Suor Angelica • Gianni Schicchi
GIACOMO PUCCINI
UM School of Music Opera Theatre • November 13 – 16, 2003 • Power Center
The University of Michigan, School of Music
Opera Theatre
presents

Suor Angelica ♩ Gianni Schicchi

Two one-act operas

Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Giovacchino Forzano

Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi premiered as part of Il Trittico at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, December 14, 1918.

Director: Joshua Major
Conductor: Kenneth Kiesler
Assistant Conductor‡: Rachel C. Lauber
Scenic Designer: Vincent Mountain
Costume Designer: Rachel Laritz
Lighting Designer: Jeff Davis
Wig Designer: Sarah A. Opstad
Diction Coach: Timothy Cheek
Chorus Master: Sara Guttenberg
Rehearsal Accompanists: Jerad Mosbey, Janna Vinson
English Supertitle Translations: Kathleen & Paul Zweifel
Stage Manager: Amanda Heuermann

There will be one intermission between the operas.

‡ Rachel C. Lauber will conduct the performance on Sunday, November 16, 2003.

Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change. As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and electronic watch alarms should be turned off so they will not interrupt the performance.

A very special thanks to the Friends of Opera for their support and purchase of the student performers’ vocal scores for these performances.

The School of Music acknowledges the generosity of McKinley Associates, Inc. whose support has helped make this production possible.
Setting: A convent in the latter part of the 17th Century.

A visitor announces for Sister Angelica. It is her aunt, the Princess. The old woman has come to obtain Angelica’s release from any forced her to enter a convent and take the veil. Now known as Sister Angelica, she tends to the health and well being of her sisters.

Suddenly realizing the full implication of what she has done, she begs the Virgin to forgive her mortal sin.

Buoso Donati’s relatives are mentioned:

Buoso’s brother-in-law from Signa
Buoso’s cousin
Buoso’s cousin
Buoso’s uncle
Buoso’s cousin
Buoso’s wife
Buoso’s son
Buoso’s brother
Buoso’s brother-in-law
Buoso’s mother

The Synopsis of Suor Angelica:

Years earlier, a young noblewoman had given birth to an illegitimate son. To avoid further embarrassment, her scandalized family forced her to enter a convent and take the veil. Now known as Sister Angelica, she tends to the health and well being of her sisters.

She spends her days in prayer and atonement for her sin, waiting for word about her family and her adored child. The Abbess announces a visitor for Sister Angelica. It is her aunt, the Princess. The old woman has come to obtain Angelica’s release from any claim on her dead parents’ estate in favor of her younger sister. Angelica pleads for some word about her little boy and finally learns that he had died from fever a few years earlier. The news is more than Angelica can bear and in her distraction, she drinks a deadly poison. Suddenly realizing the full implication of what she has done, she begs the Virgin to forgive her mortal sin.
Synopsis - Gianni Schicchi

“That goblin over there [in Hell] is Gianni Schicchi and he runs rabid, mangling the other dead...

...[he] ventured, in order to gain the best of the herd, to counterfeit himself as Buoso Donati, making a will and giving it due form.”

*The Inferno*, Canto XXX, Lines 32-33 & 42-45, by Dante Alighieri

Setting: The home of Buoso Donati, Florence, Italy, 1299.

The story begins when the wealthy Buoso Donati dies. It is rumored that old Buoso has willed all his money to the Church in repentance for his sinful life. After a brief period of feigned grief, his relatives conduct a feverish search for the will. They soon discover that there is much truth to this loathsome rumor. So, in an effort to extract what they consider to be their lost legacy from the clutches of the clergy, the family must resort to some sort of deceit. But what is to be done? There is only one man in all of Florence who is clever and cunning enough to help the greedy relatives gain an inheritance: the ever-resourceful peasant Gianni Schicchi! They call on Schicchi and he hatches a plot. They explain that no one outside of the immediate family knows Buoso is dead, nor has any outsider, as yet, discovered the real contents of the will. Therefore the family must call the notary to take the last will and testament of the “dying” Buoso Donati and all will be right again. But not without a price!

University Symphony Orchestra

Violin I.......... Julia Gish‡, Min Lee, Tzu-Yin Su, Diego Piedra, Eric Shieh, Mili Fernandez
Violin II ...... Eric Wuest*, Emma Banfield, Trina Stoneham, Shawn Jaeger, Ashley Malloy, Myriam Clermont
Viola ....................... Elvis Chan*, Megan Mason, Daniel McCarthy, Jason Amos
Cello........ Andrew Barnhart*, Annie Brandon, Amy Mcginn
Double Bass .......... Anna Jensen*, Pearl Alexander
Flute .... Lindsay Gearhart, Jennifer Hooker, Marie Tachouet
Oboe ...... Jocelyn Frank, Timothy Michling, Jenny Sengpiel
Clarinet ......................... Phillip Paglialonga, Lisa Raschiatore, Melanie Yamada
Bassoon ............... Derek Bannasch, Sam Childers
Trumpet .. Adam Dickson, Jordan Olive, Brian Winegardner

Horn .................. Patrick Carlson, Erica Mentzer, Tasha O’Neal, William Wiegard
Trombone ................. Mark Mallamo, Steven Peterson
Bass Trombone .................. Michael Brown
Tuba ......................................................... Michael Nickens
Percussion ...... Jeffrey Barudin, Daniel Karas, Olman Piedra
Harps ........................................ Nadia Pessoa
Keyboard .................................................. Julius Abrahams

Production Staff
Managing Director ........................................ David Aderente
Personnel Managers ................................. Brian Eldridge
Equipment Personnel ...... Brian Eldridge, Benjamin Albright
‡ Concertmaster *Principal

About the Composer

GIACOMO PUCCINI (Composer) was born in Lucca, Italy on December 22, 1858. Though not a child prodigy, he did display musical talent, and began playing the organ at the age of fourteen. By sixteen, he was composing religious music and beginning studies at a local conservatory. In Milan he studied with the opera composer, Ponchielli, and produced his first stage work, *Le Villi*, in 1883. Publisher Giulio Ricordi acquired the rights to *Le Villi* and Puccini became a worldwide success. His second opera, *Edgar* was not as successful. Then came *Manon Lescaut* in 1893. This work marked the beginning of Puccini’s mature style and of his careful attention to the opera libretto. The next three works are his most famous: *La Bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), and *Madama Butterfly* (1904). Later in life he composed *La Fanciulla del West* (1910); *La Rondine* (1917); and *Il Trittico* (1918), which is made up three one-act operas — *Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica*, and *Gianni Schicchi*. His last work, *Turandot*, was left incomplete at his death and was finished by Franco Alfano. He died in 1924 from a heart attack while undergoing treatment for throat cancer.
About the Cast

RYAN BANAR senior, BM Vocal Perf., Livonia, MI
STEPHAN BOBALIK senior, BM Vocal Perf., Sturgis, MI
CAMPBELL CROSBY second grade, Bach Elementary, Ann Arbor, MI
JULIE CROSS grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Miami, FL
KELLY DANIEL-DECKER grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Lemoore, CA
JENNIFAH DELPH grad student, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert., Singer Island, FL
KEITH DIXON junior, BM Vocal Perf., Detroit, MI
ARIELLE DONESON senior, BM Vocal Perf., Okemos, MI
REBECCA EADDY soph, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert., Milan, MI
SARA EMERSON junior, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert. Traverse City, MI
BRYAN ESTABROOKS grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Ottawa, Canada
MICHAEL FABIANO junior, BM Vocal Perf., Plymouth, MN
MARGARET JENSEN senior, BM Vocal Perf., Irvine, CA
KENNETH KELLOGG grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Washington, DC

PHILIP KERR Professor, Dept. of Theatre & Drama
AMANDA KINGSTON soph, BM Vocal Perf., Madison, WI
SUZANNE KLOCK senior, BM Vocal Perf., Amherst, MA
JEFFREY KRAUSE senior, BM Vocal Perf., West Bloomfield, MI
KIRSTEN KUNKLE grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Fremont, OH
YUN-JU LAI grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Taiwan
DIANA LAWRENCE junior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
REBECCA JO LOEB junior, BM Vocal Perf., Glen Ridge, NJ
SONYA MAJOR seventh grade, Slauson Middle School, Ann Arbor, MI
NATASHA MAJOR fourth grade, Bach Elementary, Ann Arbor, MI
JESSICA MEDOFF grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Las Cruces, NM
JO ELLEN MILLER grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Middletown, NJ
TOBEY D. MILLER senior, BM Vocal Perf., Clinton Twp., MI
KATHERINE MONTGOMERY soph, BM Vocal Perf., Basking Ridge, NJ
SARA MORRISON senior, BM Vocal Perf. Grand Ledge, MI

VALLERIE E. OGBONNAYA senior, BM Vocal Perf. w/minor in political science, Houston, TX
SARAH PACKARD senior, BM Vocal Perf., Plymouth, MA
SEAN PANIKKAR grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Bloomsburg, PA
TRAVIS PRATT grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Tifton, GA
ELLEN PUTNEYMOORE junior, BMA Vocal Perf./BA American Culture, Ann Arbor, MI
ANNIE RADCLIFFE senior, BM Vocal Perf./BA English, Canton, MI
JOSEPH ROBERTS grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Livonia, MI
MIRNA RUBIM grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
SUSAN RUGGIERO grad student, MM Vocal perf/MM Flute Perf., Okemos, MI
JOHN SEELEIHWALTZ grad student, MM Vocal Perf., San Antonio, TX
RACHAL SOLOMON senior, BM Vocal Perf., Ft. Lauderdale, FL
MOLLY SPOONER senior, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert., Delmar, NY

MELISSA SWAIN senior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
CHRISTOPHER TEMPORELLI grad student, DMA Vocal Perf., Farmington Hills, MI
PAUL MAX TIPTON grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Murfreesboro, TN
JENNIFER TROMBLEY first-year, BM Vocal Perf., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
ARIANNA WADKINS senior, BM Vocal Perf., Oklahoma City, OK
GREGORY WAKEFIELD junior, BM Vocal Perf., Ann Arbor, MI
RACHEL EDIE WARRICK grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Madison, WI
AMY WEATHERFORD junior, BM Vocal Perf., Spring, TX
ADRIENNE WEBSTER junior, BM Vocal Perf. w/Teaching Cert., Southfield, MI

HANNAH WILLIAMS sophmore, BM Vocal Perf., Acton, MA
HEATHER YANKE grad student, MM Vocal Perf., Berkley, MI

The performers in this production are undergraduate and graduate students, and guest artists in the School of Music. The designers are faculty, guest artists, and undergraduate students in the Department of Theatre and Drama. Scenery, costumes, properties, sound, and lighting were realized by the students and staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music.

About the Artists

JEFF DAVIS (Lighting Designer) UM: Good News!, L’Enfant et les Sortilèges/Le Rossignol, Broadway/National Tours: Play On! (LA Dramalogue Award), The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Blues in the Night, Edward Albee’s The Man Who Had Three Arms, Slab Boys, I Never Sang for My Father, Born Yesterday, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Mack and Mabel, Death of A Salesman, Fiddler on the Roof, Annie, Morning’s at Seven. Television: 5 Emmy Award nominations; “One Life to Live,” “Live From Lincoln Center,” “The Sally Jessy Raphael Show.” Opera: 26 new productions (5 world premieres) for New York City Opera at Lincoln Center.

AMANDA HEUERMANN (Stage Manager) is a BFA candidate in design and production in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: After a Fashion, Don’t Dress for Dinner; asst. stage manager: Resonant Rhythms, La Cenerentola, Ancient Steps, Forward Glances, The Grapes of Wrath, Sideshow; assistant master electrician, Resonant Rhythms; UM Gilbert and Sullivan Society: stage manager, Iolanthe; Basement Arts: board member, 2002-04 seasons. Regional Theatre: Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival 2003; production intern; Opera Theatre of St. Louis: 2003 properties crew; Bates Dance Festival 2002: lighting design/production intern.

Joshua Major (Director) is the director of the Opera Workshop; Artistic Director of the Pine Mountain Music Festival. UM: Xerxes, The Cunning Little Vixen, The Consul, La Périchole, Falstaff, Susannah. Regional Opera: Carmen, Opera Omaha; Lakme, Michigan Opera Theatre; La Traviata, Opera Theatre of St. Louis; Little Women, Opera Omaha; Idomeneo, Wolf Trap Opera; Don Giovanni, Opera Carolina; Romeo and Julies, Madama Butterfly, New Orleans Opera; Un Ballo in Maschera, Edmonton Opera; La Tragédie de Carmen, Wörther, Eugene Onegin, Cendrillon, IVAI; The Fall of the House of Usher, Opera Grand Rapids; La Cenerentola, The Kaiser from Atlantis, Yale Univ.

Rachel Laritz (Costume Designer) is currently in her second season at Milwaukee Rep as their costume design assistant. She received her BFA in design from the University of Michigan. UM: La Cenerentola, The Good Person of Szeckwan, Measure For Measure, Of Mice and Men (Basement Arts); Sweet Charity (Musket). Regional Theatre: Two Pianos, Four Hands (Milwaukee Rep); The Mousetrap (Wisconsin Lutheran); the premier of Whistler (Treetown Festival); Garsington Opera, London, England; Spofolet Festival, USA; Great Lakes Theatre Festival.

Vincent Mountain (Scenic Designer) is an Assoc. Professor of Design in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama. UM: Xerxes, Hamlet, Parade, The Good Person of Szechwan, La Périchole, Falstaff, The Importance of Being Earnest, Candid; Blood Wedding, The Turn of the Screw, Le Rossignol/L’Enfant et les Sortilèges. Regional Theatre: One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Macbeth, Orpheus Descending, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Devil’s Disciple, Alley Theatre; Playland, Intiman Theatre; Roosters, Seattle Group; La Traviata, Opera Theatre of St. Louis; Little Women, Central City Opera, Opera Omaha, Chautauqua Opera. Other: MFA in Design, UCSD.
The primary purpose of the Friends of Opera is to support the opera needs at the School of Music. During the current year, the Friends of Opera is seeking to provide funds for the purchase of musical scores for students, direct assistance to students through an opera competition award, and an opera workshop program. Additionally, we are asking all Friends to consider a gift to our Friends of Opera Endowment Fund so we can continue to grow the value of this Fund and thus provide a higher level of scholarship support for students. New Friends are always welcome. Your donation, regardless of size, does make a difference in the careers of talented students pursuing a career in opera. Thank you for your consideration.

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