

## Rossini's Italian Operas

### specimen paper:

- 1 Discuss Philip Gossett's claim that Rossini 'attacked the tyranny of the "number" from within'.
- 2 Discuss the nature of the early sources for Rossini's operas, manuscript and printed, in relation to the operatic culture that produced them.
- 3 Discuss Richard Osborne's claim that 'Rossini has some claim to being the most neglected and generally misunderstood of all the great nineteenth-century composers'.
- 4 **Either** (a) 'A classicist by training and a conservative by inclination, Rossini nonetheless broke the mould of the old Italian operatic order and laid the foundations for a new generation of romantically inspired music-dramatists'. (RICHARD OSBORNE) Discuss.  
  
**Or** (b) Examine the experimental aspects of Rossini's operatic work for the theatres of Naples. You should refer to **at least two** operas.
- 5 To what extent should aspects of historical 'authenticity' matter in the production of operas? Discuss with reference to works by Rossini.
- 6 Discuss, with reference to Rossini's work, his claim that Italian vocal music is 'all ideal and expressive, never imitative'.