

DUNEDIN CONSORT

The Dunedin Consort Guide to Opera



Creating an Opera – Part 4 (25 minutes)

Today you are going to be getting into the role of a costume designer, by designing your very own costumes for a prominent opera character!

To guide you there are some paper doll templates on the last two pages of this exercise sheet.

What you will need:

scissors, glue, colourful pencils or pens, or anything to decorate your costumes with.

1. Choose one of the two characters below. There is a short description of each to help you decide which one you would prefer:

A) Queen of the Night (Soprano)

The Queen of the Night is a character from Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*. She is a fierce and powerful queen who reigns over the Kingdom of the Night. But this is not enough for her – she wants to rule the entire universe. And in order to achieve her goal she will do literally anything...

B) Oberon, King of the Fairies (Countertenor)

Oberon is a character from Britten's opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is a kind-hearted ruler of the spirit world and he brings peace and health to his fairy folk. But his personality is not all kindness. In this story, Oberon gets very jealous of his wife, Tytania, and plays some rather nasty tricks on her before they finally get reunited.

2. Print out your chosen character and cut out the main character from the sheet.

3. Make some choices about their clothes and hair style, and then cut out the designs that you like from the sheet. Feel free to change the shapes according to your taste, or create your own! (For Oberon you also have the choice to make him look older).

Remember: don't cut off the attached paper strips – you'll need them to fold around your paper doll.

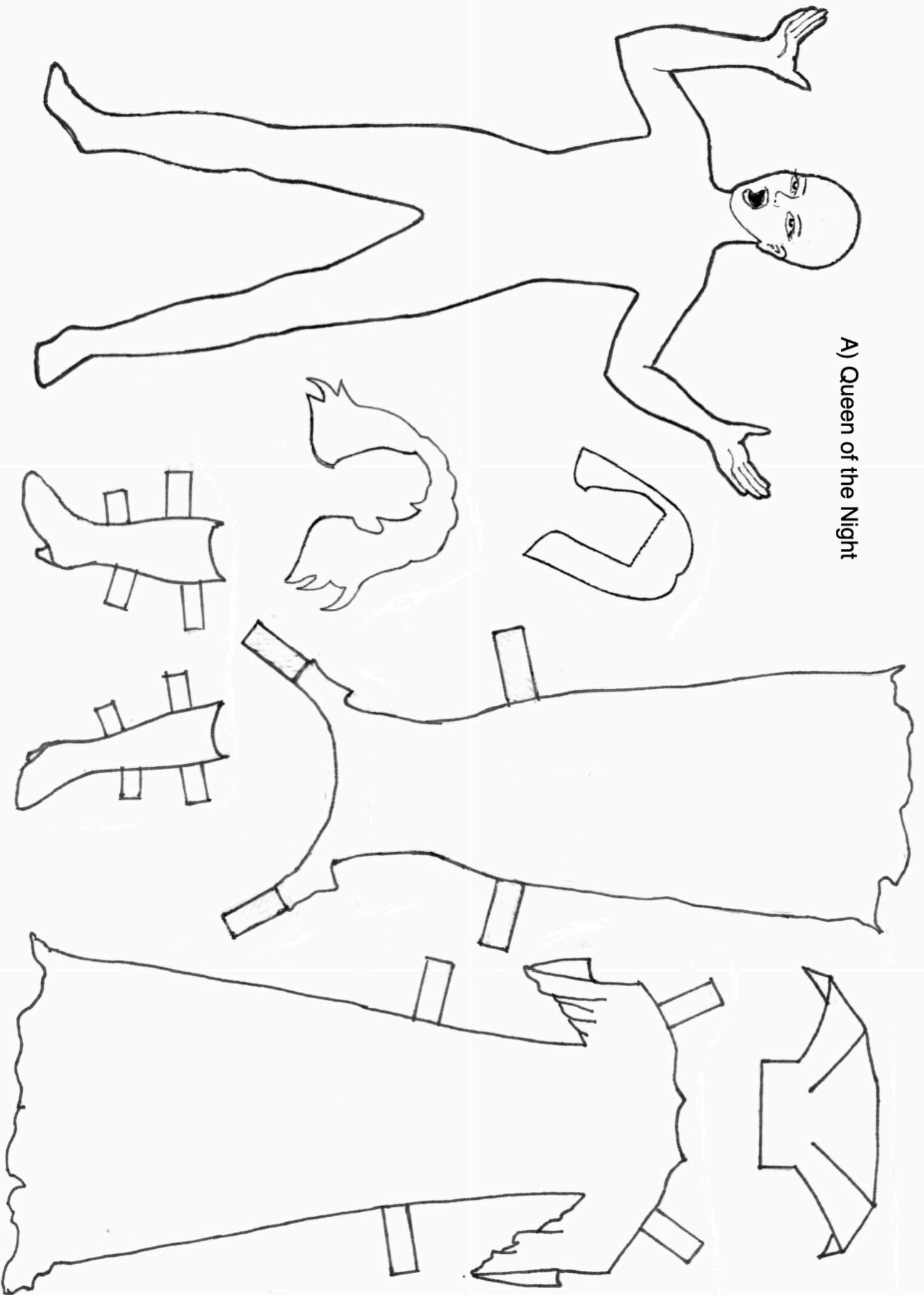
4. Colour in and decorate with whatever you like. Don't forget the make-up, and let your imagination run wild!

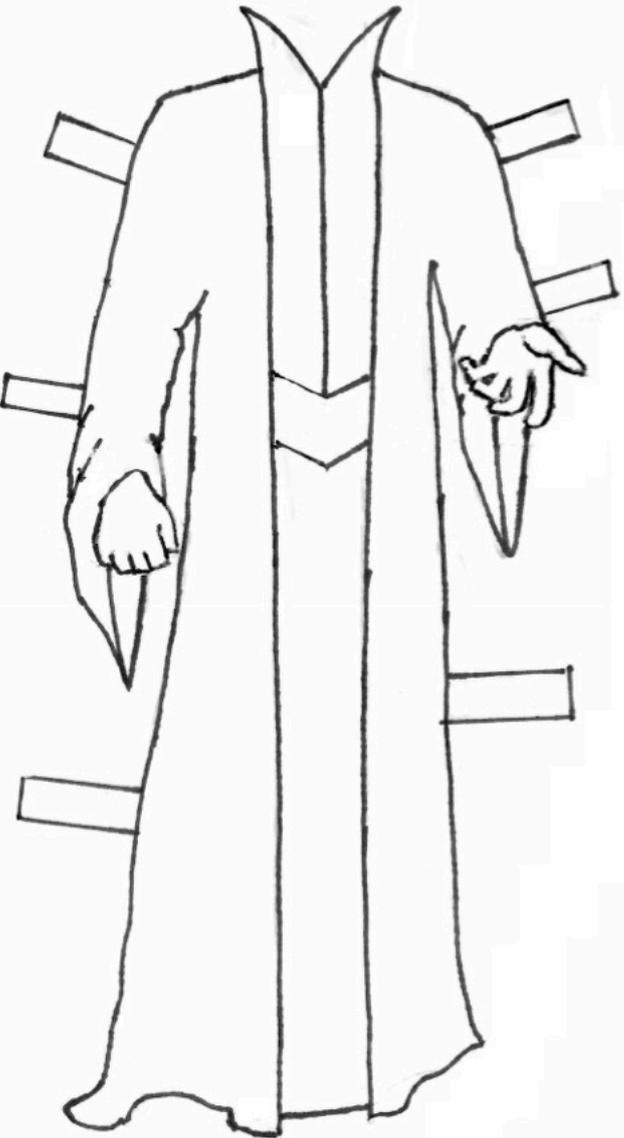
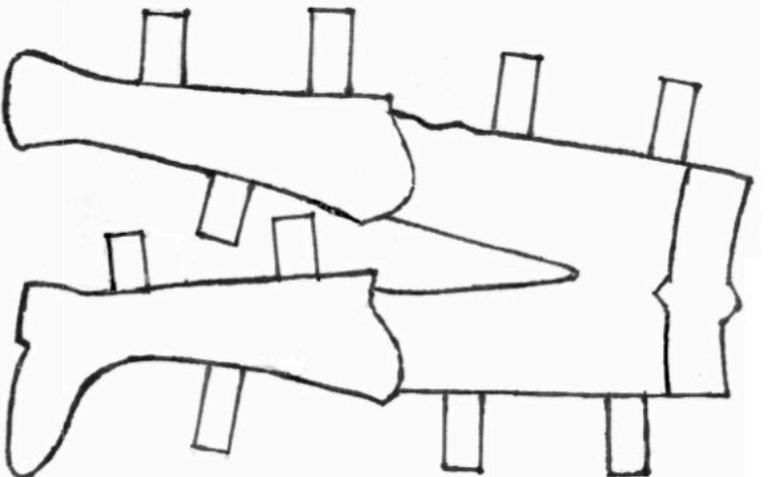
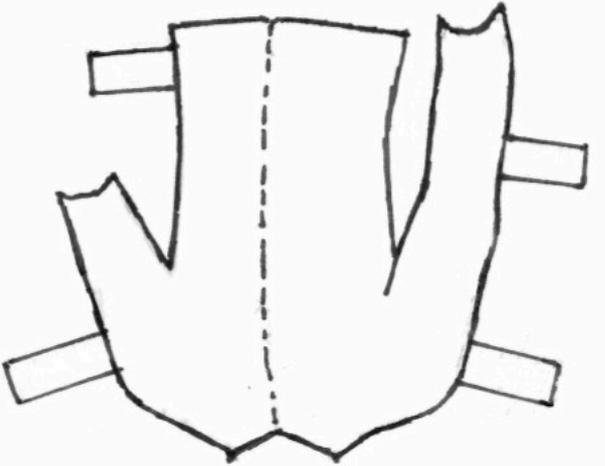
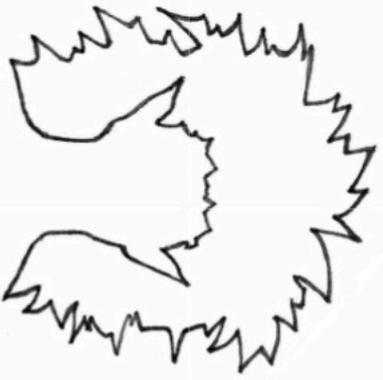
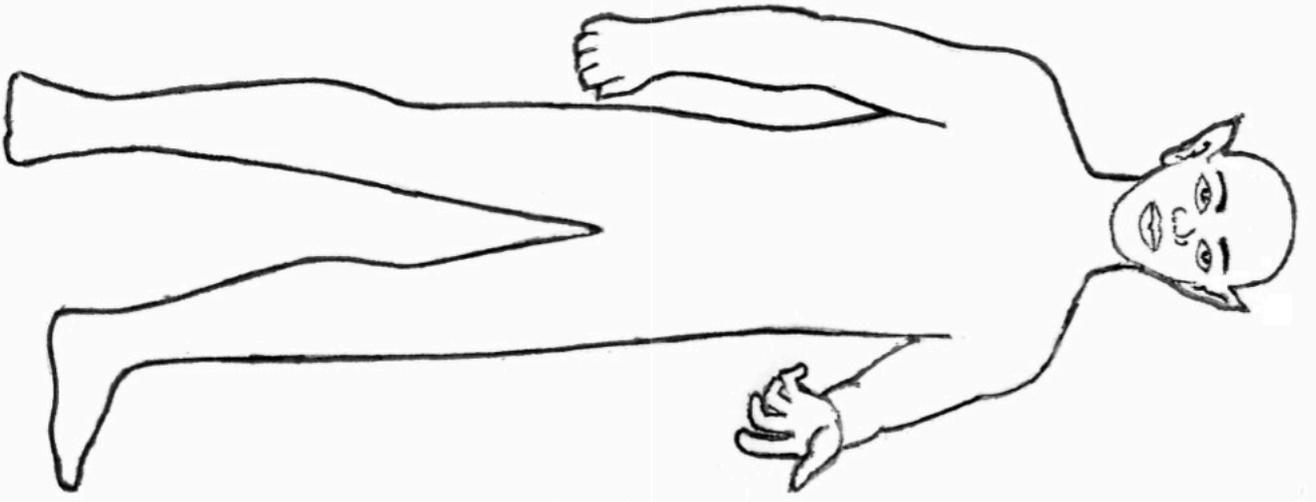
Top Tips

- On the stage in a big opera house the singers can sometimes look pretty small and far away. Make sure your design stands out in colour/shape/decoration.
- Where does your character live? Maybe this will give you some ideas about their costume?
- Anything is possible. You don't have to stick to what you find on the sheet at all!

HAVE FUN!

A) Queen of the Night





B) Oberon, King of the Fairies