

The Cat

(Le Chat)

By Ben Bolden's Intermediate Senior Music Education Class

Name the scenes (Set the structure)	Overture "The Cat escape"	Chorus "The Poor cat"	Scene 1 "The Proposal"	"The Mother"	Transition " " (ex. Judgement)
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create melodic themes based on the characters</li> <li>• Add rhythm and structure</li> <li>• Create instrumental (and vocal) parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write the chorus</li> <li>• Notate the harmonies used in class and add new ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write the recit (dialogue) and edit the text</li> <li>• Add a "love duet"</li> <li>• Create the "love theme" for the opera</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recit &amp; Trio</li> <li>• Create the mother's theme</li> <li>• Explore the archetypal mother</li> <li>• A great place to talk about voice types (and what instrument would personify the mother)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorm other transition options</li> <li>• (Perhaps a judgement scene)</li> <li>• Use listening examples from other operas (ex. Mozart's <i>Don Giovanni</i>)</li> <li>• "Those dreadful pet parents are celebrating while the cat drowns" (Chorus Solos?)</li> </ul>
Notes:	Would this opera be in english or perhaps French?			How could you explore homophobia/intolerance? Cross-curricular possibilities?	Is this an opera about animal rights/cruelty? Themes? Abandonment, entitlement, LGBTQI2S themes?

	Scene 2 (Protest scene) Solos and chorus “ ”	Scene 3 “The Firehouse”	Chorus “The Call” or “The Firehouse”	Orchestra & Dance? “Siren Sequence”	Scene 4 “Save the cat” Celebration & Dirge of the cat
Next Steps	<p>Suggestions to further the story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solos/Commentary by the other singers</li> <li>• “Cat lives matter?” (controversial - recast the cat as an person of colour)</li> <li>• “Animal lives matter”</li> <li>• “Give our cats a voice”</li> <li>• Protest chorus?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add trio/quartet, and recit</li> <li>• Create a scene providing insight into Interns training at the firehouse</li> <li>• Show the back story of these characters</li> <li>• Create themes</li> <li>• Intern Aria? Solo line?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create the scene where the firehouse learns of the cat</li> <li>• “The cat is drowning - you are the only hope”</li> <li>• Duty and honor theme? What is the instrumentation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent place for a band piece</li> <li>• Discuss musical motif, counterpoint, and go deeper into instrumental forms in opera</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a save the cat chorus</li> <li>• Create the celebration chorus</li> <li>• This is an excellent place to add a round and/or three part song with the cat dirge</li> </ul>

Notes :	Discuss current events, social justice issues, and possible cross-curricular ideas?	Discuss instrumentation that could personify the Intern	Also, a great place to discuss history and tradition in other operas (ex. Donizetti's <i>La Fille du Régiment</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could be a whole lesson on the history of ballet in French opera tradition</li> <li>• Ex. Jean-Baptiste Lully's work in conjunction with Moliere</li> <li>• Another possible cross curricular with French studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A whole lesson could be created on cadences/ codas and resolutions in music</li> </ul>
------------	---	---	---	--	---

- Please note that creating the written structure of an opera and editing the piece during a class session can enhance students' critical thinking, build teamwork and encourage self-reflection. As beneficial as it is to improvise, it is also equally beneficial to reflect, edit and perfect!