OPERA
Waiakato

PRESENTS

Suor Angelica / Gianni Schicchi

Two one act operas by Giacomo Puccini

Librettos by Giovacchino Forzano

First performed as part of Il Trittico, a trilogy of one-act operas by Puccini (Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi), at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on 14 December, 1918.

The Premiere of these new productions of Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi is on Saturday 10 October 1998 at Founders Theatre, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Subsequent performances are on 11, 13, 15 & 17 October 1998.

Suor Angelica is performed in Italian with English surtitles.

Followed by Gianni Schicchi in English.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes between the operas.

These performances of Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi are given by permission of Boosey & Hawkes Pty. Ltd. as agent for BMG Ricordi S.p.A.
CAST

Suor Angelica ........................................... Marilyn Jamieson
La Principessa ............................................ Elizabeth Gawler
Sister Genevieve ........................................ Ann Williams-Kemp
The Monitor .............................................. Jennifer Hamilton
Mistress of the Novices ............................... Ursula Bisley
The Abbess ................................................ Beverley Pullen
Nursing Sister ........................................... Catherine Ryan
1st Alms Collector ....................................... Sonya Jefferies
2nd Alms Collector ....................................... Olivia Fraser
Sister Osmina ............................................. Jeri Rose
Dolcina ..................................................... Andrea Cornor
1st Novice ...................................................... Olivia Fraser
2nd Novice ...................................................... Jan Odermatt
Nuns ................................................................ Alex Blagojevic
                                                Eleanor Goodall
                                                Elizabeth Johnson
                                                Philippa Johnson
                                                Teresa Lalande
                                                Sehai Orgad

Angel ......................................................... Mark Calderwood

PROFILES

Marilyn Jamieson – Suor Angelica
Marilyn has had an illustrious career in opera, having successfully auditioned for Victorian State Opera and South Australia Opera and performing in operas in Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton. Marilyn’s many principal roles include the title role in Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly” with National Opera of New Zealand, Marguerite in Gounod’s Faust and Queen of the Night in Mozart’s Magic Flute. Marilyn is a regular soloist with Opera Waikato and is an invitation performer with the Wellington Opera Society.

Elizabeth Gawler – La Principessa
Elizabeth is delighted to be making her first appearance with Opera Waikato University in the role of La Principessa. Elizabeth has performed in a variety of productions in Wellington, Rotorua and Tauranga, and also as an oratorio soloist with various choirs.

Ann Williams-Kemp – Genevieve
Ann has performed in all three of Opera Waikato’s successful Balducci productions one of which was part of the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts in 1996. Ann took the title role in Opera Waikato’s production of “Jeanie Deans” and is a regular soloist in Opera Waikato concerts.
GIANNI SCHICCHI

SYNOPSIS

The action of the opera takes place in the house of Buoso Donati, a well-to-do landowner who is on his deathbed. Gianni Schicchi's opening orchestral flourish leads into that mocking reiteration of the mourning, falling second as the relatives mumble prayers. As the sobs around Buoso's bed give way to worry about his will, the music of fake sorrow becomes a sprightly accompaniment to a search for the document. When this is found, it is read silently by the gathering over a tremolando that broadens to an ecclesiastical motif; it is true - their worst fears about Donati leaving his money to the Church are realised. Their anger mounts to hysteria as they visualise the gluttony of the monks devouring expensive game birds bought with the inheritance that should be theirs.

Rinuccio, Zita's nephew and in love with Schicchi's daughter Lauretta, tells the relatives that the only way their fortunes - and his engagement - can be saved is by calling in the wily peasant Gianni Schicchi. When they protest, Rinuccio sings an aria about the splendors of Florence - to a march tune Puccini had composed twenty years before - and of the new blood of its civilisation, blood just like that of such low-born men as Schicchi.

Schicchi and his daughter arrive, and soon a quarrel, realised in ironically contrasting textures, rages. Lauretta begs her father in the famous set piece "O mio babbino caro", not to oppose her match with Rinuccio. When Maestro Spinelloccio, the doctor, arrives to a wierdly bitonal motif and an echo of scholastic phrases that will also accompany the later drawing up of the will; Schicchi, hiding, imitates Buoso's voice so well that the doctor is able to leave immensely satisfied with his medical prowess.

The relatives are finally made to understand the nature of the ruse Schicchi has in mind, and, in another marvellously concerted passage, first rejoice but soon fall to fighting over what bequests Schicchi, posing as Buoso, should make. One by one they offer him bribes, and the three female relations, Nella, Zita and Ciesca, sing a seductive trio of praise. Although Schicchi warns the relatives about the penalty they would pay if their plot is discovered, they can barely conceal their horror when he, as Buoso, in the presence of the notary and paid witnesses, wills the choicest morsels of the Donati estate to himself. The legal party leaves, weeping but praising the wise, soon-to-be-even-more-lamented Buoso. The relatives, in the last and most frenetic pages of the opera, attack their slippery benefactor before being chased from the house, which, of course, now belongs to Schicchi. In the calm after the storm the young lovers sing of their fortune, and Schicchi, using the most hallowed device of all - a moralising address to the audience - begs for understanding.

Acknowledgement – Harvey E Phillips

CAST

Gianni Schicchi ........................................ Chris Barnes
Lauretta, Gianni Schicchi's daughter ........... Elaine Wogan
Zita, Buoso's cousin .................................. Francie Gray
Rinuccio, Zita's nephew ......................... Jonathon Waetford
Simone, Buoso's cousin ............................. Alastair Barnett
Gherardo, Buoso's nephew ....................... Michael Mills
Nella, Gherardo's wife .............................. Sarah Harris
Marco, Simone's son .............................. Grant Morris
La Ciesca, Marco's wife ........................... Alison Gibb
Betto di Signa, Buoso's brother in law ....... John Wright
Maestro Spinelloccio, doctor ..................... Peter Wynne-Jones
Ser Amantio, lawyer ............................... Humphrey Pullon
Pinellino, witness ................................. Peter Wynne-Jones
Guccio, witness ..................................... Roelant Dewerse
Gherardino, Gherardo and Nella's son ........ Timothy Vaughan (Oct 10,13,17)
 or Alexander Wynne-Jones (Oct 11,15)
Buoso Donati, a well-to-do landowner .......... Michael Egleton
WAIKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violins (Leader)  
Tim Williams  .......... Sponsored by Yvonne Foreman of Six Hats Ltd  
John Burnet  
Michael Foote  
Kristi Johnson  
Philip Poole  
Michele Wahrlich  
Caleb Ward  
Sally Whyte  
Janet Wilkins

Violas  
Sue Dobree  .......... Sponsored by Mrs Meg Knapper  
Matthew Gough

Cellos  
Steven Clarke  ...... Sponsored by The Book Gallery, Cambridge

Double Bass  
Joanne Stewart ....... Sponsored by Petals Flower Shop

Flutes  
Elsie Kane .......... Sponsored by Dr Bob Le Quesne  
Anita Murray

Bassoon  
David Nation ...... Sponsored by Norris, Ward  
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Anne Mendrun ..... Sponsored Anonymously

Clarinets  
Murray Johnson ... Sponsored by Shearer's Music Store Ltd  
Jane Winchcombe

Trumpet  
Steffan Sinclair .... Sponsored by Hamilton Dental Laboratory

Trombones  
Chris Wilson ....... Sponsored by McCabe Environmental Consultants Ltd

Horn  
Jill Ferrabee ........ Sponsored by Dr M.L. and Mrs J.V. Vaughan

Harp  
Lisa Williamson ... Sponsored by Tarbutt Optometrists  
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Keyboards  
Helen Lloyd ......... Sponsored by David's Emporium  
Jan Kitchen

Timpani  
Nikki Morrison

Percussion  
Norm Maynard

Orchestra co-ordinator  
Johan Endert