

THE NIGHTINGALE

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a traditional Chinese garment with a dark collar and a yellow patterned body. The child's eyes are closed, and they have a serene expression. A small, light-colored bird with a yellow breast and a dark eye is perched on a dark branch in front of the child. The background is a warm, reddish-orange gradient with soft, glowing light effects.

SOCIAL STORY

**WEST
AUSTRALIAN
OPERA
2020**

**3, 4 OCTOBER
HIS MAJESTY'S
THEATRE**

I am going to see an opera
called The Nightingale
by West Australian Opera.



Opera is a type of classical music that combines theatre, music and dance. Opera singers act out a story on a stage like actors do.

The opera will be performed
at His Majesty's Theatre.



His Majesty's Theatre
is in the city. The outside
looks like this.



His Majesty's Theatre
looks like this inside.

THE STORY

The Nightingale is a traditional fairy tale written by a popular children's author Hans Christian Andersen.

The Nightingale tells the story of an Emperor enchanted by the singing of a Nightingale bird. He gets The Nightingale to sing for him whenever he can.

However, one day the Emperor receives a fancy mechanical Nightingale that sings for him whenever he wants.

The real Nightingale flies away.



A Nightingale is a small bird with a beautiful voice.
Nightingales live in the woodlands.

THE STORY (continued)...

The mechanical Nightingale breaks down
and the Emperor becomes very ill.
Death comes to get him.

When the real Nightingale hears of how sick
the Emperor is, she returns to visit him and
sings. Death is so moved by The Nightingale's
song that she allows the Emperor to live.

The Nightingale agrees to continue to sing
for the Emperor if he allows her to sing
for all the people.



Emperors and Empresses are monarchs like Kings or Queens. In this story of The Nightingale the Emperor is the ruler of stories.

In an opera, instead of speaking, they sing.
In The Nightingale, there will be a choir
singing on stage.

The choir will be the voice of The Nightingale
and some of the other characters.



The Choir sings the voice of The Nightingale.

In The Nightingale there will also be actors and a dancer.

Before the show begins, the actors, choir, musicians, and dancer will come on stage and introduce themselves.

The actors play different characters and use costumes to help explain their part.



A dancer plays the role of The Nightingale.

The Nightingale opera will use puppets, lights, shadows, sounds and music to help tell the story in a way that may seem real.



Shadow puppetry is one way of telling a story.

Operas have musicians
in an orchestra
playing music.



The orchestra plays in the orchestra pit
in the lower part, in front of the stage

Operas are full of emotion and people react to them in different ways.

Clapping is the way the audience tell the performers that they are enjoying the show.

I can clap if I want to.



At the end of the show, I will see lots
of people getting up to leave.

I may not feel comfortable leaving
with everyone and can stay in my seat
a little bit longer.

I can then leave when I am ready.



These are the doors that people leave the theatre from.

We hope that you have a fantastic time
seeing The Nightingale.

NB: Death in this performance is represented by offstage singing voice and visual lighting changes



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