

# Classroom Activity #4

*The Internet is a great tool for students to discover opera and to introduce computer activities that can apply to the music student.*

Have you visited the Des Moines Metro Opera's website? It is a great way to find out what's going on with the Company. Plus you'll find useful information on our mainstage opera performances during the 35th Anniversary Season in Summer, 2007. Visit us on the web at [www.dmmo.org](http://www.dmmo.org).

It seems that the Internet has affected every area of life, and the opera world is no exception. Hundreds of useful websites are available for browsing, whether you are a new fan of opera or a seasoned operagoer. In addition, everything from the lives of composers to issues facing opera singers today can be accessed via several useful websites. Some of the best include:

[www.operastuff.com](http://www.operastuff.com) - One of the most comprehensive sites, Operastuff offers links to almost any kind of information you might need. You can access texts of most operas, biographical information on composers and plot synopses of most major works. In addition, you can browse a great deal of information on singers (current and not current, famous and just-starting-out), opera companies, opera performances in your area and training programs for young opera singers. Operastuff maintains a chat room where you can visit about anything pertaining to opera!

[www.operabase.com](http://www.operabase.com) - Operabase is a similar, multipurpose site that offers a more international perspective on the opera business.

[www.classicalsinger.com](http://www.classicalsinger.com) - Drawn from the Classical Singer Magazine, this site presents information that is helpful to singers. In addition to audition information, Classical Singer allows singers to communicate with each other about many issues through a posting forum.

[www.operaamerica.org](http://www.operaamerica.org) - Opera America is a service organization to the field of opera, particularly American opera companies. This site offers information and support opportunities to administrators, technical and musical personnel in the opera world.

[www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org) - The world's most famous opera house maintains a site that includes synopses, performance schedules, information on historic singers and links to opera companies throughout the world.

[www.operaglass.com](http://www.operaglass.com) - A multipurpose opera site that also links to privately maintained opera sites.

## Activity "A Web Scavenger Hunt"

Using the websites listed above, have your students answer the following questions about opera.

1. Who wrote the opera *Tosca*? *Giacomo Puccini*
2. In what year was Maria Callas born? *December 2, 1923*
3. Name two opera companies that are located in Florida. *Orlando Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Pensacola Opera*
4. *Don Pasquale* was originally written in what language? *Italian*
5. Name two operas by Giuseppe Verdi. *See page 13*
6. What opera will the Metropolitan Opera present on the night of April 25, 2007? *Turandot*
7. How much is the most expensive individual ticket at the Lyric Opera of Chicago? *\$175.00*
8. What three operas will Des Moines Metro Opera present in the summer of 2007? *Carmen, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Otello*
9. Identify two composers who wrote operas during the twentieth century. *See page 13*
10. Who wrote the opera *Carmen*? *Georges Bizet*
11. List three operas originally written in French. *Manon, Carmen, The Tales of Hoffmann, Werther, Faust, Romeo et Juliette*
12. Name the librettist (text author) of *The Marriage of Figaro*. *Lorenzo da Ponte*
13. List two roles that were sung by Dame Joan Sutherland. *Lucia, Norma, Olympia, Marie, Violetta*