

Period	Year	Opera	Composer	Notes
Baroque 1590-1750	1597	<i>Dafne</i>	Jacopo Peri	A pastoral drama featuring a new style of sung dialogue, more expressive than speech but less melodious than song
	1600	<i>Euridice</i>	Jacopo Peri	The first opera to survive in tact
	1607	<i>Orfeo</i>	Claudio Monteverdi	The earliest opera still performed today
	1639	<i>Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria (The Return of Ulysses)</i>	Claudio Monteverdi	
	1643	<i>L'incoronazione di Poppea (The Coronation of Poppea)</i>	Claudio Monteverdi	
	1647	<i>Ofeo</i>	Luigi Rossi	
	1649	<i>Giason</i>	Francesco Cavalli	
	1651	<i>La Calisto</i>	Francesco Cavalli	
	1674	<i>Alceste</i>	Jean-Baptiste Lully	
	1676	<i>Atys</i>	Jean-Baptiste Lully	
	1683	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>	John Blow	Considered the first English opera
	1686	<i>Armide</i>	Jean-Baptiste Lully	
	1689	<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>	Henry Purcell	
	1700	<i>L'Eraclea</i>	Alessandro Scarlatti	
	1710	<i>Agrippina</i>	George Frederick Handel	
	1711	<i>Rinaldo</i>	George Frederick Handel	
	1721	<i>Griselda</i>	Alessandro Scarlatti	
	1724	<i>Giulio Cesare</i>	George Frederick Handel	
	1728	<i>The Beggar's Opera</i>	John Gay	
	1731	<i>Acis and Galatea</i>	George Frederick Handel	
	1733	<i>La serva padrona (The Servant Turned Mistress)</i>	Giovanni Battista Pergolesi	
	1737	<i>Castor and Pollux</i>	Jean-Philippe Rameau	
	1744	<i>Semele</i>	George Frederick Handel	
1745	<i>Platee</i>	Jean-Philippe Rameau		
Classical 1750-1820	1760	<i>La buona figliuola (The Good-natured Girl)</i>	Niccolò Piccinni	
	1762	<i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>	Christoph Willibald Gluck	
	1768	<i>Bastien und Bastienne</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Mozart's first opera
	1777	<i>Il mondo della luna (The World on the Moon)</i>	Joseph Haydn	
	1779	<i>Iphigénie en Tauride</i>	Christoph Willibald Gluck	
	1781	<i>Idomeneo</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Mozart's first mature opera
	1782	<i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio)</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	The first of Mozart's comic masterpieces

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Classical (cont) 1750-1820	1782	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> (The Barber of Seville)	Giovanni Paisiello	Not to be confused with Rossini's more well-known opera of the same name
	1786	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> (The Marriage of Figaro)	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
	1787	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
	1790	<i>Così fan tutte</i> (Women are Like That)	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
	1791	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> (The Magic Flute)	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	
	1797	<i>Médée</i>	Luigi Cherubini	
	1805	<i>Fidelio</i>	Ludwig van Beethoven	The composer's only opera
	1812	<i>La scala di seta</i> (The Silken Ladder)	Gioachino Rossini	
	1816	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> (The Barber of Seville)	Gioachino Rossini	
		<i>Otello</i>	Gioachino Rossini	
Romantic 1800-1914	1821	<i>Der Freischütz</i> (The Marksman)	Carl Maria von Weber	The first great German Romantic opera
	1823	<i>Semiramide</i>	Gioachino Rossini	
	1826	<i>Oberon</i>	Carl Maria von Weber	
	1829	<i>Guillaume Tell</i>	Gioachino Rossini	
	1830	<i>Anna Bolena</i>	Gaetano Donizetti	
	1831	<i>Norma</i>	Vincenzo Bellini	
	1832	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i> (The Elixir of Love)	Gaetano Donizetti	
	1835	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Gaetano Donizetti	
	1836	<i>A Life for the Tsar</i>	Mikhail Glinka	The first great Russian opera
		<i>Les Huguenots</i>	Giacomo Meyerbeer	One of the most famous French grand operas
	1842	<i>Nabucco</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	
	1843	<i>Der fliegende Holländer</i> (The Flying Dutchman)	Richard Wagner	
	1851	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	
	1853	<i>Il trovatore</i> (The Troubadour)	Giuseppe Verdi	
		<i>La traviata</i> (The Fallen Woman)	Giuseppe Verdi	
	1858	<i>Les Troyens</i>	Hector Berlioz	
	1859	<i>Faust</i>	Charles Gounod	
<i>Un ballo in maschera</i> (A Masked Ball)		Giuseppe Verdi		
1862	<i>La forza del destino</i> (The Power of Fate)	Giuseppe Verdi		

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Romantic (cont) 1800-1914	1865	<i>Tristan und Isolde</i>	Richard Wagner	
	1868	<i>Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (The Master Singers of Nuremberg)</i>	Richard Wagner	
	1869	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	Richard Wagner	The first of Wagner's four The Ring of the Nibelungen series of operas
	1870	<i>Die Walküre</i>	Richard Wagner	
	1871	<i>Aida</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	
	1874	<i>Boris Godunov</i>	Modest Mussorgsky	
	1874	<i>Die Fledermaus (The Bat)</i>	Johann Strauss II	
	1875	<i>Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet	
	1876	<i>Siegfried</i>	Richard Wagner	
	1876	<i>Götterdämmerung (Twilight of the Gods)</i>	Richard Wagner	
	1879	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	
	1882	<i>Parsifal</i>	Richard Wagner	His last opera
	1884	<i>Manon</i>	Jules Massenet	
	1887	<i>Otello</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	
	1890	<i>Cavalleria rusticana (Rustic Chivalry)</i>	Pietro Mascagni	Often performed as a double bill with Leoncavallo's <i>Pagliacci</i>
	1890	<i>Prince Igor</i>	Alexander Borodin	The composer died in 1887, leaving the opera unfinished; it was completed by Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov
	1892	<i>Iolanta</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	
	1892	<i>Pagliacci (Clowns)</i>	Ruggero Leoncavallo	Often performed as a double bill with Mascagni's <i>Cavalleria rusticana</i>
	1892	<i>Werther</i>	Jules Massenet	
	1893	<i>Falstaff</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	Verdi's final opera
1893	<i>Hänsel und Gretel</i>	Engelbert Humperdinck		
1893	<i>Manon Lescaut</i>	Giacomo Puccini		
1896	<i>La Bohème (The Bohemians)</i>	Giacomo Puccini		
1900	<i>Tosca</i>	Giacomo Puccini		
20th century 1900-2000	1901	<i>Rusalka</i>	Antonín Dvořák	
	1902	<i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i>	Claude Debussy	
	1904	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Giacomo Puccini	
	1904	<i>Jenůfa (Her Stepdaughter)</i>	Leoš Janáček	
	1905	<i>Die lustige Witwe (The Merry Widow)</i>	Franz Lehár	
	1905	<i>Salome</i>	Richard Strauss	
	1907	<i>A Village Romeo and Juliet</i>	Frederick Delius	
	1909	<i>Elektra</i>	Richard Strauss	

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20th century (cont) 1900-2000	1910	<i>La fanciulla del West</i> ( <i>The Girl of the Golden West</i> )	Giacomo Puccini	
		<i>Treemonisha</i>	Scott Joplin	A ragtime opera not staged until 1972
	1911	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> ( <i>The Knight of the Rose</i> )	Richard Strauss	
	1912	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Richard Strauss	
	1918	<i>Bluebeard's Castle</i>	Béla Bartók	
	1925	<i>Wozzeck</i>	Alban Berg	
	1926	<i>Turandot</i>	Giacomo Puccini	Left unfinished at his death in 1924
	1928	<i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill	
	1934	<i>Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District</i>	Dmitry Shostakovich	
	1935	<i>Porgy and Bess</i>	George Gershwin	
	1941	<i>Paul Bunyan</i>	Benjamin Britten	Britten's first foray into opera
	1942	<i>Capriccio</i> ( <i>Caprice</i> )	Richard Strauss	His final opera
	1945	<i>Peter Grimes</i>	Benjamin Britten	
		<i>War and Peace</i>	Sergei Prokofiev	
	1946	<i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	Benjamin Britten	
	1951	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams	
		<i>The Rake's Progress</i>	Igor Stravinsky	
	1953	<i>Gloriana</i>	Benjamin Britten	
	1954	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Benjamin Britten	
		<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	William Walton	
	1958	<i>Vanessa</i>	Samuel Barber	
	1960	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Benjamin Britten	
	1962	<i>King Priam</i>	Michael Tippett	
	1966	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	Samuel Barber	
	1970	<i>The Knot Garden</i>	Michael Tippett	
	1972	<i>Taverner</i>	Peter Maxwell Davies	
	1973	<i>Death in Venice</i>	Benjamin Britten	Britten's final opera, it was performed three years before his death
	1978	<i>Le Grand Macabre</i>	György Ligeti	
	1983	<i>Saint François d'Assise</i>	Olivier Messiaen	
	1984	<i>Un re in ascolto</i> ( <i>A King Listens</i> )	Luciano Berio	
		<i>Akhnaten</i>	Philip Glass	
	1986	<i>The Mask of Orpheus</i>	Harrison Birtwistle	
1987	<i>A Night at the Chinese Opera</i>	Judith Weir		
	<i>Nixon in China</i>	John Adams		
1995	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	André Previn		