



This WS is mostly based on an episode of Aria Code podcast

What can you say about opera genre? What features are mostly common for opera librettos and plots?

Watch 6 minutes of this video by Academy of Vocal Arts Opera (Philadelphia). Do you like the performance? What do you think is going on?

1. Listen to the first snippet and answer the questions, this is the host of the podcast
Rhiannon Giddens : _____

What can Olympia do?

Jacques Offenbach



Where does she come from?

Who is Hoffmann in the opera?

What is he wearing?

Listen again and fill the gaps with 1-2 words

amazing things _____ can do

_____ and _____ can't sing opera

recounting three of his biggest _____

Olympia is an _____, a _____ doll

her _____, _____ aria

Hoffmann is _____ in his _____ of love

Match the expressions from the piece with the phrases with similar meaning:

is not clued in

intensifies or stirs up the feeling

head over heels

is not given information

fans the flames of his infatuation

deeply in love

2. Have you read anything by E.T.A. Hoffmann? Did you like the book? Read the fact file and ask questions for the “answers” in bold.

E.T.A. Hoffmann, in full **Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann**, original name Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Hoffmann, (born **January 24, 1776**, Königsberg, Prussia [now **Kaliningrad, Russia**]—died **June 25, 1822**, Berlin, Germany), German writer, composer, and painter known for his stories in which supernatural and sinister characters move in and out of men’s lives, ironically revealing tragic or grotesque sides of human nature.



In his stories Hoffmann skillfully combined **wild flights of imagination** with **vivid and convincing examinations of human character and psychology**. The weird and mysterious atmosphere of his maniacs, spectres, and automata thus intermingles with **an exact and realistic narrative style**.

3. Listen to the next snippet and try to get the introducing words the host says about each guest in this episode (take your notes) _____

Soprano Erin Morley



Johannes Debus



Caroline Sinders



Dr. Robert Epstein



Read the phrases out, then listen to the snippet again and mark the pieces **EM** for Erin Morley, **JD** for Johannes Debus, **CS** for Caroline Sinders, and **RE** for Robert Epstein depending on who says the words _____

We’re organisms, we’re built to socialize. _____

Offenbach seems to have the greatest sympathy with all his characters. _____

Olympia is a mechanical doll. _____

And on top of it he does that with such a light approach. _____

I look at how technology affects people and society. _____

She is meant to impress her audience. _____

There's always vivacity, elegance, beauty. _____

And so the singer can go nuts. _____

We're not built to think logically and be rational all the time. _____

You have permission to show off for the sake of showing off. _____

Our lives are always gonna be driven first and foremost, by emotions. _____

There's nothing that does not feel human. _____

Through the lens of design and human rights. _____



Alright, time to de-code Le Oiseaux Dans la Charmille or The Doll Song from Tales of Hoffmann by Jacques Offenbach.



4. What is the start of artificial intelligence? Do you have any ideas? Listen to the snippet. _____

What does Caroline Sinders think about the start of artificial intelligence?

What is in the picture?

Why does she mention non-human entities with agency?

5. Listen to the next snippet and do this T/F activity _____

1. E.T.A. Hoffmann, the early 18th century German writer. _____

2. Spalanzani is a charming, weird, crazy fraudster. _____

3. Spalanzani comes up with all sorts of dolls. _____

4. Spalanzani creates a mechanical doll Olympia and tries to pass her as his daughter. _____

5. He is in debt and desperately needs money, and he's hoping Olympia will make him very rich. _____

6. Coppélius is a sort of rival with Spalanzani, and he has given Hoffmann these rose-colored glasses. _____

7. Hoffmann immediately puts the glasses on and falls madly in love with the doll as he thinks she's a woman. _____



6. Listen to Robert Epstein and answer the questions

A _____:

What did Robert think was a good sign?

How would Robert sign his little notes to Ivanna?

When did it happen?

Listen again and join the parts of the chunks:

looking for to Ivanna

someone to have on it Ivanna

ran across possible matches

the profile said a date with

started writing a profile

was pretty she was educated

her pictures a very good sign

thought that was very early on

also indicated that excited

expressing affection were lovely

B. Unjumble the questions

1) / Ivanna/ telling Robert /what/ about/ was/?

?

2) /telling Ivanna/ was / what / about /Robert/?

?

3) / suddenly / did /what/ Ivanna/ admit/?

?

4) /about the fact/ feel /did/ what /Robert/?

?

5) /were /ancestors / from originally /where/ Robert's/?

?





6) / Russian roots /did it/ to remember/that he had/ take him /how long/?

?

Listen to clip B and answer the questions

7. "We are complicated creatures and beautifully so." How would you rephrase the statement? Using the prompts in brackets, fill the gaps with suitable word forms. Listen and check _____

We're complicated creatures and beautifully so. And online we live our _____ (happiness) moments or _____ (sadness) moments, and even our most mundane and _____ (neutron) moments. Think of the last thing you posted on Facebook or Twitter. We live our whole human lives online, but online structures are _____ (creature) with technology and _____ (designer), right? Human _____ (handle) made technology and this leads to all kinds of friction when companies are using things like artificial intelligence to try to understand the content people are posting and even their _____ (emotional).

8. Read the infinitives then try to fill the gaps in the transcript with the appropriate verb forms

view

happen

see (x3)

tell

make

So, Olympia's song _____ in the Salon de Spalanzani. And Olympia is here _____ her first appearance at this party and performs and impresses everyone. But everyone can _____ she's not quite human, except for Hoffmann who is _____ her through these glasses, who's _____ what wants to _____ and he is _____ his quote/unquote 'ideal woman'.



Listen and check _____