

## УСТНЫЙ ТУР

(КОМПЛЕКТ ЗАДАНИЙ ДЛЯ УЧАЩИХСЯ 9-11 КЛАССОВ)

### SPEAKING

Карточка участника

#### **Student 1 Set 1: The Bolshoi Theatre**

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Bolshoi Theatre (Moscow)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on:

- History of the theatre
- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

#### **Task 1**

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Bolshoi Theatre** in Moscow. You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

#### **Task 2**

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Royal Opera House** in London to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

## FACT FILE

### The Bolshoi Theatre



Home to one of the oldest, and probably the most famous, ballet, and opera companies in the world **Bolshoi Theatre** is definitely one of Moscow's major landmarks. The Bolshoi Theatre is renowned all over the world for such brilliant ballet dancers as Maya Plisetskaya, Vladimir Vasiliev, Galina Ulanova, Maris Liepa. They built the theater's reputation and boosted their careers into the dazzling heights of international success. At present time the stage is glorified by new talents.

#### **History**

The Bolshoi Theater is more than 250 years old. Its history goes back to 1776 when Empress Catherine II granted Prince Pyotr Urusov a license to establish theatrical performances in Russia. So, the theatre began its life as the private theatre, and its first name was Petrovsky. Urusov set up the theatre in collaboration with English tightrope walker Michael Maddox. Initially, it held performances in a private home, but it acquired the Petrovka Theatre and on 30 December 1780 its grand opening took place, and the theatre began producing plays and operas, thus establishing what would become the Bolshoi Theatre.

Fire destroyed the Petrovka Theatre on 8 October 1805, and the New Arbat Imperial Theatre replaced it on 13 April 1808. At that time, fires happened frequently, and the building of the Bolshoi burned down several times. A massive fire that wrecked the building took place in 1812 when Napoleon's army approached Moscow.

The first instance of the theatre was built between 1821 and 1824, designed and supervised to completion by architect Joseph Bové based upon an initial competition-winning design created by the Russian architect Andrei Mikhailov. The new building opened on 18 January 1825 as the Bolshoi Petrovsky Theatre with a performance of the ballet. Initially, it presented only Russian works, but foreign composers entered the repertoire around 1840.

In 1843 a large-scale reconstruction of the theatre took place using a design by A. Nikitin, but a fire in 1853 caused extensive damage and so a further reconstruction was carried out by Alberto Cavos, the son of the opera composer Catterino Cavos. The Bolshoi that we can see today is the fourth one. Its opening

took place on August 20, 1856, during the coronation of Tsar Alexander II. On 7 December 1919 the house was renamed the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre.

### **Renovation**

A new stage for the Bolshoi Theatre, called the New Stage, went into service on 29 November 2002, constructed to the left of the theatre's historic main stage. Together with auxiliary buildings – a restored 17th-century building, two rehearsal halls, and artists' recreation rooms – it forms a single theatre complex, the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

From July 2005 to October 2011 the theatre was closed for restoration. The building, whose architecture combines three different styles, was damaged and a renovation seemed to be necessary since the engineers found that more than 75% of the structure was unstable.

The renovation included restoring acoustics to the original quality (which had been lost during the Soviet Era), as well as restoring the original Imperial decor of the Bolshoi. Finally, on 28 October 2011, the Bolshoi Theatre re-opened with a concert featuring international artists and the ballet and opera companies. The first staged opera, *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, followed soon after.

### **Repertoire**

The Bolshoi is a repertory theatre, meaning that it draws from a list of productions, any one of which may be performed on a given evening. To date, 70% of the theatre's repertoire is works by Russian composers' masterpieces of the 19th century. But a significant portion of the time is also devoted to contemporary works, as well as opera and ballet.

The Bolshoi has been associated from its beginnings with ballet. Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* premiered at the theatre on 4 March 1877. Since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the company toured internationally and the "Bolshoi Ballet" became a well-known name in the world. They have been applauded in Paris, New York, London, Milan, Munich, Tokyo and Hong Kong amongst many other destinations.

In 2004, the Bolshoi Theatre was awarded the State Prize of Russia for the ballet *The Queen of Spades*, and fourteen times honoured with the Golden Mask award.

### **Location and Tickets**

The Bolshoi Theatre is located at 1 Teatralnaya Ploshchad, in downtown Moscow. It's possible to walk to the site from central attractions such as Red Square, which is about 10 minutes away. The closest metro stations are Teatralnaya (Line 2) and Okhotny Ryad (Line 1), which are both just a few minutes' walk from the theater.

Ticket prices can range from 300 rubles for the cheapest location, up to around 20,000 rubles. There are discounts for students of Russian universities. Sale of tickets to the Bolshoi Theatre is done through the official website on the internet and through the box office from 11.00 am to 20.00 pm.

## SPEAKING

Карточка участника

### Student 1 Set 1: The Royal Opera House

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Royal Opera House (London)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on:

- History of the theatre
- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

#### Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Royal Opera House** in London.

You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

#### Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Bolshoi Theatre** in Moscow to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

## FACT FILE

### Royal Opera House



Largely thanks to this magnificent architectural ensemble, London has become one of the centres of the world theatrical art. The large building of the **Royal Opera House** is often referred to as simply **Covent Garden**, after a previous use of the site. It is now the home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

#### History

Until 1731, this territory was occupied by the city park and the buildings of the Westminster Abbey. Designed by James Shepherd and an Italian artist Jacopo Amigoni, who designed the interior, John Rich, an actor-manager, built the first theatre. At that time, the dimensions were quite impressive, the hall could accommodate 1897 spectators. The opening ceremony took place in December 1732. In 1734, the first ballet was presented. A year later, the first season of operas, by George Frideric Handel, began. Many of his operas were specifically written for Covent Garden and had their premieres there.

On September 20, 1808 the theatre was destroyed in a great fire. The construction of the second theatre began immediately under the supervision of Robert Smirk. He was a very famous architect in England, famous for the creation of many significant London buildings. The opening of the theatre was marked by Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* on September 18, 1809. The renovated hall was enlarged in size, accommodating 3000 spectators. Many famous actors of the day appeared at the theatre, including the great tragic actress Sarah Siddons.

In 1847 the Italian Opera troupe joined the cast, and Covent Garden was now called the Royal Italian Opera. Many of the greatest creations of glorious composers have been performed there. But on March 5, 1856, the theatre caught fire again, the roof collapsed after about half an hour. Only a year later, funds were raised for its restoration.

The third theatre designed by Edward M. Barry was built in the spirit of the Italian Renaissance. The renovated theatre opened on May 15, 1858. And in 1892,

when the number of operas in other languages began to be given as much as in Italian, Covent Garden was renamed the Royal Opera House.

It was only during World War I that the building was used as a warehouse. During World War II, there was a dance hall here. With great difficulties, ballet returned to the famous stage in 1946. On February 20, the theatre staged *The Sleeping Beauty* by P. Tchaikovsky.

### **Renovation**

In 1997 the theatre was closed for renovation. This involved the demolition of almost the whole site including several adjacent buildings to make room for a major increase in the size of the complex. The new building has the same traditional horseshoe-shaped auditorium as before, but with greatly improved technical, rehearsal, office, and educational facilities. The stage has expanded, a backstage space has been added, and modern computer equipment has been installed.

Additionally, more public space was created through the inclusion of the adjacent old Floral Hall. It was originally built in 1860 by the Opera House to house a flower market (also selling fruits and vegetables), hence the name. After being used as a concert hall, it became part of the Covent Garden Market in 1887. A fire broke out in the building in 1956, after which it fell into disrepair and was used as a scenery store. The redevelopment of the Floral Hall created a new and extensive public gathering place. The venue is now claimed to be the most modern theatre facility in Europe.

### **Repertoire**

The Royal Opera House is home to both the Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet. It plays host to ballets and operas that you will have heard of even if you aren't a regular audience member, like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The theatre preserves carefully its own and the world's heritage, while constantly new and exciting productions appear. Perhaps that is why the brightest stars of the world ballet like to work and perform here. The repertoire includes all the famous classical ballets, as well as the works of modern composers and choreographers.

### **Location and Tickets**

The Royal Opera House is located in London's Covent Garden district. When you arrive at Covent Garden tube station you will need to take a lift to reach street level. As you exit the tube station you will find yourself on James Street. Head down the sloping street towards the Covent Garden piazza. When you reach the piazza, turn left. You will find the Royal Opera House in the left hand corner of the Covent Garden piazza.

One of the main beliefs of the theatre management is that ballet and opera should be for everybody, not just the upper classes. This is why they offer a wide range of ticket prices depending on where you are sitting in the theatre (ticket prices can range from £10 to hundreds of pounds). Sale of tickets to the Royal Opera House is done through the official website on the internet and through the box office.

## SPEAKING

Карточка участника

### Student 3 Set 2: The Mariinsky Theatre

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about the **Mariinsky Theatre (Saint Petersburg)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on:

- History of the theatre
- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

#### Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about the **Mariinsky Theatre** in Saint Petersburg. You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

#### Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about **the Metropolitan Opera** in New York to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

## FACT FILE

### The Mariinsky Theatre



The Mariinsky Theatre is a historic theatre of opera and ballet in Saint Petersburg. Opened in 1860, it became the eminent music theatre of late 19th-century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres. Today, the Mariinsky Theatre is home to the Mariinsky Ballet, Mariinsky Opera and Mariinsky Orchestra.

#### History

The Mariinsky Theatre can trace its history as far back as 1783, when the Bolshoi Stone Theatre was opened on Carousel Square amid great pomp on 5 October. The theatre gave the square its new name – even today it is known as Theatre Square. The Bolshoi Stone Theatre impressed the public with its size, its majestic architecture and its stage, equipped with the most up-to-date theatre equipment and machinery. The Russian Opera Company performed here in turn with the Italian and French Companies, and there were also plays and concerts of vocal and instrumental music.

In 1802-1803 Thomas de Thomon – a brilliant architect and draughtsman – undertook the capital reconstruction of the interior layout and decor of the theatre, noticeably altering its external appearance and proportions. The new, grand and majestic Bolshoi Stone Theatre became one of the architectural attractions of the capital city on the River Neva along with the Admiralty, the Stock Exchange and Kazan Cathedral. But on the night of 1 January 1811 there was a tremendous fire at the theatre that seriously damaged its façade as well as the interior.

On 3 February 1818 the restored Bolshoi Stone Theatre opened once again and its “golden age” began. The repertoire of the “post-fire” era included operas by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi and many others. One of the favourite repertoire operas was Cavo’s *Ivan Susanin*, which was performed right up until the appearance of Glinka’s opera on the same theme. It was also the birth time of the international glory of Russian ballet. It was during these years that Pushkin, who immortalised the theatre in his ageless poetry, was a regular visitor to the Bolshoi Stone Theatre in St Petersburg.



In 1859 the theatre was named the Mariinsky in honour of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, wife of Alexander II. There is a bust of the Empress in the main entrance foyer. The theatre's name has changed throughout its history, reflecting the political climate of the time. Now it is referred to as the State Academic Mariinsky Theatre.

### **Renovation**

The Mariinsky Theatre has undergone several reconstructions. In 1836, to improve the acoustics the architect Alberto Cavos replaced the cupola ceiling of the auditorium with a flat one. He removed the columns from the auditorium as they interfered with the view and distorted the acoustics; he also gave the auditorium its traditional horse-shoe shape and increased its length and height to seat up to two thousand people.

In 1885 the principal architect of the Imperial Theatres Viktor Schröter added a three-storey wing to the left of the building for theatre workshops, rehearsal rooms, an electricity substation and boiler room. In 1894 under Schröter's supervision, the wooden rafters were replaced with steel and concrete, the side wings extended and the audience foyers enlarged. The main façade, too, was subject to reconstruction, taking on monumental forms.

Between 1968 and 1970 the theatre underwent a major reconstruction as a result of which the left wing of the building was "stretched out" and took on the form it has today.

### **Repertoire**

The Mariinsky Theatre secured and developed the great traditions of Russia's first musical theatre. The theatre stands out for the premieres of the most important operas in the history of Russian music like Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Snow Maiden*, Borodin's *Prince Igor*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and Musorgsky's *Khovanshchina*.

Marius Petipa, who became Director of the Ballet Company in 1869, continued the traditions of his predecessors and preserved classical works such as *Giselle* subjecting them only to careful revisions. Petipa's lucky meeting with Tchaikovsky resulted in the creation of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Swan Lake*. Today along with classics from the previous century ballets of modern composers are staged at the theatre, including the works by Sergei Prokofiev, Aram Khachaturian and Dmitry Shostakovich.

### **Location and Tickets**

The Mariinsky Theater is located to the south-west of the city center at 1 Teatralnaya square. The nearest metro stations are "Sadovaya" and "Sennaya". From the metro stations you can get to the theatre by several buses.

Tickets to performances and concerts at the Mariinsky Theatre may be purchased on the theatre's official website, at theatre box-offices and from officially licensed organisations. The ticket price depends on the performance and the place in the hall and ranges from 1,340 to 12,000 rubles.

## SPEAKING

Карточка участника

### Student 4 Set 2: The Metropolitan Opera

Preparation – 10 minutes

Prepare to speak about **The Metropolitan Opera (New York)** using the **Fact File**.

You will have to comment on:

- History of the theatre
- Renovation of the theatre
- Repertoire
- The ways of getting there
- How to buy tickets

#### Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

Imagine you are a guide telling a tourist about **the Metropolitan Opera** in New York. You have to

- comment on the 5 aspects mentioned above;
- remember to make an introduction and conclusion.

You can make notes during the preparation time, but you are not allowed to read the notes made during the preparation time.

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

#### Task 2

Now you are a tourist.

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner – a guide

2. Questions / Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about the **Mariinsky Theatre** in Saint Petersburg to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

2 presentations and questions – 15 minutes

**YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED**

## FACT FILE

### The Metropolitan Opera



The Metropolitan Opera (commonly known as the Met) is an American opera company based in New York City, currently resident at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center, situated on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The Metropolitan Opera is the largest classical music organization in North America.

#### History

The Metropolitan Opera was founded in 1883 by a group of businessmen who wanted their own theatre as an alternative to New York's old established Academy of Music opera house. The first building was built at the corner of Broadway and 39th Street. The new Metropolitan Opera House (the Met) opened on October 22, 1883, and was an immediate success. During the first season the artists gave 150 performances of 20 different operas by Bellini, Verdi, Wagner, Mozart, Bizet and others.

The company performed not only in the new Manhattan opera house, but also started a long tradition of touring throughout the country. In the winter and spring of 1884 the Met presented opera in theatres in Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington D.C., and Baltimore.

Another tradition of the Met is broadcasting its performances. The Met's broadcast history goes back to January 1910 when two live performances from the stage of the Met were transmitted. *Hänsel und Gretel* was the first complete opera broadcast from the Met on Christmas Day, 1931. Saturday afternoon live broadcasts quickly made the Met a permanent presence in communities throughout the United States and Canada. Since the 1970s, the Met has broadcast many performances on TV and radio, and since 2006, live broadcasts in high definition in cinemas in many countries around the world have been a huge success, enabling a very wide audience to enjoy opera.

The Metropolitan Opera has always hired the finest artists, like Enrico Caruso. He arrived in 1903, and when he died eighteen years later, he had sung more at the Met than at all the other opera companies of the world combined. Today, the Met

continues to present the finest talents and discovers and trains young artists through several different programmes.

### **Renovation**

The theatre was noted for its elegance and excellent acoustics and it provided a glamorous home for the company. But it was obvious from the start that the 39th Street building did not have adequate stage equipment. Over the years many plans for a new opera house were explored and abandoned, including a proposal to incorporate a new Metropolitan Opera House into the construction of Rockefeller Center. However, it was only when the Metropolitan Opera joined up with other New York institutions to create the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts that a new building could be planned. The Met held a farewell gala performance for the old house on April 16, 1966. The new Metropolitan Opera, which opened in September 1966, was equipped with the finest technical equipment.

In 1995 the Met installed its own system of presenting a scripted version of opera texts designed for the particular needs of the Met and its audiences called “Met Titles”. The system provides the audience with a script of the opera’s text in English on individual screens which face each seat.

### **Repertoire**

The operas in the Met’s repertoire consist of a wide range of works. These operas are presented in staged productions that range in style from those with elaborate traditional decors to others that feature modern conceptual designs.

The Met was responsible for the U.S. premieres of some of the most important operas including *Boris Godunov*, *Turandot*. Five most recent works include *The Great Gatsby* by John Harbison and *An American Tragedy* by Tobias Picker. Since 1976, thirty-seven operas have premiered at the Met.

The Met’s performing company consists of a large symphony orchestra, a chorus, children's choir, and many supporting and leading solo singers (both international and American artists). The company also employs numerous free-lance dancers, actors, musicians and other performers throughout the season.

### **Location and Tickets**

The Metropolitan Opera House is located within the Lincoln Center performing arts plaza. Take the 1 Local Subway Train to 66th Street / Lincoln Center Station and go south on Broadway and a slight right on Columbus Avenue to just past 64th Street. The Metropolitan Opera House is across the plaza on your right.

Tickets to performances and concerts at the Met may be purchased on the theatre's official website, at theatre box-offices and from officially licensed organisations. The ticket price depends on the performance and the place in the hall. You can find Metropolitan Opera tickets for as low as \$57, with an average price of \$210.