

Performance Script



Scottish  
Opera



# HOW THE DRAGON WAS MADE

Music by Karen MacIver  
Lyrics by Allan Dunn

Illustrations by Iain Piercy  
Motion graphics by Viola Madau  
Activity pack by Christine Defty

Supported by the  
Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools

# Some notes before you begin

The Narrator's lines are in black, and the recorded actor's voice will be used throughout the performance to tell the story.

Scottish Opera's tenor singer Shengzhi Ren sings on all the recordings. During the performance, your pupils should sing or speak along with Shengzhi's 'guide vocal' to help bring them in at the right places in the musical soundtrack and to give them confidence. In the script, these lines are indicated in **BLUE**.

If, after your rehearsals, your pupils can very confidently sing the lines in blue without using Shengzhi's vocals as a guide, you can request special versions of the music recordings that do not have his vocal line on them. Contact [marissa.bradshaw@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:marissa.bradshaw@scottishopera.org.uk) if you would like a copy of the music without guide vocals.

Solo Child lines:

In Song 1, there are four lines in **RED** that are spoken on the recording by a single child. You can choose whether you want all of your pupils, or possibly just a small group, to speak these lines along with the recorded voice, or whether you prefer to simply use the solo voice recording – in which case, your pupils will remain silent while those lines are spoken.

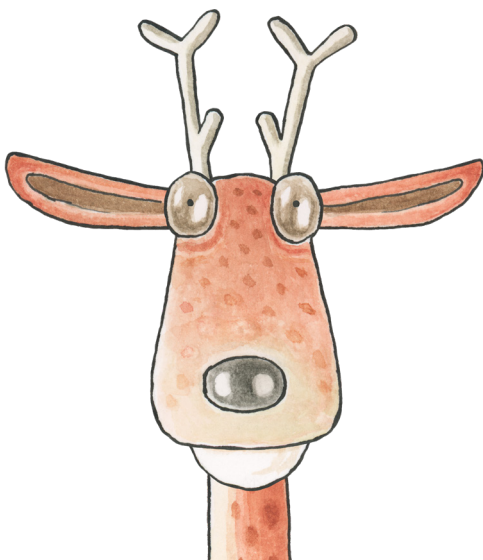
There is one line in Song 6 that all groups should say along with the Narrator's recording, highlighted in **RED**: "Enough is enough!"

Also in Song 6: the Narrator mentions a single child who says "I've had an idea!" We think it would work best if you selected a single pupil to speak this line along with the solo child recording.

If you are using a photocopied version of this script, we advise you to mark out the pupils' lines with highlighter pens, so it remains absolutely clear what the pupils sing or speak, or which action is required.

We have provided an 'Ideas for Staging' guide video which suggests simple movements at key points in the story – for example, an action to represent each of the animals.

We have deliberately separated out the songs onto separate pages, to make it easier to divide up the pages between the three different groups, especially when using photocopies.





# Pre-show announcement – to be delivered by a teacher

Welcome to (insert school name and class)’s performance of *How the Dragon Was Made*. Today we’re going to share a very special musical story with you which the pupils have worked very hard on: rehearsing the songs and making the masks. Most of the words you’ll hear in the show are in English, but there are also some words in Chinese – a language known as Mandarin. And you are going to learn some of these words as part of the performance – by repeating them back to our performers when they sing or say the word to you.

Let’s have a practice before we start, so you know what to expect. The first word we will learn is Zhōngguó which, in English, is the name of the country in which our story takes place: China!

Now our performers will say it:

(Teacher then counts in the performers: 1, 2, 3)

All performance groups:      Zhōngguó  
(speaking)

Teacher:                              And now, you all say back to them; Zhōngguó

Audience responds:              Zhōngguó

Teacher:                              Well done! So Zhōngguó is the first Chinese word you’ll hear. But after this first time, whenever we would like you to repeat a Chinese word back to us, the performers will say or sing the words “Let’s hear all of you all say...” followed by the word in Chinese. So, once again – when you hear the words:

Performers:                              Let’s hear all of you all say...

Teacher:                              Followed by a word in Chinese, you can get ready to repeat that word back to us.

And now we can begin our story...

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 1

*(Please refer to Ideas for Staging Video Part 1 for suggested movements for the text below)*

**Narrator:** Let's go on a journey, back in time and far away... to the land we call China – but in the language of the people who live there, is named Zhōngguó...

**All groups (spoken):** Zhōngguó

**Audience (spoken):** Zhōngguó

**All groups (spoken):** Zhōngguó

**Audience (spoken):** Zhōngguó

**Narrator:** Back in the time when our people began,  
Each place was the home of a tribe or a clan,  
And guarding each tribe was a spirit-protector:  
Our animal, angelic, danger-detector.  
They watched out for us when our neighbours attacked us,  
When enemies tracked us, and whacked us, and smacked us!  
They guided our arrows, our swords and our bows.  
They fought for our tribes when our tribes came to blows.

**Children:**  
*(solo/small group  
or use recording)* Us kids simply want the slaughter to end;  
The folk we were fighting, we longed to befriend.  
And now that you know how our wars had begun,  
You'll learn how three troublesome tribes became one...

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 2

**Narrator:** China: A land of mountains, valleys, waters.  
And living there were tribes of men, and women; sons, and daughters.  
The tribes would always argue, and sometimes, too, they'd fight.  
The children knew  
They'd have to do  
Something to make things right.  
This is their story...

Here are three clans who were always fighting each other...  
This is the clan of the mountains.  
When the Mountain Clan went into battle, they would call for help from  
Their animal-spirits to protect them...  
First, they would call upon the spirit of the eagle...

*(Please refer to Ideas for Staging Video 2 for suggested movements for the animals below)*

**Mountain Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for eagle is yīng

**Mountain Clan (sung):** Let's hear all of you say yīng

**Audience:** Yīng

**Narrator:** The eagle's strong gold wings let it travel tirelessly for many miles.

**Mountain Clan (spoken):** Jīnsè

**Mountain Clan (spoken):** Chìbǎng

**Narrator:** The Mountain Clan were also protected by the spirit of the mountain cat...

**Mountain Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for cat is māo

**Mountain Clan (sung):** Let's hear all of you say māo

**Audience:** Māo

**Narrator:** Now the mountain cat can climb up to the tiniest mountain ledge –  
and their fantastic blue eyes can spot the teeniest mountain mouse  
from miles away...

**Mountain Clan (spoken):** Lán sè

**Mountain Clan (spoken):** Yǎnjīng

**Narrator:** The other spirit animal that protected the Mountain Clan was the tiger...

**Mountain Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for Tiger is lǎo hǔ

<b>Mountain Clan (sung):</b>	Let's hear all of you say lǎo hǔ
<b>Audience:</b>	Lǎo hǔ
<b>Narrator:</b>	The razor sharp claws of the mighty orange tiger make it a fearsome foe to face!
<b>Mountain Clan (spoken):</b>	Jú sè
<b>Mountain Clan (spoken):</b>	Hǔzhǎo
<b>Narrator:</b>	And so, protected by the gold wings of the eagle, the blue eyes of the mountain cat and the claws of the orange tiger, the Mountain Clan felt that they could never be beaten...
<b>Mountain Clan (spoken):</b>	Jīnsè de chìbǎng
<b>Mountain Clan (spoken):</b>	Lán sè de yǎnjīng
<b>Mountain Clan (spoken):</b>	Jú sè de hǔzhǎo

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 3

**Narrator:** But down in the valley, the Valley Clan had their spirit-protectors too. They called upon the Spirit of the Ox. The strongest of animals, when Ox goes into battle, his sharp white horns become a deadly weapon. Its huge horns are as sharp as spears, and as hard as iron!

*(Please refer to Ideas for Staging Video Part 3 for suggested movements for the animals below)*

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Báisè

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Jiǎo

**Valley Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for ox is niú

**Valley Clan (sung):** Let's hear you all say niú

**Audience:** Niú

**Narrator:** The Valley Clan were also protected by the spirit of the deer...

**Valley Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for deer is lù

**Valley Clan (sung):** Let's hear you all say lù

**Audience:** Lù.

**Narrator:** The deer has amazing red ears, which can hear the sound of enemies, long before they get near.

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Hóngsè

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Ěrduo

**Narrator:** Finally, the Valley Clan would also call upon the spirit-snake for protection. The snake slithers silently along the ground and overpowers his enemies by crushing them in the coils of its long black body

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Hēisè

**Valley Clan (spoken):** Shēntǐ

**Valley Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for snake is shé

**Valley Clan (sung):** Let's hear you all say shé

**Audience:** Shé

- Narrator:** And so, protected by the white horns of the ox, the red ears of the deer and the black body of the snake, the Valley Clan felt that they could never be defeated...
- Valley Clan (spoken):** Báisè de jiǎo
- Valley Clan (spoken):** Hóngsè de ěrduo
- Valley Clan (spoken):** Hēisè de shēntǐ



# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 4

**Narrator:** The Water Clan too had their spirit-protectors:  
And first among these was the spirit of the fish.

*(Please refer to Ideas for Staging Video Part 4 for suggested movements for the animals below)*

**Water Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for fish is yú

**Water Clan (sung):** Let's hear all of you say yú

**Audience:** Yú

**Narrator:** The fish is an incredible swimmer and propelled by its powerful purple tail,  
travels across vast oceans at great speeds.

**Water Clan (spoken):** Zǐsè

**Water Clan (spoken):** Wěiba

**Narrator:** The Water Clan's next spirit-protector was the frog...

**Water Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for frog is qīng wā

**Water Clan (sung):** Let's hear all of you say qīng wā

**Audience:** Qīng wā

**Narrator:** From deep with a cloud of jelly-like spawn, the wiggly tailed tadpole sprouts  
yellow legs and becomes the frogtastic frog!

**Water Clan (spoken):** Huángsè

**Water Clan (spoken):** Tuǐ

**Narrator:** And finally, they had the spirit of the crocodile...

**Water Clan (sung):** The Chinese word for crocodile is èyú

**Water Clan (sung):** Let's hear all of you say èyú

**Audience:** Èyú

**Narrator:** A ferocious hunter, the crocodile waits patiently under water for his prey.  
Its green head has powerful jaws filled with rows of sharp teeth that bite  
with deadly force.

**Water Clan (spoken):** Lǜsè

**Water Clan** (spoken):

Tóu

**Narrator:**

And so, strengthened by the purple tail of the fish, the yellow legs of the frog and the green head of the crocodile, the Water People felt they could be never be beaten!

**Water Clan** (spoken):

Zǐsè de wěiba

**Water Clan** (spoken):

Huángsè de tuǐ

**Water Clan** (spoken):

Lǜsè de tóu

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 5

**Narrator:** Then, one fateful day – all three of the tribes prepared for a battle to decide who was the most powerful clan in the land.  
They dressed for war and called upon the spirits to lead and protect them.

*(Please refer to Ideas for Staging Video Part 5 for suggested movements for the section below)*

**All 3 Groups:** Spirit helpers, can you hear us,  
As the time of war draws near us?  
Help us, guide us, keep us strong  
Though the fight be fierce and long.  
If you will our clan defend  
We'll win the prize at battle's end.

**Mountain Clan:** With our spirit-cat's sharp eyes  
We'll take our rivals by surprise  
We'll bow and take the crowd's applause  
When we bare our tiger claws  
And once again that crowd will roar  
When high on eagle's wings we soar!

(chanting) Mountain! Mountain! Shān! Shān!

**Valley Clan:** By ox and deer and gliding snake  
our enemies fear and quake  
The head, the horn, the opened ear  
Fills foes with fatal fear.  
Spirit helpers, lead the way,  
Guide us into victory.

(chanting) Valley! Valley! Shāngǔ! Shāngǔ!

**Water Clan:** By the crocodile's head  
We'll fight until our foe has fled.  
With the force of fish's tail  
Our spirit helpers shall prevail.  
As the frog can swim and hop,  
We'll keep on, and will not stop

(chanting) Water! Water! Shuǐ! Shuǐ!  
Shāngǔ!  
Shān!

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 6

**Narrator:** As the tribes readied themselves for the fight, the kids decided enough is enough!

*All groups shout this line along with the recorded narrator: 'Enough is enough!'*

**All groups (spoken):** We hate this fighting!

**Narrator:** Something had to be done. There had to be a way to unite the clans. Then someone had an idea!

**Child (spoken):** I've had an idea!

# How the Dragon Was Made

## Song 7

**Narrator:** This was the idea...  
They would take the claws, wings and eyes of the Mountain Clan,  
and the body, horns and ears of the Valley Clan, and the legs, tail  
and head of the Water Clan and they would create a new spirit  
helper – one that represented all the tribes.  
And what do you think they called this new creature?

**All groups:** Dragon!

**Narrator:** That's right, the dragon! Or as we say in Chinese...

**All groups:** Lóng!

**All groups (sung):** The mountain eagle known as yīng  
The mountain cat known as māo  
The mountain tiger known as lǎo hǔ  
The valley ox is known as niú  
The valley deer is known as lù  
The valley snake is known as shé  
The water fish is known as yú  
The water frog is known as qīng wā  
The water crocodile is known as èyú  
(All nine animal names are sung together to finish.)

**Narrator:** And that is how peace came to the land of China.  
That is how the dragon came to be...

**THE END**

