

PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY

Broadway Operations

Since its premiere at the Alvin Theatre on Broadway, critics and audiences have argued over whether *Porgy and Bess* is an opera or a work of musical theater. In fact, it is regularly performed in both types of venues by performers of both styles.

As you watch *Porgy and Bess*, consider the characteristics below, and rank them on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing a style most typical of musical theater and 5 representing a style most typical of opera. After the performance, add all of your scores together and divide by 13 to produce your final score!

	MUSICAL THEATER	>	>	>	OPERA
Porgy's vocal style	1	2	3	4	5
Bess's vocal style	1	2	3	4	5
Crown's vocal style	1	2	3	4	5
Sportin' Life's vocal style	1	2	3	4	5
Continuous singing	1	2	3	4	5
Spoken dialogue	1	2	3	4	5
Role of the chorus	1	2	3	4	5
Role of the orchestra	1	2	3	4	5
Dance numbers	1	2	3	4	5
Musical virtuosity	1	2	3	4	5
Accessible music in a popular style	1	2	3	4	5
Hit songs	1	2	3	4	5
Substantial length	1	2	3	4	5

My score: _____