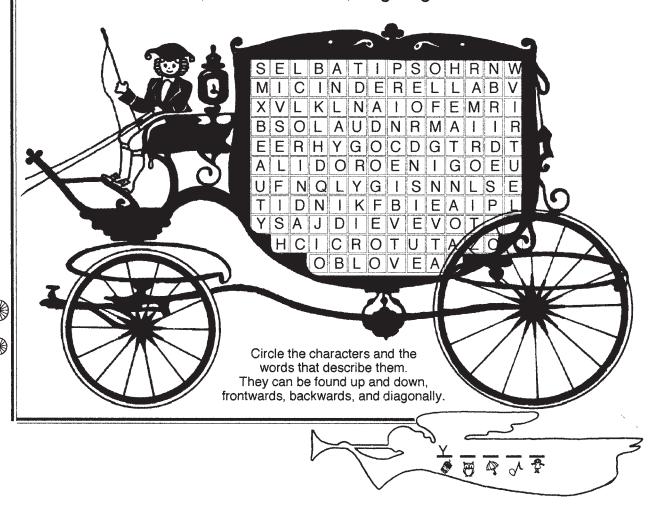
ITALIAN:		SPANISH:
INVITO BUON GIORNO		INVITACION
PREGO		HOLA
PRINCIPESSA		POR FAVOR
PRINCIPE	differ table and make make approximate approximate	PRINCESA
CARROZZA		PRINCIPE
		CARROZA
ADDIO		ADIOS
FESTINO		FIESTA
PALAZZO		PALACIO
SPOSA	<del></del>	ESPOSA
BRACCIALETTO		BRAZALETE
FIABA		CUENTO DE HADAS
GRAZIE	1886 felos belas alumb minus pages pasos antes.	GRACIAS
SORELLASTRAS		HERMANASTRAS
CAFFE E PANE		CAFE Y PAN
TRAVESTIMENTO		DISFRAZ
MENDICANTE		MENDIGO
CENERENTOLA		CENICIENTA
SOGNO		SUENO
		والے ا
	To speak in Italian, this poem may help y U's are like "oo", as you'd say at the zoo C sounds like "ch", if before "i" or "e". If not, it's like "k" just as in the word "key CH you must always pronounce like a "k E is said clearly like "ay" in "let's play". A sounds like "ah" and the I sounds like Sc before "e" or "i" whispers like "she". O is exactly like "o" in our "no". Z is said "ts" as in "pizza to go!"  Match each picture to the sound it represents	"ee"
	Y Z	3
	Me m	



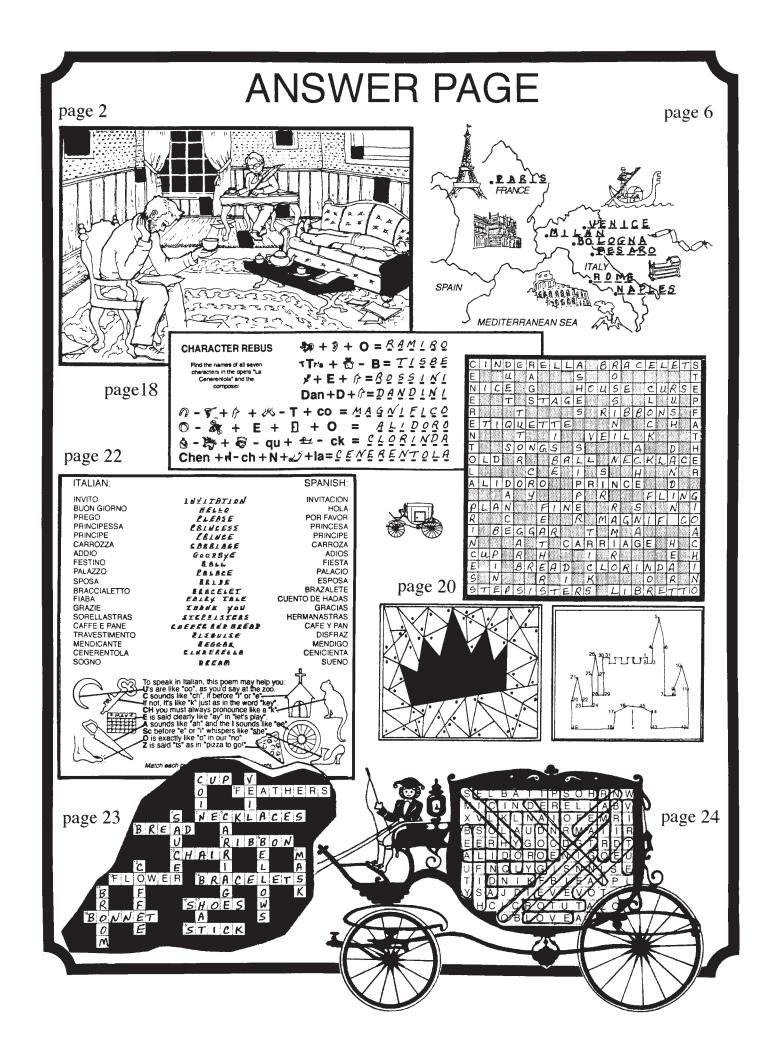
Cinderella is loyal and loving and kind.
Ramiro, the Prince, hopes a bride he will find Dandini (pretending he's Prince), his valet, Makes a fool of Magnifico, making him pay.
A stepfather greedy and selfish and mean; It is evil he's done, and dishonest he's been!

Clorinda and Tisbe, the two sisters silly, Hope the Prince will choose one of them; won't he or will he?

Alidoro the tutor, our heroine's friend,
Has fixed it so good will win out in the end.
She's very hospitable, generous, too,
Cinderella shows virtue in all she does do.
So Prince and sweet beauty will end up by living
A life full of love, and in kindness, forgiving.







# OPERA'S FUN FOR EVERYONE



