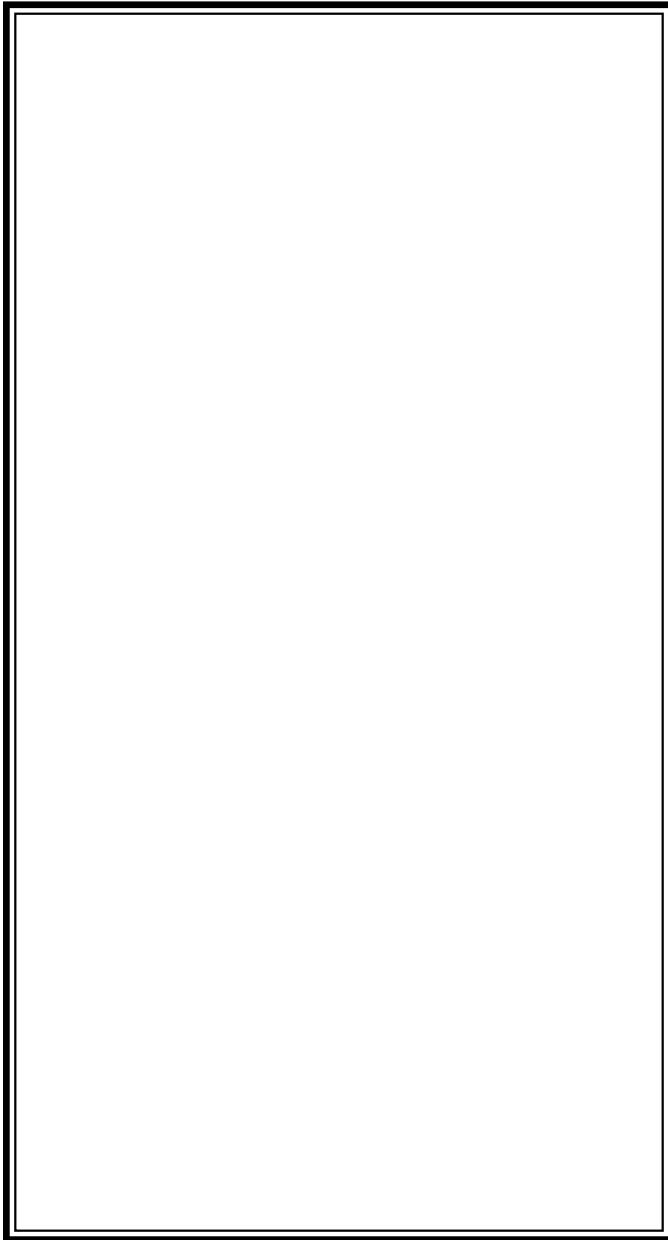


PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY

# Painting a Picture with ...

Have you ever heard the phrase “to paint a picture with words”? It might sound like a silly idea to craft an image with words, but in fact this phrase gets to the very heart of Wagner’s conception of opera. Wagner believed that opera was most compelling when images, words, and music all worked together to tell the story. In this activity, you will be invited to “paint a picture” of a character using images, words, and music from the opera.

When the opera begins, pick a character to track over the course of the performance. What does this character look like? How do other people describe them? What does the music tell you about the character? As you learn about the character, jot down a few ideas in each of the categories below. Then, after the opera, use your notes to draw a picture of this character. How does your portrait differ from what the character looked like onstage?



### Painting a Picture with ... *Images*

Something I saw:

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### Painting a Picture with ... *Words*

Something I read:

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### Painting a Picture with ... *Music*

Something I heard:

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Other observations:

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