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Première – A Guide to the Opera

The first operas were staged in Europe around 1600. They resulted from the attempt to find a way of blending music with a dramatic plot. In the course of the genre's four-hundred-year-old history, the form of opera has gone through considerable changes.

The series presents works from the various periods. In each part, the focus is on the moments of high drama in the plot and the high points of performance by the soloists.

- 01** George Frederick Handel
Acis and Galatea

- 05** Ludwig van Beethoven
Fidelio

- 08** Albert Lortzing
The Armourer

- 09** Richard Wagner
The Mastersingers of Nuremberg

- 10** Ambroise Thomas
Mignon