

1) Look at the pictures of four international venues for operas and concerts, and read the descriptions underneath. Match each description to one of the pictures. Write the name of the building on the line under the picture. Find the information in each text which helped you identify the building.

A



B



C



D



1. Amazon Theatre, Manaus

The Amazon Theatre is an opera house located in the city of Manaus inside the Brazilian rain forest. It was built over a period of 17 years during the Brazilian rubber boom, and was finally opened in 1897. It has a huge dome, decorated with 36,000 ceramic tiles in the colours of the Brazilian national flag.

2. Carnegie Hall, New York

Carnegie Hall is a concert venue in Manhattan, in New York City. It gives about 250 performances every season, with both classical and popular music concerts. It was financed by the American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It was completed in 1891, but in 1989, a 60 floor office tower block was built next to it.

3. Opera House, Sydney

The Sydney Opera House is a renowned symbol of Australia. It is situated on Sydney Harbour and was opened in 1973. It has a very unusual design with a roof which represents a ship at full sail. This was the idea of Danish architect, Jorn Utzon, who in 1957 won an international competition to design the Opera House.

4. Royal Festival Hall, London

The Royal Festival Hall is one of London's best known concert, dance and talks venues. It was opened in 1951 and hosts many musical events. It is situated on the South Bank of the River Thames. The building underwent renovation from 2005 to 2007. Most concerts are played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

2) Find words in the texts in Activity I with similar meanings to the words and phrases below. Write each word on the line after the corresponding phrase

Example:

substance from a tropical tree used to make tyres or boots (Text 1) rubber

1-roof shaped like the top half of a ball (Text 1) _____

2- thin pieces of baked clay for covering floors or roofs (Text 1) _____

3- paid for (Text 2) _____

4-rich person who gives money to help poor people (Text 2) _____

5- famous (Text 3) _____

6- person who designs buildings (Text 3) _____

7- happenings (Text 4) _____

8 -making something into good condition again (Text 4) _____

3) Listen to a talk by Dr Nasser Al-Taei, Director of Education and Community Outreach at the Royal Opera House, Muscat. As you listen, complete the activities below.

1. Are these statements True or False? Write T or F in the boxes.

A) The Royal Opera House, Muscat, is the only opera house in the Arab World.

B) The Royal Opera House will host only performances of operas.

2. Number these items in the order you hear them mentioned. Write each number in the appropriate box. The first one has been done for you.

A) special performances for families

B) master classes by musical experts

C) conferences

D) training programmes for music teachers

E) school visits

F) matinée shows

G) backstage tours

3. What is a matinée? Circle the correct answer.

a) a musical performance

c) a show for children

b) a performance for families

d) a performance in the afternoon