

Divas

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Kiri Te Kanawa, Leontyne Price, Charlotte Church

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Maria Callas Vissi d'arte' Tosca by Puccini. (I lived for art.)

A prayer Tosca sings as she faces the execution of her lover Mario Cavaradossi.

[Maria Callas - Vissi d'Arte \(Covent Garden 1964, from film Maria by Callas\) - YouTube](#) 4.01

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[Who Sang The "Queen Of The Night" Staccatos The Best? \(F6\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 3.50 First section

Only **Lyric soprano**

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[According to ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE this is the best performance of THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT #opera \(youtube.com\)](#) 45 secs

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[Cecilia Bartoli Longest breath ever - YouTube](#)

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[What Opera's 11 Types of Female Singers Sound Like \(w/examples!\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 15. 36

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Let's look at some examples:

Leontyne Price, spinto soprano.

One who has easy high notes yet can be pushed to achieve dramatic climaxes without strain.

First Afro American soprano to receive international acclaim. Related to Dionne Warwick. Born in 1927 (aged 97)

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[Leontyne Price sings Madama Butterfly \(vaimusic.com\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 4.41 **Spinto soprano**

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Example of a Coloratura soprano.

Dame Joan Sutherland, Australian coloratura soprano, also known as La Stupenda. From Sydney. Moved to London to study after winning the Mobil Song Quest. Married to conductor Richard Bonyngue who helped her realise that she was a coloratura soprano (one who specialises in agile runs, leaps and trills). Held in great esteem in Australia. Though died and buried in Switzerland, State memorial service held at the Sydney Opera House.

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[Joan Sutherland - The Top 10 E-flats \(youtube.com\)](#) 3.00 **Coloratura soprano**

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Wagnerian soprano: Big voice that can be heard over a large orchestra, denser in tone evenly balanced.

[WAGNER - Ride of the Valkyries \(Die Walküre Akt 3\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 10.00 **Dramatic or Wagnerian soprano**

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Soprano Part singing. Soprano one always seems to have the melody while poor old soprano two has to harmonise without being put off!

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[Soprano 1 vs. Soprano 2 in a Choir | Tanya Roberts \(youtube.com\)](#) 2.47

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Let's listen to Leontyne Price singing Song to the Moon while looking at a group of divas with a few famous divos too!

[LEONTYNE PRICE - SONG TO THE MOON, RUSALKA \(MY FAVORITE OPERA SINGERS OF ALL TIME\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 6.26 Selection of famous divas with a few males for good measure.

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Janet Baker mezzo soprano

Born 1933 Doncaster

Mezzo voice lies between soprano and alto. Divided into coloratura, lyric and dramatic.

Kathleen Ferrier Contralto.

Roles tend to be Stereotyped. Witches, bitches and britches. (translates wise women). Born 1912 Died 1952 from breast cancer. Lancashire lass.

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[Drink to Me only with Thine Eyes \(Arr. Ronald Kinloch Anderson\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 2.47

[Kathleen Ferrier.LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY. LIVE PERFORMANCE.1951.Manchester Free Trade Hall.England. \(youtube.com\)](#) 4.27

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Can't talk about divas without listening to Kiri!

[Kiri Te Kanawa - O Mio Babbino Caro \(youtube.com\)](#) 3.04 Puccini Gianni Schicchi

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[Nicole Scherzinger - Phantom of the Opera \(youtube.com\)](#) 5.35

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Aged 38. Welsh child prodigy. Tried to move into pop but not very successful.

[Charlotte Church - Panis Angelicus \(Live From Brixton Academy\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 5.38

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Montserrat Caballe and Freddie Mercury duet. He was a great admirer of hers. Rare excursion into the pop world made a duet in 1987 called Barcelona Caballe's home town. Later used as the theme song for 1992 Olympic Games which took place in Barcelona. Also used before Champion's League football final in 1999. Tax evasion?

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[Freddie Mercury & Montserrat Caballé - Barcelona \(Original David Mallet Video 1987 Remastered\) \(youtube.com\)](#) 4.27

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Prima Donna

[The One and Only Dame KIRI TE KANAWA - Art is calling for me! A Prima Donna Song - Enchantress \(youtube.com\) 4.00](#)

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Phantom of the Opera

[Prima Donna \(youtube.com\) 4.00](#)

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[dame edna in royal box \(youtube.com\)](#)