



THE MAGIC FLUTE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
and
Emanuel Schikaneder

Adapted for young readers by Joshua Borths

A Reader's Theater Script for Young Audiences!

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

Narrators (1-3)		They guide the audience on the journey
Sarastro	(za-RA-stro)	The wise ruler of the Sun
Prince Tamino	(tah-ME-no)	A foreign Prince, the hero
Dragon		
Ladies (1-3)		The Queen's handmaidens, Each lady is different
Papageno	(pa-pa-GEH-no)	The Queen's birdcatcher, fun loving and funny
The Queen of the Night		An ultimately evil Queen, but she doesn't let people see it
Monostatos	(moe-NAST-tah-toes)	Sarastro's guard, who wants to marry Pamina
Pamina	(pah-ME-na)	The virtuous daughter of the Queen
Ensemble		Guards, animals, voices, attendants

A quick note about Reader's Theater...

Welcome to the Arizona Opera Reader's Theater version of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*! This script takes about 10-15 minutes to perform and guides the readers and audience through the first act of the opera. This script was created with 3rd–6th grade in mind.

This script helps develop reading **fluency**, **comprehension**, and **imagination** as both readers and audience members alike are guided through the story of the opera.

We encourage double casting (students reading more than one role) when appropriate. However, make sure everyone gets a chance to read out loud!

Props List (in order of appearance)

Mouth Lock	(For Papageno)
Picture Frame	(The picture of Pamina for Tamino)
Magic Flute	(For Tamino)
Magic Bells	(For Papageno)

A note about performance...

Putting together *The Magic Flute* should be a fun and educational experience for your students. Encourage them to look up words they don't know.

Mozart did not see this opera as a serious work, so play with it! If your students have staging, prop, costume, and set ideas, great!

This performance can be as simple or complex as you want. Feel free to make it your own. All props can be pantomimed or real... it's up to you!

Throughout the script, there are stage directions written in italics. These are not to be spoken in performance (although, having the teacher read them as students rehearse is very helpful).

Encourage your students to listen to the music of *The Magic Flute* as well. Contact Joshua Borths at Arizona Opera (jborths@azopera.org) if you need any teaching materials, study guides, musical excerpts, etc.

The education staff at the Arizona Opera is here to support you.

So, have fun!

And, as we say in the opera world, *toi toi toi* (toy, toy, toy)—it means good luck!

The Magic Flute: Part 1 (The Quest)

Overture

All students enter the stage and listen to the Narrators. Throughout the script, everyone can react to and demonstrate the text of the Narrators.

Narrator 1

In a kingdom you may recognize—
If you look behind its strange disguise—
There was war between day and night
Over which orb was the one, true light.

Narrator 2

The Queen of the Night tried to take the Sun's Crown,
So Sarastro's men ran her out of their town.
And there, in the dark, the Queen's anger raged,
Like a fearsome bird trapped inside a small cage.

Narrator 3

Sarastro, who sought only peace and love,
Cried out with a shout to the bright sun above,

Sarastro

Please help me unite the Sun and Moon,
Please, send us a hero! Send him or her soon!

All Narrators

And this was how the kingdom then stood,
When a stranger found trouble within a dark wood.

Everyone except the Narrators exit. The Narrators take their places on the side of the stage.

Scene 1

Tamino runs onstage. He is being chased by a dragon!

Tamino

Help me! Somebody please help me! A dragon is chasing me! A terrible, horrible, scaly, smelly dragon!

Dragon

Hello, little prince! Are you new to these woods? If so, it looks like I'm your welcoming committee!

Tamino

If you're the welcoming committee, then why are you trying to eat me?

Dragon

Smiling How else am I supposed to welcome a trespasser?!

Narrator 3

The stranger tried to be strong, brave, and bold,
But he tripped on a root and was knocked flat-out cold.

Tamino falls to the ground.

Narrator 2

Lucky for him, there were three ladies nearby,
And they stopped the mean dragon with their fierce battle cry.

All Ladies

Stop! Go back to your side of the forest, dragon!

Dragon

Defensive But, I was only trying to—

1st Lady

Go! Do you want us to go get the Queen of the Night and tell her all about what you've done? Do you want to be put in timeout?

Dragon

No! Please! Not that! I'll go! I'll go!

He exits.

Narrator 3

With the dragon now gone and out of their sight,
They looked at the stranger in the glowing moonlight.

2nd Lady

Now what?

3rd Lady

Yeah, what do we do now?

1st Lady

Well, I think you two should go tell the Queen about this stranger, and I will stay here with the handsome man.

2nd Lady

Why do you get to stay with him? I want to stay with him. He's so dreamy...

3rd Lady

How about *you* make sure the dragon is gone for good, and *you* go get the Queen, while *I* stay here with him. He so dashing!

1st Lady

Be quiet! We can't all stay here with him. So, to be fair, all three of us will go and tell the Queen about this stranger. No one will stay here. Agreed?

All Ladies

Agreed.

The Ladies exit.

Narrator 1

As the ladies went off to see their great Queen,
A new feathery creature arrived on the scene.

Narrator 2

Papageno enters His job is to wander and catch the Queen's birds,
Although, in his bird suit he looks quite absurd!

Papageno

To the Narrator Hey! I'm styling! Besides, I'm good at what I do. When I catch a bird and put it in a cage, it makes the Queen feel less lonely. I give her friends and she gives me candy!

Narrator 3

To Papageno But, isn't it lonely to catch birds all day?
Is there anyone here with whom you can play?

Papageno

No. Not yet. What I really want to catch is a girlfriend! *Yelling* I want a Papagena!

Narrator 1

This sudden outburst echoed down the ravine,
And caused Tamino to wake up from his dream.

Tamino

Waking with a start Where am I? Where's the dragon?!

Papageno

Startled AAAH! Who are you?

Tamino

Who am I? Who are you?!

Papageno

My name is Papageno! I'm the royal bird catcher for the Queen of the Night.

Tamino

The royal birdcatcher? So, *you* must have captured the dragon. You saved me!

Papageno

Uh... sure! It was no problem. No problem at all...

Narrator 2

When Papageno told him this little, white lie,
Tamino was so grateful he started to cry.

Tamino begins to cry.

Narrator 3

At this precise moment, the ladies returned,
And based on their expressions they all felt quite spurned.

The Ladies enter. They are clearly upset.

All Ladies

Papageno! Don't lie to the handsome stranger! It's not good to lie!

Papageno

I didn't lie to him!

All Ladies

You just lied again!

1st Lady

To Tamino We have come to ask you your name, handsome stranger.

Tamino

My name is Tamino.

2nd Lady

Hello, Tamino. Our mistress, the Queen of the Night, is on her way.

3rd Lady

She wants to talk to you about her beautiful daughter!

1st Lady

Here's a picture of her.

She hands Tamino a picture of Pamina.

Tamino

She's so beautiful! I've never seen anyone like her before. I've never *felt* like this before... Is this love? Whatever the Queen wants to tell me, I'm all ears!

All Ladies

Excellent! She will be here soon.

1st Lady

But to make sure birdbrain here doesn't lie again and doesn't mess this up. We are going to lock his mouth up for good measure.

They lock up Papageno's mouth.

3rd Lady

Sisters! Here she is!

All Ladies

She's here!

The Queen of the Night makes a stylish entrance.

Queen

She can't remember Tamino's name Hello my handsome... Friend! My dear... uh...

All Ladies

Tamino.

Queen

Tamino!

I can tell from your look that you've seen a picture of my daughter. She is so kind, so smart, and so strong willed. She's always been independent and can stand up for herself.

But, she was taken from me! She was stolen by the *evil* Sarastro, the one who banished me to these woods! I can't get her back by myself...

But, you could. You could find my daughter, Pamina, and return her to me! You will be greatly rewarded if you do...

Tamino

I'll do it! I will rescue your daughter, Pamina! This must be why I'm in this story!

Queen

Perfect! My Ladies will help you find her. Farewell, Tamino... Until we meet again...

The Queen of the Night makes a mysterious exit.

Tamino

Wow. People come and go so quickly here.

1st Lady

Unfortunately, we can't go with you, but we can count on our good friends the Three Spirits. They will show you the way and guide you on your quest!

2nd Lady

And I give to you two gifts: this Magic Flute, and these Silver Bells.

The Ladies give Tamino the bells and flute.

3rd Lady

May they help guide you if you lose your way, and may their music help you find your voice when your voice is gone.

Ladies

Goodbye!

Papageno

HMMMMMMM!!!

Tamino

Wait! Can you free my friend here? I will need his help on the journey I'm sure. Can you please unlock his mouth?

1st Lady

Fine. As long as he promises to never lie again!

2nd Lady

If you fulfill your role as Tamino's friend, you may even get your Papagena!

The Ladies unlock Papageno's mouth.

Papageno

I promise!

Tamino hands Papageno the silver bells.

Ladies

Remember to watch out for the evil Sarastro... and always follow the advice of the Spirits! Goodbye!

Papageno and Tamino

Goodbye!

The Ladies exit.

Narrator 1

And so the two friends went off on their way,
To find poor Pamina and win the day.

All Narrators

But, just as they learned not to lie, not to scheme,
They were soon to learn things were not as they seemed.

Tamino and Papageno exit.

Scene 2

Narrator 2

While these things were set into motion,
Across the kingdom there was quite the commotion.

Narrator 3

Pamina's held captive against her free will
By the guard, Monostatos, who's holding her still!

Monostatos, the guards, and Pamina enter.

Monostatos

Oh, my dear little dove, I can't wait till we are married! Once I bring you to Sarastro, he will reward me handsomely. You will become mine.

Pamina

Why do you think I would ever marry you? You are unkind and selfish.

Monostatos

Selfish? Unkind? Who put these thoughts in your head? Come on, let's play house! When we are done, you will see what I great husband I could be!

Pamina

To herself Maybe then I will find my opportunity to get away from here. I want to go back home. Oh, there's no place like home!

Monostatos

Guards!

Guards

Yes, boss?

Monostatos

Bring me my fake food, plastic oven, and baby carriage. Pamina and I are going to play house!

Guards

We're on it, boss!

The Guards exit.

Narrator 3

It may seem that luck was not on her side,
But suddenly Papageno arrived.

Papageno enters, looking around.

Papageno

How did I get here? I think I'm lost. *Shouting* Spirits! A little help here!

Pamina

Who are you?!

Papageno

I'm your new best friend!

Pamina

But, I don't know you! If you don't leave right now, I'll scream!

Papageno

Why are you so frightened? *He recognizes her* You must be Pamina! That's why I was brought here by the spirits!

Your mother sent me. I'm supposed to rescue you and bring you to Prince Tamino! And if all goes well, we will all live happily ever after... I will even get my Papagena!

Pamina

How do I know I can trust you?

Papageno

How can you trust me? Well, I was given these Silver Bells by your Mother's back up dancers, the Three Ladies!

Pamina

THE Silver Bells?

Papageno

Like the bells on the Polar Express!

Pamina

I trust you.

She looks at them.

I have never seen them up close before...

The guards make noise offstage.

Oh no! They're coming back!

Papageno

AAAAA!!! What should we do? Where can we hide?

Pamina

Don't panic. I have a plan. When I say "Go," play the bells!

Papageno

When you say what?

Pamina

"Go!"

Papageno

Okay!

He begins to play the bells.

Pamina

Not yet!

Monostatos and his guards reenter.

Monostatos

So! You've found a new friend while we were away? *To the guards* Boys! Tie them both up!

Guards

You got it boss!

Pamina

To Papageno Now!

Papageno

What?

Pamina

GO!!!

The actor playing Papageno starts to "play" the bells by singing a song of his choosing. The Guards and Monostatos start dancing. It is the power of the bells! The dancing should be as exaggerated and ridiculous as possible.

Pamina

It's working!

The guards dance offstage.

Papageno

Now we just need to get back to the Queen of the Night before—

All

From offstage Make way for Sarastro! Make way for Sarastro!

Papageno

Uh-oh...

Pamina

I wonder if the bells that called them here!

All

Make way for Sarastro! Make way for Sarastro!

Narrator 3

Pamina thought their situation was dire,
She cried--

Pamina

--Out of the pan and into the fire!

Papageno and Pamina exit. Tamino enters. They don't see each other.

Scene 3

Narrator 1

Meanwhile...

Tamino still wondered how he became so lost,
But he had sworn he would free her no matter the cost!

Narrator 2

So...

Tamino yelled out with all of his might,

Tamino

Where is the daughter of the Queen of the Night?!

Narrator 2

A chorus of voices came echoing back,

All

From offstage Keep going, young Prince, you're on the right track!

Narrator 3

They said...

All

Offstage As you search, you must remain mute!

All Narrators

So Tamino called her with his Magic Flute!

*Tamino begins to "play" the flute. Just like when Papageno "played" the bells,
Tamino sings a song of his choosing to be the music of the flute.*

Narrator 1

As Tamino wandered through the dark bramble,
His music attracted every strange animal!

The animals enter and start to dance.

Narrator 2

Lions, tigers, and bears were entranced,
And to the sound of the flute, they started to dance!

Narrator 3

When Tamino was playing his musical spell,
He heard the peel of some strange, distant bells.

Tamino

Those were Papageno's magic bells! I would bet anything he found Pamina!

Narrator 3

Tamino ran with his flute in hand,
And came to the edge of the Queen's darkened land.

Tamino

If I take one more step, it will be the farthest away from home I've ever been.

The animals exit.

Narrator 1

Tamino arrived at Sarastro's filled with pride,
He opened the door and stepped slowly inside.

Sarastro, Papageno, Pamina, and the entire chorus enter the stage.

All

Welcome, Prince Tamino!

Papageno

Tamino!? Is it really you!?

Pamina

To herself It is really him?

Tamino

To himself Is it really her?

Sarastro

Hello, Prince Tamino!

Tamino

Step back evil one! Give me Pamina before I—

Sarastro

Patience, little man. I have just finished explaining everything to your friends.

Narrator 2

Sarastro told Tamino about the day and the night,
And Tamino realized that Sarastro was right!

Tamino

So, the Queen of the Night is actually evil?

Sarastro

Yes, I'm afraid so.

Tamino

It's strange. The more I experience, the more I realize how much I don't understand. When I began this quest, it all seemed so simple.

Sarastro

You've found Pamina, the simple part of your journey is finished. Now, you three—

Papageno

Don't you mean, "You two?"

Sarastro

No, Papageno. You still have a part to play in all of this. All three of you must now prepare yourself to unite the kingdoms and be better leaders than those who came before you.

You all must pass the trials in our temple and bring peace to our land.

Narrator 1

So, the three young friends went into the dark,
To face new trials and to make their mark.

Narrator 2

But this time, they were not as afraid,
Because they knew that they could be wise and brave.

All Narrators

They knew they *could* make it through the trials alive,
With their friends, Bells, and Flute by their side.

All

To be continued!

End of Part I