

WHAT DO I DO AT AN OPERA PERFORMANCE?

We can't wait to welcome you to a West Australian Opera performance. Never been to an opera before? No need to stress. We are here to help you.

WHAT TO WEAR?

You've got your ticket but you just don't know what to wear? That's the wonderful thing about attending a West Australian Opera performance. Smart casual or glamorous attire. Please dress as you please.

BE PUNCTUAL.

Opera performances commence exactly at the stated performance time. Please allow time to arrive, park, meet friends, convenience visits, find your seat and so on. If you are late you may be "locked out" this means you will not be admitted to your seat until a suitable break in the performance.

IF IT'S SUNG IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE HOW WILL I UNDERSTAND?

All of our performances are presented with surtitles (you may know them as subtitles) on monitors placed on either side of the stage that provide a general English translation of the singing. The glorious music and physical action will also support you in understanding what is taking place on stage.

WHEN DOES THE ACTUAL OPERA BEGIN?

The lights have dimmed, and all of a sudden people are clapping for no apparent reason. This is generally because the conductor of the orchestra has arrived and has stepped up onto the podium. The orchestra, seated in the orchestra pit, acknowledge the conductor and then the overture begins. Soon after the curtain is raised to reveal the first scene and the action and singing begins.

HOW LONG WILL THE OPERA PERFORMANCE LAST?

An Opera performance will usually run from 2.5 hours to 3 hours, and occasionally 5 hours or longer! The running time will normally include two x 20 minute intervals depending upon the number of acts in the Opera. Check our website waopera.asn to find out the running time details of the Opera that you would like to attend.

WHEN DO I APPLAUD?

At most operas it is generally considered appropriate to applaud after a significant singing moment or aria. If you are unsure when this occurs, simply follow your fellow audience members. Applauding more vigorously at the very end of the opera calling 'Bravo! Bravo!' is quite acceptable and when performers take their curtain call to show appreciation of individual performances. Don't be alarmed if people around you start stomping their feet at the end of the performance, this is an opera tradition to show your enjoyment and appreciation. Feel free to join in if the mood takes you!

CAN I TAKE PHOTOS?

Yes you can before and after the performance. Photographs are not permitted during the actual performance as it can not only be distracting to the performers on stage but to your fellow audience members.

GOT MORE QUESTIONS?

We are here to assist you. Simply email education@waopera.asn.au



THEATRE ETIQUETTE