

Puccini La rondine

A Commedia lirica in three acts

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami

on a plot outline by Alfred Willner and Heinz Reichert

Although one of his most consistently lyrical operas, *La rondine* (The Swallow) remains one of Puccini's least known. Dissatisfied with the result of his work, Puccini wrote three versions, with two different endings, and continued to make further revisions up to his death in 1924. The innovative 2007 production at the Torre del Lago Giacomo Puccini Festival, presented on this DVD, is in effect a fourth version, which combines Acts I and II of the first version (1917), with Lorenzo Ferrero's 1994 orchestration of parts of the Finale of Act III of the incomplete third version (1921), some of which had survived only in piano score, as well as Ruggero's Act I *romanza*, *Parigi è la città dei desideri*, from the second version (1920).

With a sparkling score reminiscent of Franz Lehár and Richard Strauss, *La rondine*, set in mid-19th century Paris, tells the story of Magda de Civry, a young courtesan who falls in love one evening with Ruggero Lastouc, the handsome son of a childhood friend of her protector, Rambaldo Fernandez. Although Magda believes that her compromised social position prevents their marrying, in Puccini's third version it is Ruggero who leaves Magda when he discovers that she is the mistress of Rambaldo.

Magda	Svetla Vassileva
Lisette	Maya Dashuk
Ruggero	Fabio Sartori
Prunier	Emanuele Giannino
Rambaldo	Marzio Giossi

Orchestra and Chorus of the Puccini Festival

Alberto Veronesi

Chorus Master: Stefano Visconti • Director: Lorenzo Amato

Fondazione Festival Pucciniano in co-production with Opéra de Nice

Filmed at the 53rd Puccini Festival, Torre del Lago, Italy, 8, 10 & 16 August 2007
Video director: Matteo Ricchetti • Engineer: Matteo Costa • Editor: Fabio Frama

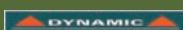
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