

# Opera Funtime Collection

### by the Young Patronesses of the Opera

The Abduction from the Seraglio	Mozart
Aida	Verd
The Barber of Seville	Rossini
La bohème	Puccini
Carmen	Bizet
La Cenerentola	Rossini
Così fan tutte	Mozart
Cristoforo Colombo	Franchetti
Don Giovanni	Mozart
Faust	Gounod
Die Fledermaus	J.Strauss
Hansel and Gretel	Humperdinck
Idomeneo	Mozart
Madame Butterfly	
The Magic Flute	Mozart
The Marriage of Figaro	Mozart
Otello	Verdi
Pagliacci	Leoncavallo
Rigoletto	Verdi
Roméo and Juliette	Gounod
The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La Traviata	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini

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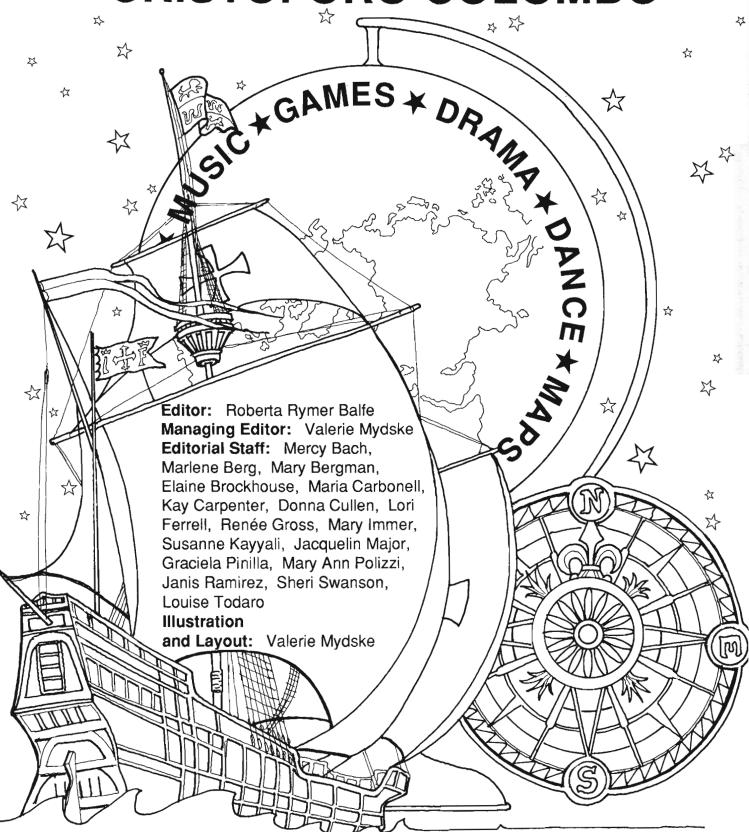


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# **OPERA FUNTIME**

A YOUNG PERSON'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS featuring the opera

## CRISTOFORO COLOMBO



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?



The title of our opera is <u>CRISTOFORO</u> <u>COLOMBO</u>. This was the name given to the baby boy born in the year 1451, in the Italian republic of Genoa. As an adult he lived in Spain, and there he was known as CRISTOBAL COLON. In English, he is referred to by the Latin form of his name, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. In the opera he is called Colombo. Colombo spoke more Spanish than his native Italian. Because all maps and books about geography and astronomy were in Latin, he taught himself that language!

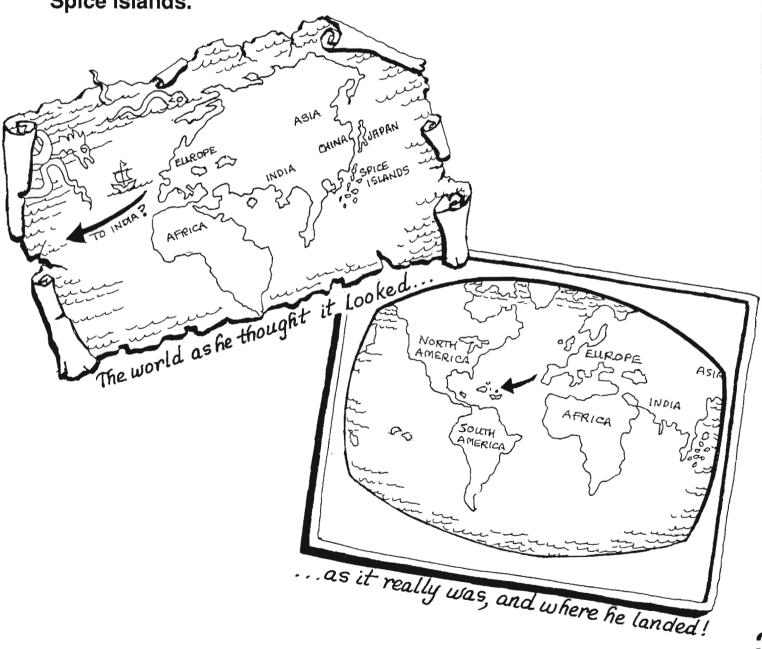
As a blue-eyed, red-haired, freckle-faced boy, he spent many hours watching the ships go in and out of the Genoa harbor, dreaming of the day when he would command a ship and sail the ocean too!



## **WORLDS APART**

Cristóforo Colombo was a man with a dream and a plan. He wanted to prove that one could sail west to reach the east, a concept unheard of in his day! When he set out from Spain for India, China and Japan, he had no idea that there were two continents blocking his passage.

Thinking that he had reached India, he named the people who lived there "Indians." Colombo died never realizing that he had found our continents of North and South America, rather than India and the Spice islands.

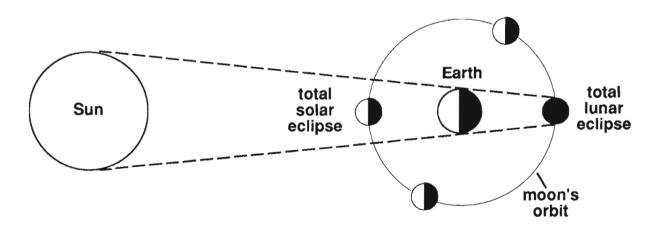


## **ECLIPSE**

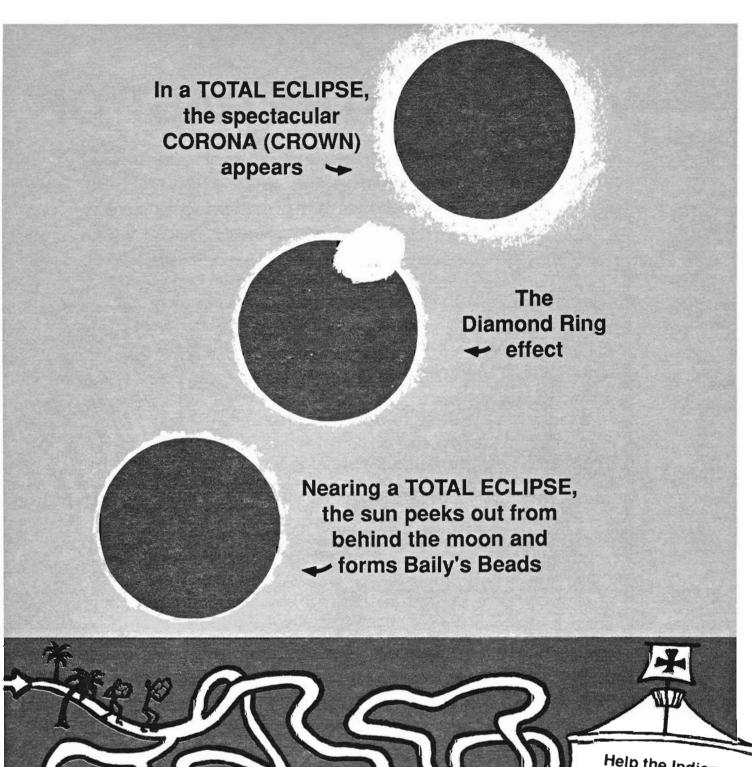
Cristóforo Colombo studied the skies and knew that a solar eclipse was coming. When the Indians refused to trade him the food and water he needed, he told them -

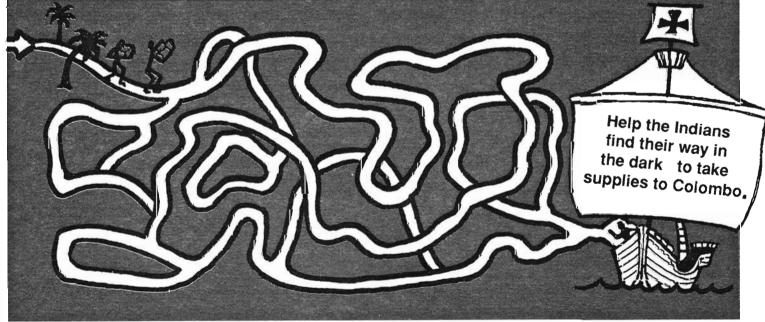


When the moon actually blocked out the sun's light, the Indians, believing that their sun god was angry, quickly brought him everything he needed!



A total SOLAR ECLIPSE happens whenever the moon passes in front of the sun, hiding it from view.





## THE CAST OF



#### **ISABELLA**

**Queen of Spain** who shared Colombo's dream of a new world

(SOPRANO)

#### **COLOMBO**

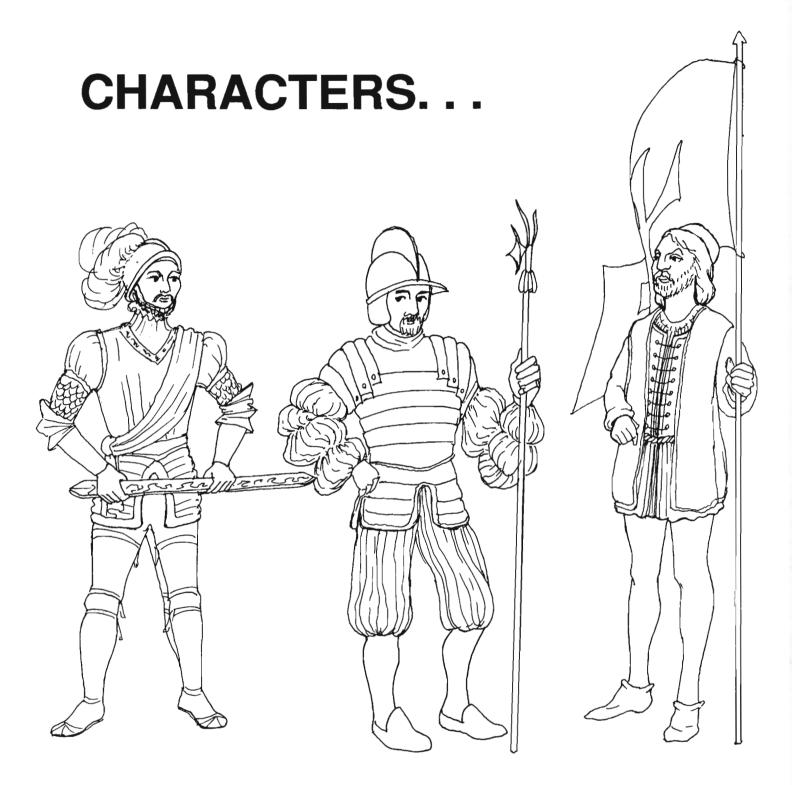
Mariner with a dream of sailing West to find the **East** 

(BARITONE)

#### **GUEVARA**

Captain of the Guard and Colombo's trusted friend

(TENOR)



#### **ROLDANO**

Knight who hated and envied Colombo

(BASS)

#### **BOBADILLA**

Colombo's replacement from Spain

(BASS)

#### **MATHEOS**

Chief mate who rebelled against Colombo

(TENOR)



### **ANACOANA**

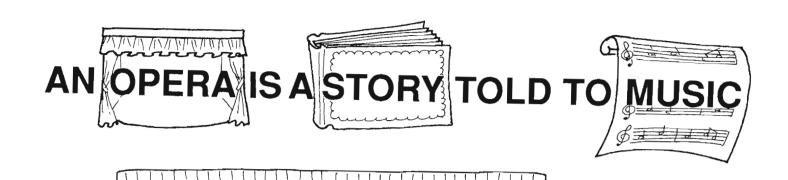
Queen of the Indians killed by Roldano

(MEZZO SOPRANO)

### **IGUAMOTA**

Daughter of Anacoana in love with Guevara

(SOPRANO)



### CRISTOFORO COLOMBO,

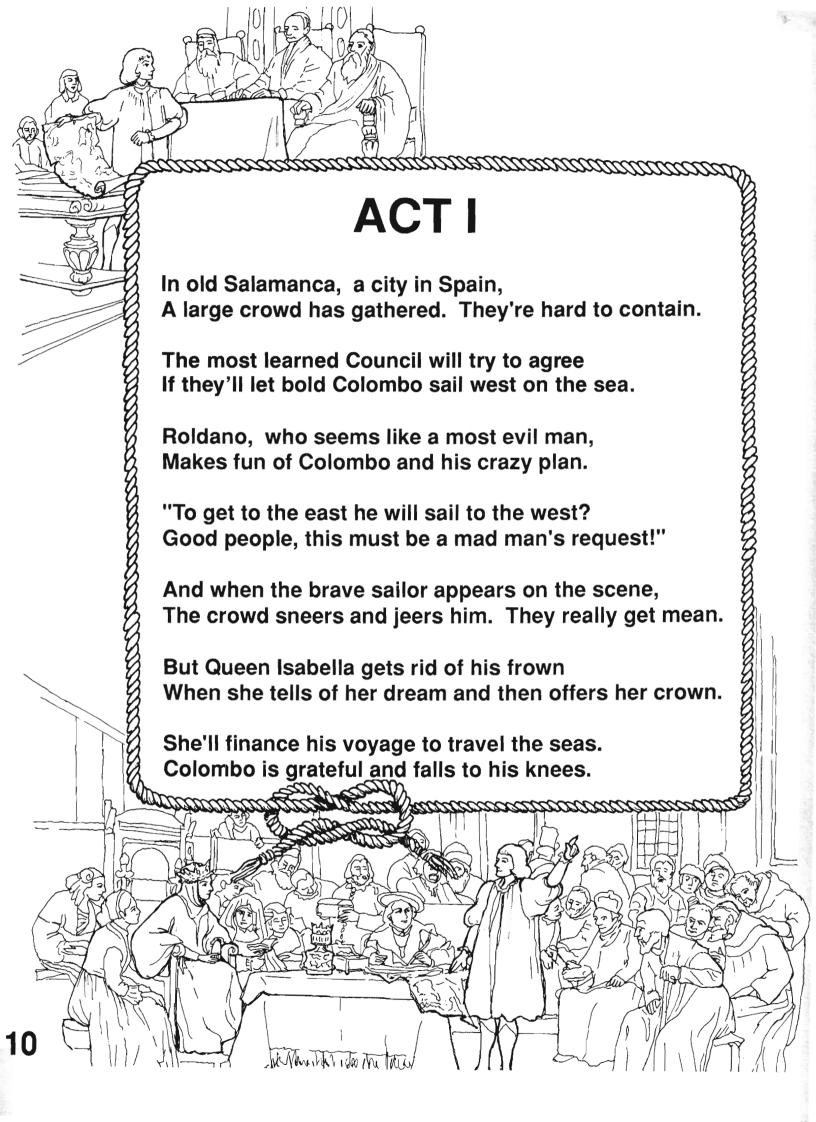
the Opera, is based upon the true life story of the great explorer and his fight for the respect, money, and men he needed to realize his dream. It was first performed in 1892, four hundred years after his first dramatic voyage across the sea.

ALBERTO FRANCHETTI was the musician who composed the opera. He loved opera; and being Wealthy, he was able to perform his works in great style, with lavish settings and spectacular s<sub>cenes.</sub>

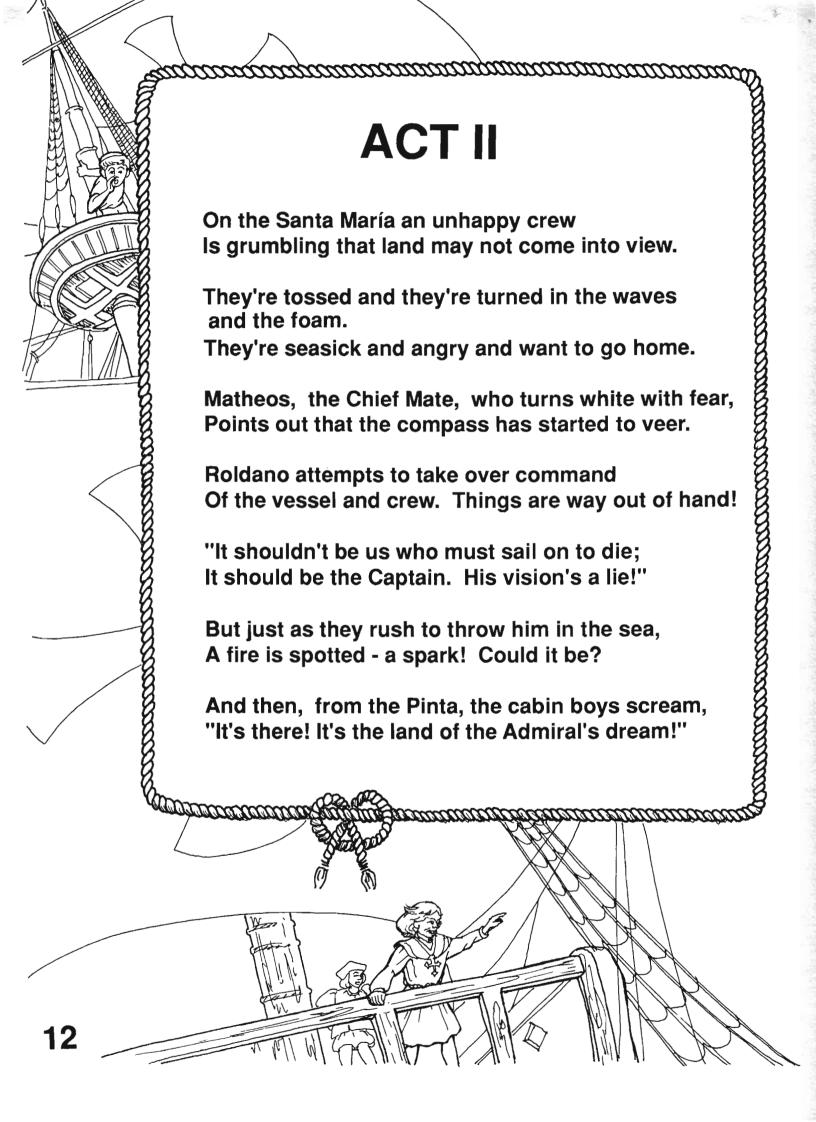
LUIGI ILLICA was the LIBRETTISTthe man who wrote the words for the opera. He was also a dramatist and a journalist. A former sailor in

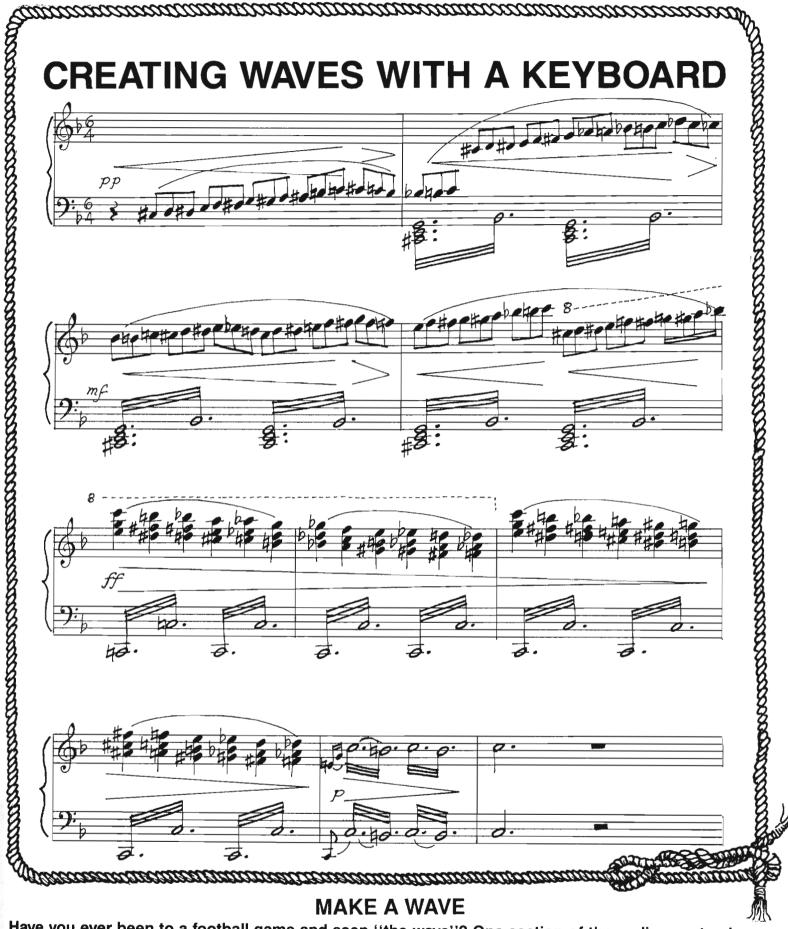
Italy.

Colombo.









Have you ever been to a football game and seen "the wave"? One section of the audience stands up and waves its hands, then sits down. The next section follows it immediately, then the next, and the next. The whole audience creates a giant wave.

Try it with your group. Complete several waves in time with the music.

## **ACT III**

The soldiers are cruel and murder for gold The Indian Chieftain, an act that's quite bold.

But Anacoana knows how to strike back, And she will get even without an attack.

Set the men at each other, is her clever plot, Roldano - Colombo, escape they will not.

Her plan starts to fail when her daughter is seen With the Spaniard, Guevara. She's caught in between!

So the Indians' fate does not go as she willed, And the good Queen herself by Roldano is killed.

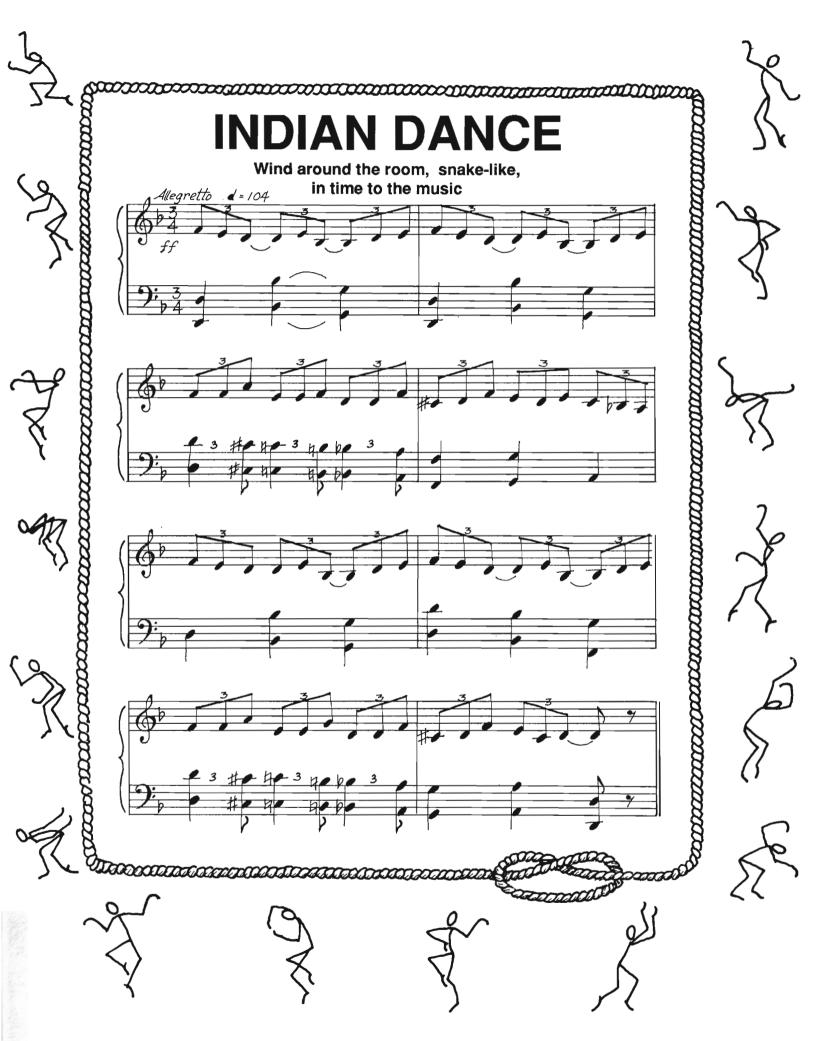
Colombo feels anger and shame in his heart. He orders Roldano for Spain to depart.

The whole situation has all gone astray, And it is Colombo who's taken away.

Bobadilla, the officer sent there from Spain, Arrests poor Colombo and binds him with chain.

And meanwhile Guevara, Colombo's best friend Stands helplessly by him -- he cannot defend.





#### COURSECOURAGE CONTRACTOR CONTRACT

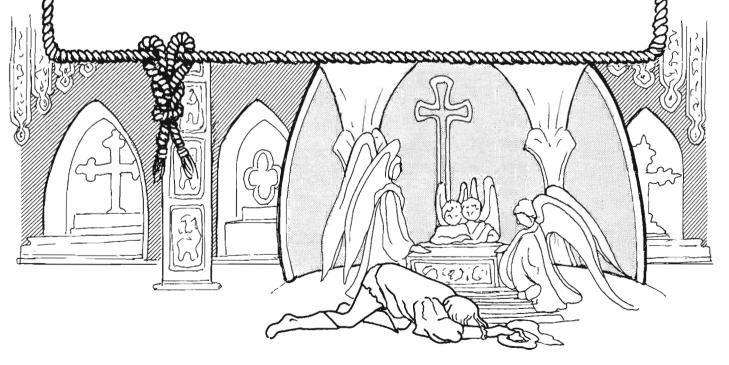
# **Epilogue**

We find poor Colombo in Spain once again. They've taken his honor, his ships and his men.

He hears a sad song in the Tombs of the Kings, The death of the Queen is the message it brings.

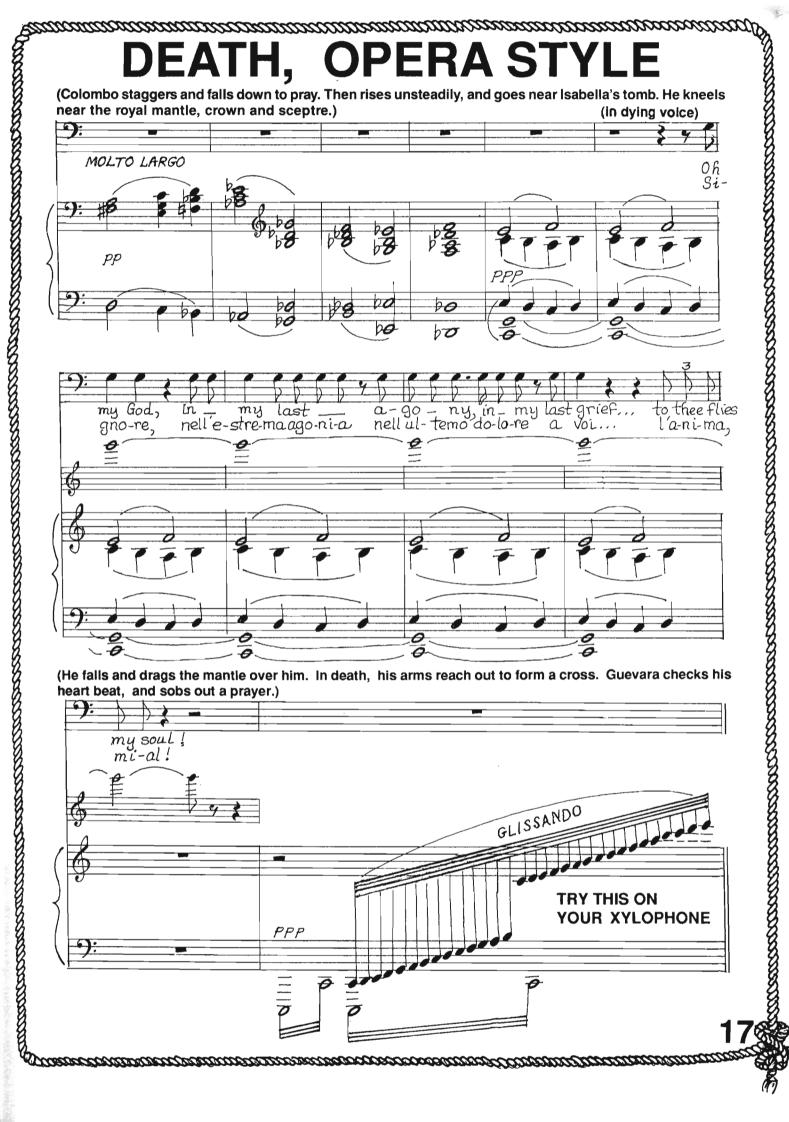
And now that the fair Isabella is gone, He'll never see justice - he cannot go on!

"My hope is all vanished!" Colombo then cries, And there near the Queen throws himself down and dies.









## **NAVIGATION**

Navigation is the way we get from one place to another. On land we can use buildings, mountains, and rivers for direction. But on the high seas there are no such clues!





Today we have many ways to tell direction at sea, including computers and radar.

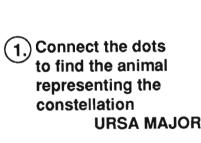
But in Colombo's day, few boats ever sailed out of sight of land! Those who did had only a LODESTONE compass to guide them. (The magnetic rock always pointed North.)

27



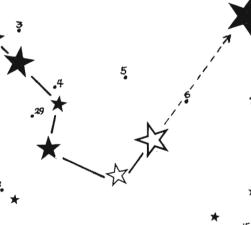


The adventurers who sailed the seas depended on the stars to guide them. They located the North Star, also called Polaris, and then charted their ship's position in relation to it. The study of the stars is called astronomy.



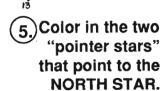
2. Now connect the stars within to find the constellation itself.

3. What does URSA MAJOR mean?



4.)What do we call the constellation that forms the hind part and tail?

**NORTH STAR** 

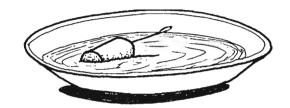


## MAKE A COMPASS

(Using a cork, a needle, and a bowl of water)

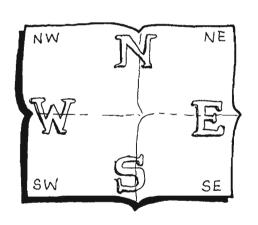
Put the needle into the cork end, and float the cork in the bowl . . .

The needle will always point north!



## **BOX A COMPASS**

Fold a square piece of paper in half - then in half again.



Draw lines on the folds.

Mark the 4 main directions.

(cardinal points)

N = North, S = South, E = East, W = West

Now draw diagonal lines

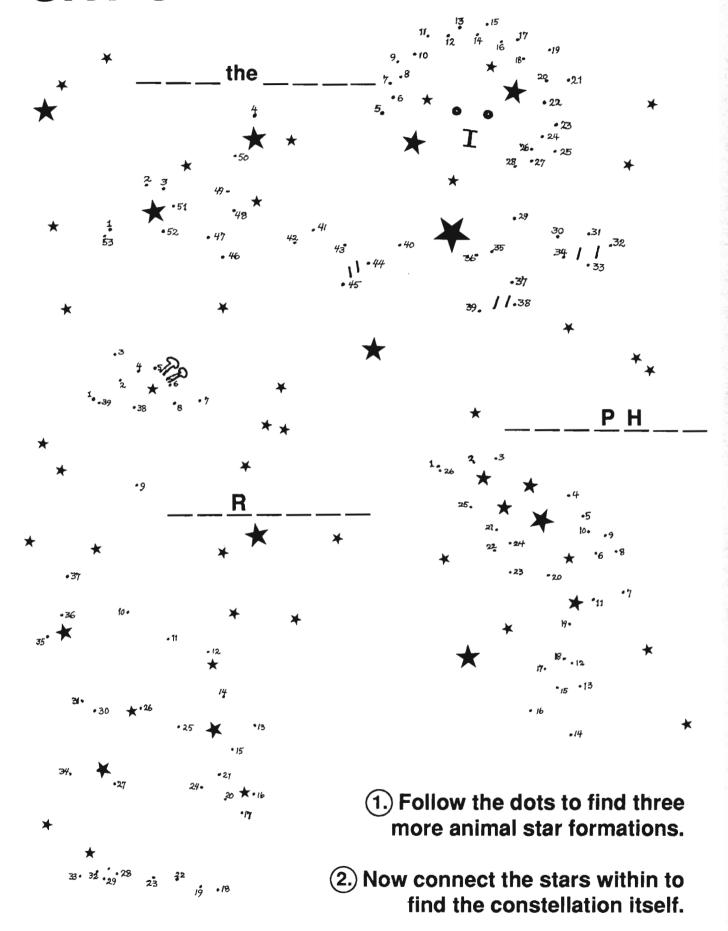
(from one corner to the other).

Mark the "intercardinal" points

NE, SE, SW, and NW.

Once you have found which way is NORTH, face your paper in that direction, and like the explorers of old, you have "boxed a compass."

# **SKY CREATURES**



3. Now fill in their names.



## **ACT IT OUT!**

#### **ACT II, SCENE VI**

on the decks of the Santa Maria

NIÑA

PINTA

Stage

POOP

DECK

SANTA MARIA

"PROW"

Stage front

**Characters:** 

Cabin Boys
Sailors
Soldiers

in groups kneeling on the prow, led by Matheos

Knights

Nobles Gentlemen

kneeling & praying

Colombo - asleep in his cabin

Roldano - alone on the poop deck

(Suggestion - "prows" of ships may be cut from the corners of a large furniture box. Top front point should be cut about waist high.)

Stage

Bell sounds from the poop deck - another from the prow.

Men rise from their knees, mill around complaining, growing desperate.

Roldano - What do you think, mates?

Sailor #1 - I think this is a hopeless case . . .

Sailor #2 - We'll all die out here.

Cabin Boy #1 - We're running out of food!

Cabin Boy #2 - We haven't seen a thing but water for 36 days!

Roldano - The only thing we're going to find is death!

Soldier #1 - True! Yes!

Soldier #2 - We'll never see our families again!
Cabin Boy #3 - If we don't drown, we'll die of hunger!

Roldano - Maybe if someone else would die?

Gentleman #1 - Who? What do you mean?

Gentleman #2 - The one who is commanding this ship.

Matheos - Yeah, - the one who's asleep in that cabin!

Knights - Let's get rid of him!

Roldano - Let's throw him overboard!

Noble #1 - Yes, overboard!

Noble #2 - Get rid of the Admiral!
Sailor #1 - To the sea with him!

Sailor #2 - Let's go back. Turn the sails!

Cabin Boy #1 - Change our course!

Cabin Boy #2 - Back to Spain - To our families.

Cabin Boy #3 - Down with Colombo!

All - Let's toss the Captain overboard -

Grab his compass and his sword! We'll never reach a foreign shore,

So set the sails for home once more!

Matheos -

(Leads raging crew to attack Colombo, who is now standing on the poop deck, staring and pointing out to sea. Matheos gasps and drops his hatchet when he

follows Colombo's gaze.)

Colombo -

Look - look there - through the mist on the horizon. . .

Soldier #1 -

A spark!

Soldier #2 -

Just a tiny one. Look, a flash!

Noble #1 -Noble #2 -

No, just a reflection on the water.

Sailor #1 -

It's moving! Is it growing?

Sailor #2 -

No. It's gone.

Colombo -

(Hides face in hands.) Now it's disappeared.

#### FROM THE PINTA

All -

Land! Land ho! (Cannon shot)

#### FROM THE SANTA MARIA

All -

(Shouting, pointing, hugging) Land! It's land! See there?

#### FROM THE PINTA

All -

Out there at last a shore we see: A brave new world for you and me!

#### FROM THE SANTA MARIA

All -

(Shouts overlapping)

Listen! The waves are hitting something!

Gentleman #1 - Rocks! Land!

Mountains!

Gentleman #2 - Look at the shadows!

Land!

Knights -

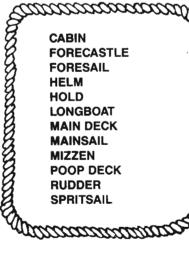
I can't believe it!

Woods - shore - land!

#### FROM THE NIÑA

AII -

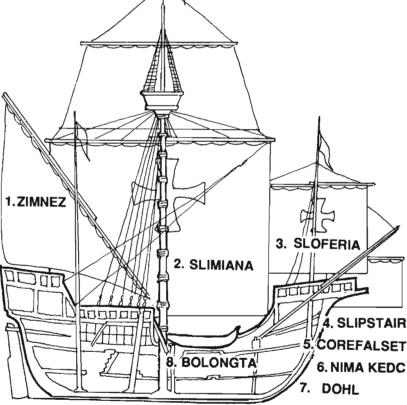
Out there at last a shore we see: A brave new world for you and me!



9. OPPO CEDK 10. BANCI

**11. MEHL** 

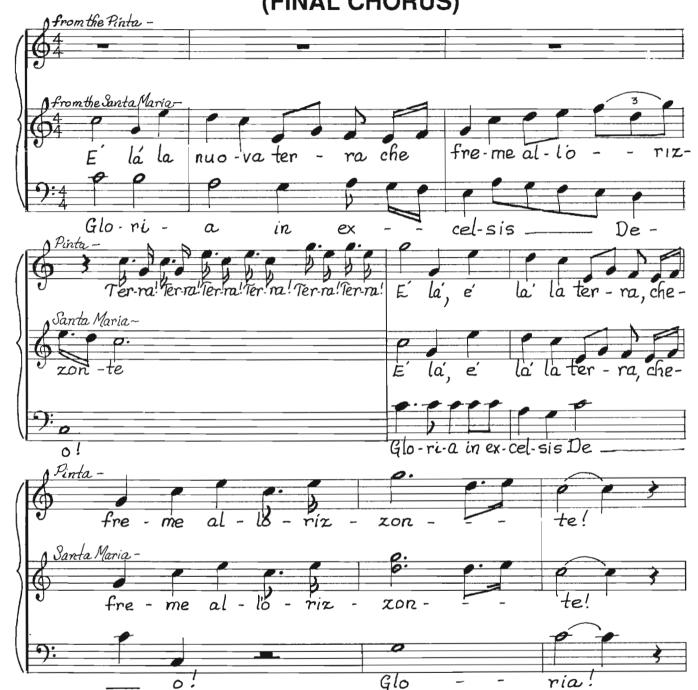
12. DREDRU



This ship is similar to the SANTA MARIA. Can you unscramble her parts?

# LAND, LAND!

(FINAL CHORUS)



#### **BE A TRANSLATOR**

Decide which lines say:

"The new land lies there on the horizon."

"Glory to God in the highest."

"Land, land, land, land, land."

Write them under the Italian words in the song

## MAKE ROOM FOR THE HATS!

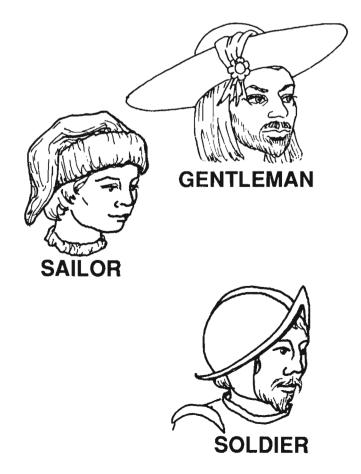
For your part in the drama of ACT II, make yourself a hat, using FELT, FOIL, PAPER, CARDBOARD, or a large SOCK. Decorate with FEATHERS, BRAID, FRINGE, COSTUME JEWELS, etc.

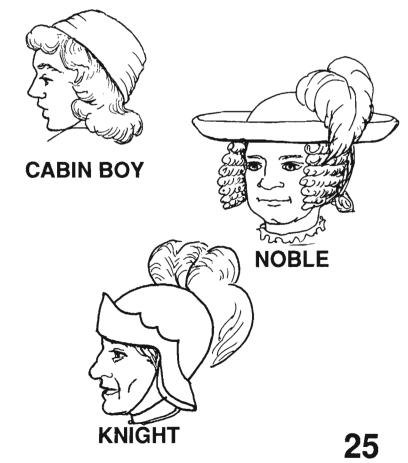






**CRISTOFORO COLOMBO** 





## THE LUCAYANS

The Indians Colombo met when he landed in the Bahamas in 1492 were the Lucayans. Colombo said that they were handsome people, patient, peaceful, kind and generous.

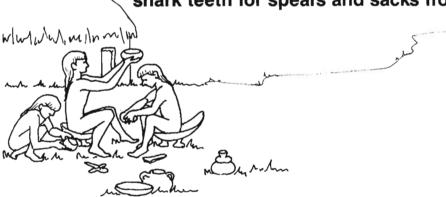
Arawak is the language the Lucayan Indians spoke. Their name means "Bahamans." Anacoana, the Indian queen in the opera, was a leader of this tribe. Her name means "flower of gold."





They grew sweet potatoes, corn, cotton and tobacco. Women did the planting, for they knew how to bring forth life. Young boys frightened the birds away from the fields.

Seeing themselves as a part of nature, they wasted nothing. They hunted animals like iguana and fished for manatee, turtle, shark, grouper, parrotfish and conch. They ate all they could and made knives, scrapers, spoons, hoes and fish hooks out of their bones. They used stingray spines for darts, shark teeth for spears and sacks from iguana skins.



The Indians thought that Colombo and his men were children of the sun because they came from the east, the land of their ancestors. Unfortunately, many of them were taken as slaves and they eventually vanished as a tribe. It is a shame that this was the destiny of these gentle people who lived in harmony with the earth.













## **FAIR TRADE**

Colombo, like many other explorers, brought food and animals from his country to the New World. Returning, he brought things back to Europe from the New World, forever changing both worlds.

Here is a typical

### **EARTH SALAD**

to make for your family.

Draw O beside each food that came from the Old World, and N beside those that returned from the New World.

- 1 cup shredded CABBAGE
  - 1/2 cup pitted OLIVES
    - 1 sliced TOMATO
- ☐ 1/2 GREEN PEPPER, in strips
- ☐ 1/4 PIMENTO, in strips
- 1/2 cup cooked POLE BEANS
- ☐ 1/4 cup cooked LIMA BEANS
- ☐ 1/2 cup diced AVOCADO
- ☐ 1/2 cup OLIVE OIL
- ☐ 1/4 cup LEMON juice
  - ☐ 1/2 cup SUNFLOWER seeds

Put everything in a bowl Sprinkle with salt and pepper Cover and refrigerate overnight

Serve on a bed of LETTUCE



IEW WORLD

peanuts











# CROSS THE SEA WORDS

To keep from getting all

