

Aida briefing note for schools

- We are about to become part of an opera. What's an opera? You may have something in your mind, but this is like music theatre – and highly dramatic, with a trial, an innocent victim and crooked, unfair judges!
- Aida is an opera set in Ancient Egypt.
- Characters
 - Radames – he is innocent, but is accused of terrible crimes, and is about to stand trial in front of...
 - The Chief Judge – who hates Radames and has made up a lot of untrue evidence to make sure his enemy is found guilty
 - All the rest of the Judges – they are scared of the powerful Chief Judge and will just agree with everything he says and find Radames guilty rather than thinking for themselves.
These are the parts you are going to play!
 - Amneris – she is the lawyer who is trying to defend Radames.

So to learn our parts as the judges, you will need to copy back the part of the chief judge. Please see the presentation and/or lyric document.

- The parts in bold
- A lot of the time you just copy back
- Sometimes you copy back, but a bit higher
- There are two bits where you need to learn how they go, because there is no copy back

When you get to the Great Orchestra Experiment, you'll have the words on the screen. The backing tracks provided is us singing with a piano – but at the GOE you will hear the music with a full orchestra, Chief Judges for you to copy, hundreds of judges (you), and an amazing singer playing the part of Amneris.

What happens at the end of the trial – you'll have to come to GOE and see.....