

## The reasons for attending performances of operas and musicals and the reception of these genres at the Vanemuine theatre

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### Abstract

The article focuses on the reception of the opera *Tosca* and the musical *Cabaret* and on the reasons for attending performances of these genres in the Vanemuine theatre in Tartu, Estonia. The article addresses the following questions: (1) do the different genres of opera and musical performed communicate different values?; (2) do the reasons for attending operas and musicals differ?; and (3) how does the reception of a musical *Cabaret* and an opera *Tosca* differ?

The research shows that the main reasons for coming to the theatre are the functional and social benefits. For the audience of *Tosca*, the social aspect, which is also one of the main reasons for going to the theatre, is of less importance than for the audience of *Cabaret*.

Reception of both performances is dominated by non-artistic aesthetic values: *Tosca* is mostly seen as a well performed and professionally produced spectacle; *Cabaret* is seen as a fun spectacle performed by good actors.

Based on the quantitative research done at the Vanemuine theatre, the article concludes that the style of music theatre in general is quite traditional, but that it is valued and accepted by the audiences.