

OPERA
Waikato

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

PROFILES

Marlyn Jamieson – *Suor Angelica*



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

WAIKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violins (Leader)	Tim Williams <i>Sponsored by Yvonne Foreman of Six Hats Ltd</i> John Burnet Michael Foote Kristi Johnson Philip Poole Michele Wahrlich Caleb Ward Sally Whyte Janet Wilkins
Violas	Sue Dobree <i>Sponsored by Mrs Meg Knapper</i> Matthew Gough
Cellos	Steven Clarke <i>Sponsored by The Book Gallery, Cambridge</i>
Double Bass	Joanne Stewart..... <i>Sponsored by Petals Flower Shop</i>
Flutes	Elsie Kane..... <i>Sponsored by Dr Bob Le Quesne</i> Anita Murray
Bassoon	David Nation <i>Sponsored by Norris, Ward</i> <i>Barristers, Solicitors and Notary Public</i>
Oboe	Anne Mendrun <i>Sponsored Anonymously</i>
Clarinets	Murray Johnson ... <i>Sponsored by Shearer's Music Store Ltd</i> Jane Winchcombe
Trumpet	Steffan Sinclair <i>Sponsored by Hamilton Dental Laboratory</i>
Trombones	Chris Wilson <i>Sponsored by McCabe Environmental</i> <i>Consultants Ltd</i>
Horn	Jill Ferrabee <i>Sponsored by Dr M.L. and Mrs J.V. Vaughan</i>
Harp	Lisa Williamson ... <i>Sponsored by Tarbutt Optometrists</i> <i>for quality vision care</i>
Keyboards	Helen Lloyd <i>Sponsored by David's Emporium</i> Jan Kitchen
Timpani	Nikki Morrison
Percussion	Norm Maynard
Orchestra co-ordinator	Johan Endert