

Written towards the end of the composer's life, *Gianni Schicchi*, a masterpiece of Italian comic opera, is the third of three one-act operas known collectively as *Il trittico*. Following on from the chillingly sinister *Il tabarro* and the sentimental tragedy *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi* examines human greed with a light and, at times, macabre comic touch. Set in thirteenth-century Florence, the plot centres on the conspiratorial efforts of the relatives of the recently deceased Buoso Donati to create a will by bringing in Gianni Schicchi to impersonate the deceased Donati in his final hours, only for the cunning Schicchi to cheat the family by dictating a will that leaves the greater part of the estate to himself, thus leaving the family powerless to intervene without revealing their own treachery. Although best known today for *O mio babbino caro* (Oh, my beloved father), a trademark Puccinian aria now immortalised in the film *A Room with a View*, *Gianni Schicchi* is notable for its dependence on ensemble singing rather than on gorgeous melodies. Atypically of the composer, the dramatic sequence of comic incidents is propelled by quicksilver, sometimes brittle, music with sharp, incisive rhythms and pungent orchestration.

Giacomo
PUCCINI
(1858-1924)

Gianni Schicchi

Gianni Schicchi	Alberto Rinaldi, Baritone
Lauretta	Tatiana Lisnic, Soprano
Zita	Mabel Perelstein, Contralto
Rinuccio	Stefano Secco, Tenor
Gherardo	Gerardo Lopez, Tenor
Nella	Sara Galli, Soprano
Betto di Signa	José A. Garcia Quijada, Bass
Simone	Felipe Bou, Bass
Marco	Celestino Varela, Baritone
La Ciesca	Claudia Marchi, Mezzo-soprano

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra
Alexander Rahbari

Recorded at the Sala Carranque, Malaga, on 5th and 8th April, 2002

Producer: Michael Seberich • Engineers: Michael Seberich and Peter Golser • Editor: Jessika Groppo

Booklet notes and synopsis: Keith Anderson

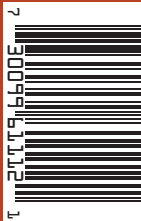
Cover Painting: Stage design by Galileo Chini, New York 1918 (Private Collection)



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8.660111

Playing Time
48:20



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