

## Enlightened Opera | Enlightened Principles

“Enlightenment is man’s release from his self-incurred tutelage. Tutelage is man’s inability to make use of his understanding without direction from another. Self-incurred is this tutelage when its cause lies not in lack of reason but in lack of resolution and courage to use it without direction from another. *Sapere aude!* ‘Have courage to use your own reason!’—that is the motto of enlightenment.”

—Immanuel Kant, “What Is Enlightenment” (1784)

[Lines 1–2]

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;  
The proper study of mankind is man.

[Lines 19–24]

Go, wondrous creature! Mount where science guides,  
Go, measure earth, weigh air, and state the tides;  
Instruct the planets in what orbs to run,  
Correct old time, and regulate the sun;  
Go, soar with Plato to th’ empyreal sphere,  
To the first good, first perfect, and first fair.

—Alexander Pope, Epistle II from *An Essay on Man* (1733)

“Only through Beauty’s morning-gate, dost thou penetrate the land of knowledge.”

—Friedrich Schiller, “The Artists” (1789)

Our hopes, as to the future condition of the human species, may be reduced to three points: the destruction of inequality between different nations; the progress of equality in one and the same nation; and lastly, the real improvement of man.

Will not every nation one day arrive at the state of civilization attained by those people who are most enlightened, most free, most exempt from prejudices, as the French, for instance, and the Anglo-Americans? Will not the slavery of countries subjected to kings ... gradually vanish? Is there upon the face of the globe a single spot the inhabitants of which are condemned by nature never to enjoy liberty, never to exercise their reason?

—Marie-Jean-Antoine-Nicolas Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet,  
*Outlines of a Historical View of the Progress of the Human Mind* (1795)

Notes:

## Enlightened Opera | Enlightened Principles (CONTINUED)

“Some years ago I was struck by the large number of falsehoods that I had accepted as true in my childhood, and by the highly doubtful nature of the whole edifice that I had subsequently based on them. I realized that it was necessary, once in the course of my life, to demolish everything completely and start again right from the foundations if I wanted to establish anything at all in the sciences that was stable and likely to last.”

—René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641)

“To properly understand political power and trace its origins, we must consider the state that all people are in naturally. That is a state of perfect freedom of acting and disposing of their own possessions and persons as they think fit within the bounds of the law of nature. People in this state do not have to ask permission to act or depend on the will of others to arrange matters on their behalf. The natural state is also one of equality in which all power and jurisdiction is reciprocal and no one has more than another. It is evident that all human beings—as creatures belonging to the same species and rank and born indiscriminately with all the same natural advantages and faculties—are equal amongst themselves.”

—John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (1689)

“We have dared to be free, let us be thus by ourselves and for ourselves. Let us imitate the grown child: his own weight breaks the boundary that has become an obstacle to him. What people fought for us? What people wanted to gather the fruits of our labor? And what dishonorable absurdity to conquer in order to be enslaved. Enslaved? ... Let us leave this description for the French; they have conquered but are no longer free.

Let us walk down another path; let us imitate those people who, extending their concern into the future, and dreading to leave an example of cowardice for posterity, preferred to be exterminated rather than lose their place as one of the world's free peoples.”

—Haitian Declaration of Independence (1804)

Notes:



## Enlightened Opera | Excerpts

### EXCERPT 1 (TRACK 1, MOoD CLIP 12)

**PRIEST:** Who comes now to the temple door?  
Pray tell, what are you searching for?

**TAMINO:** It's love and virtue that I seek.

**PRIEST:** Your words disclose a noble mind.  
But wait—how would you undertake this?  
For love will not be yours to find  
while death and vengeance cloud your judgment.

**TAMINO:** But villains all deserve to die!

**PRIEST:** There is no villain in this temple.

**TAMINO:** Is this the temple of Sarastro?

**PRIEST:** Yes, here the great Sarastro rules.

**TAMINO:** He is a monster and my foe!

**PRIEST:** And can you prove what you are saying?

**TAMINO:** The Queen of the Night can prove it.  
She suffers grief and constant woe.

**PRIEST:** The vengeful Queen has made you blind.  
The golden disk of the Sun  
our Brotherhood helps to protect.  
She plots to steal the golden disk  
and plunge the world into darkness.

**TAMINO:** The Queen has tangled me in lies!  
To free myself from her deceit,  
you mean that I must join Sarastro?

**PRIEST:** Or never find the truth you seek.

**TAMINO:** Where is she?  
I have sworn to save her.  
How will I ever find Pamina?

**PRIEST:** Unless you join the Brotherhood,  
you will not find the love you seek.

*Notes:*

### EXCERPT 2 (TRACK 2, MOoD CLIP 15)

**PAMINA/PAPAGENO:** Bells with such a magic charm  
made our captors leave us.  
No one's come to any harm.  
Who would now believe us?  
Music lets mankind agree,  
joined in peaceful harmony.  
Evil men are put to flight,  
loss is turned to laughter.  
When the darkness yields to light,  
happiness comes after!

*Notes:*

## Enlightened Opera | Excerpts (CONTINUED)

### EXCERPT 3 (TRACK 3, MOoD CLIP 18)

**CHORUS:** Long life to Sarastro!  
Our order's foundation!  
He judges with wisdom  
and rules with compassion.

**SARASTRO:** Bring them within our temple  
walls,  
where these young men are to be tried.  
Cover their heads. They may not see.  
They must now first be purified.

**CHORUS:** When love joins with integrity  
and virtue triumphs over vice,  
then mankind truly will be free,  
and earth become a paradise.

*Notes:*

### EXCERPT 4 (TRACK 4, MOoD CLIP 28)

**SARASTRO:** Within our sacred Temple,  
all error we forgive.  
Revenge is never taken.  
By love do all men live.  
Forever faithful and forthright,  
we pledge ourselves to guard the light.

*Notes:*

### EXCERPT 5 (TRACK 5, MOoD CLIP 41)

**SARASTRO:** The Sun's golden splendor  
has banished the night!  
The forces of darkness  
are vanquished by right.

**CHORUS:** Hail the two who triumphed!  
They conquered the night.  
Hail, hail, Isis and Osiris.  
Hail, hail, we look to your light!

So courage has triumphed  
and true love is crowned.  
The world now will brighten.  
Let wisdom resound.

*Notes:*