The word ‘opera’ is Latin and means ‘the works’; it represents a synthesis of all the other arts: drama, vocal and instrumental music, dance, and design. Consequently, it delivers an emotional impact which none of the others can match. The only one of the arts whose origins can be precisely dated, it was ‘invented’ in 1600, the year in which Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina composed his ‘Baldassare Cossa’ Mass.

The story told in opera is often more poetic than literal, more complex than simple. It is a rich tapestry of characters, settings, plot twists, and turns. The music is often beautiful and sometimes quite dramatic. The acting is often quite expressive, and the sets and costumes are often quite spectacular. The opera house is often quite grand, with its many levels and balconies. The audience often enjoys the opera because they are able to experience the story in a unique way, and they are often able to appreciate the beauty of the music and the artistry of the performers.