



OPERA

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**GRAND OPERA, ON STAGE,
ON SCREEN - & 'OUTDOORS'!**

The world of Opera has opened up to Culture Live members over the past year.

Many of us are familiar with amateur performances at the Playhouse - or visiting opera companies at the Charter Theatre. But the range is limited and the venues inadequate to enjoy this sublime art form at its best!

Yet no more than 30 miles from our doorstep, 1st rate opera companies visit on a regular basis. Opera North brings productions to the Lowry in Salford every Spring and Autumn. Welsh National Opera perform a regular diet of Verdi, Puccini, Mozart and Tchaikovsky at Liverpool Empire. English Touring Opera perform regularly at Blackpool Grand and at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston. At all of these venues seat prices begin at around £20, slaying the myth that opera is expensive.

Outstanding performances from two of the world's great opera venues - London's Royal Opera House and New York's Metropolitan Opera can be enjoyed in local cinemas; live broadcasts from The Royal Opera are regular features at both of Preston's cinemas - and you only have to travel to Bolton Vue to enjoy 'The Met'! Price? About £15!

That's not to say we wouldn't consider visiting these venues in person if time and budgets permit!

Some of our most enjoyable experiences in the past months have been at the summer Opera Festivals at Longborough in the Cotswolds and Buxton in the Peak District where we enjoyed first rate performances of Tristan und Isolde, La Traviata, Macbeth and La Bohème in beautiful surroundings.

In 2019 we plan spreading our wings further - looking to take in the Wexford Festival in Southern Ireland in late October and early November. Finally we 'reconnoitred' Verona for you last year. We plan seeing Aida and il Trovatore in June 2019 at the famous Roman Arena and for an all-in price of around £450 for flight, hotel and two really Grand Operas. *What's not to like!*

So please check out the Activity Calendar to see what's on - and get further information at our bi-monthly Culture Live Planning Meetings.

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