



TOSCA

Giacomo Puccini



OPERA ON BIG SCREENS

Live from Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía
Valencia, Spain

FREE ACCESS

VIVA EUROPA 2011
June 13th

LIVE OPERA FOR
EUROPEAN CITIES



13 June 20:00 hrs

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Live from Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía Valencia, Spain

TOSCA

Giacomo Puccini

Opera in three acts

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Premiere: Rome, 14 January 1900, Teatro Costanzi

Conductor: **Zubin Mehta**
Stage director: **Jean-Louis Grinda**
Set designer: **Isabelle Partiot-Pieri**
Costume designer: **Christian Gasc**
Lighting designer: **Roberto Venturi**

Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana

Cor de la Generalitat Valenciana
Francesc Perales, Chorus Master

Escolania de la Mare de Déu dels Desemparats
Luis Garrido, Chorus Master

New production
Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia
Fondazione Festival Pucciniano, Torre del Lago Puccini
Opéra de Monte-Carlo
Teatro Regio di Torino

Tosca: **Oksana Dyka**
Cavaradossi: **Jorge de León**
Scarpia: **Bryn Terfel**
Angelotti: **Mika Kares**
Il sagrestano: **Fabio Previati**
Spoletta: **Emilio Sánchez**
Sciarrone: **Aldo Heo**
Carceriere: **Gianluca Buratto**
Pastore: **Salvador Belda**

Approximate timings

Act I: 46 min
Interval: 30 min
Act II: 44 min
Technical pause: 2 min
Act III: 29 min

Running time: 2h 31 min

ACT I

Year 1800. Sant'Andrea della Valle Church in Rome. Cesare Angelotti, a republican, has escaped from Sant'Angelo Castle where he was held prisoner under the evil tyrant Baron Scarpia. Exhausted, he manages to reach the church where he hides in the Attavanti family chapel.

The painter Mario Cavaradossi, who is painting a picture of Mary Magdalene, surprises the fugitive and immediately recognises him. Mario promises to help him. But first Angelotti has to return to his hiding place, because Floria Tosca, famous singer and the painter's girlfriend, is approaching.

While the artist is working on the painting, Tosca cannot keep her eyes off the portrait, looking with curiosity and concern, until she recognises the blue eyes of the Marchioness of Attavanti (Angelotti's sister). Mario assures her she has no need to be jealous and confesses that the painting is inspired on her by chance, since he sees her pray so devoutly every morning.

Once Tosca leaves, Mario suggests Angelotti hides in his country house. Suddenly, the cannons of Sant'Angelo Castle boom out, warning of the escaped prisoner. Cavaradossi decides to leave immediately, guiding Angelotti to his house.

Baron Scarpia, head of the police, bursts into the church accompanied by the police officer Spoletta and his henchmen. An investigation begins. Everything points to Angelotti hiding there: the gate of the Attavanti family chapel is ajar and the painter's food hamper is found empty, as well as a fan with the Attavanti coat of arms on it. Scarpia astutely observes that the face on the painting bears a likeness to that of the Marchioness, which would appear to involve its author in the prisoner's escape.

Tosca arrives. She is confused. Scarpia, who desires her, relights the embers of the temperamental singer's jealousy mentioning that the Marchioness's fan was found on the painter's scaffolding. Tosca, livid with anger, leaves for the painter's house to catch the lovers. Scarpia gives orders to follow her.

ACT II

Farnese Palace at dusk. Alone at dinner, Scarpia anxiously reviews his plot. Tosca can be heard in the background, singing at a royal gala. Scarpia is burning with desire to possess the singer. He will use Mario to get to Tosca, as she would do anything for her beloved.

Spoletta informs the Baron that no sign of Angelotti has been found at Cavaradossi's house. To placate the Baron, he brings in Mario to be interrogated as a suspect. The painter denies all accusations and refuses to confess.

Tosca arrives extremely agitated. Mario quietly begs her not to say anything or he is a dead man. The painter is taken to the dungeons to be tortured. At first Tosca holds out until she can no longer bear the cries of pain coming from her beloved and reveals Angelotti's hiding place to Scarpia. Mario is brought back. Barely conscious, he curses Tosca for having given him away. Scarpia orders his assassins to take him away and execute him.

She decisively asks the Baron how much it will cost

to free Mario. But Scarpia is not to be satisfied with money. He wants to possess Tosca, even if just for one night. The singer is sickened by the lecherous desires of the Baron and rejects him.

Spoletta has finally found Angelotti, but he has committed suicide before being arrested. Scarpia orders his body to be hung next to Cavaradossi's on the gallows. Then, Tosca, overcome by the turn of events, accepts the Barons's indecent proposal. As a condition, she says that Mario must be freed immediately. The Baron explains that it would be best to enact a mock execution by a firing squad. She agrees, but demands to be allowed to attend the execution to warn her beloved about the plan, and also asks for a safe conduct so that they can both leave the country.

While Scarpia writes and signs the document, Tosca finds a knife on the table and hides it behind her back. When the Baron approaches to embrace her, she stabs him dead in the chest. After taking the safe conduct from the hands of the dead body, she rushes to leave the palace.

ACT III

Roof of Sant'Angelo Castle at dawn. Mario will be executed by a firing squad in an hour. Tosca arrives and shows him the safe conduct that will free them. She tells him how she killed the tyrant with her own hands.

The firing squad approaches. Tosca, who has explained to Mario about the mock execution, suggests he falls to the ground after the first shot

and lies still until she calls him. The soldiers open fire. Cavaradossi falls to the ground. When Tosca makes sure that they are alone she approaches him and discovers, aghast, that Mario is dead. Meanwhile, Scarpia's henchmen have found the Baron's body, and try to arrest her. Tosca, after vehemently shouting "Scarpia, I'll see you before God!" jumps into the void.