

MUSIC ACTIVITY: SOUNDSCAPE

A soundscape is defined as the acoustic environment, all the sounds that make up a certain place. For example, the soundscape of a busy restaurant is made up of people talking, quiet music playing in the background, the clinking of forks, high heels walking past on the floor.

Choose a setting from within *The Magic Flute* to create a soundscape of. Start with one person making a simple sound that might be found within that environment. The sounds can be made with voices, body percussion, instruments or whatever you may have in your class. Slowly layer sounds on top of one another, encouraging students to join in with sounds as they think of them. Students continue making their sounds while others are being added. Once the whole class is contributing to the soundscape, begin allowing them to remove themselves one at a time, until you are left with the original sound that started the soundscape.

The Magic Flute takes place in a fantasy setting, and the sounds within the acoustic environment can vary depending on imagination. There are no right or wrong sounds, and they do not need to be rhythmic. It is a blending of sounds rather than a musical piece.



Julia Kogan as The Queen of the Night, in *The Magic Flute*. Manitoba Opera, 2010. Photo: R. Tinker.