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by José Ángel García Landa

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# Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

(Italian composer, b. Lucca, Toscana, into an old family of musicians; began as organist, st. Milan conservatory, Mascagni's roommate; wealthy and successful; keen hunter and driver, car accident in 1903; suffered from throat cancer, d. of heart attack after surgery)

**Works**

Puccini, Giacomo. *Le Villi.* Opera. Premiere (as *Le Willis*) Teatro del Verne, Milan, 31 May 1884. Rev. version, Teatro Regio Turin, 1884, as *Le Villi.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Le Villi.* Extracts from Act 2. Roberto Alagna. London Symphony Orchestra / Antonio Pappano. In Puccini, *La Rondine.* EMI Classics, 1997.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Edgar.* Opera. Premiere at La Scala, Milan, 21 April 1889, with Gregorio Gabrielesco.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Manon Lescaut.* Opera, based on the novel by Prévost. Premiere at Turin, 1 Feb. 1893.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Manon Lescaut.* Tebaldi, del Monaco. CD/MC. (Bouquet: Grosser Opern – Querschnitt). Hamburg: Polygram Klassik – Decca.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Manon Lescaut.* Kirit Te Kanawa, José Carreras, Paolo Coni, Italo Tajo, William Matteuzzi, Margarita Zimmermann, Piero de Palma, Ledo Freschi, Giorgio Tadeo, Carlo Gaifa, Natale de Carolis. Orchestra e Coro del Teatro Comunale di Bologna / Riccardo Chailly. 2 CDs/MC/LP. London: Decca, 1988.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Manon Lescaut:*  *Highlights.* CD/MC (Domingo Edition). Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon.

\_\_\_\_\_. Intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut.* In Mascagni, *Cavalleria Rusticana.* Ruggiero Leoncavallo, *Pagliacci.* Coro e Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala / Herbert von Karajan. Prod. 1966. *Intermezzi.* Berliner Philharmoniker / Herbert von Karajan. Prod. 1968. 3 Cds. Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon, n.d.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Opera in four acts. Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, after Henri Murger's novel *Scènes de la vie de bohème.* Premiere cond. Arturo Toscanini, at the Teatro Regio, Turin, 1 Feb. 1896.

\_\_\_\_\_. From *La Bohème.* Alfredo Kraus, Renata Scotto, Sherrill Milnes, Carol Neblett. National Philharmonic Orchestra / James Levine. Prod. EMI, 1980. Remastered EMI, 1988. In Scotto, *Arias y escenas de ópera italiana.* CD. (Grandes voces). Barcelona: EMI Odeón / Altaya, 1998.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* MC. (Symphonia Digital Classics.). London: Tring, 1991.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Réaux, Daniels, Hadley, Hampson, Busterud, Plishka, Bernardini, McKee, Beni, Kreider, Ramlet. Coro e Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia / Leonard Bernstein.

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Luciano Pavarotti, Ileana Cotrubas, Choir and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan / Carlos Kleiber. Recorded 1979. CD. (Homenaje a la Opera, 3). Madrid: Alfadelta / El Mundo, 2000.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Jussi Björling, Victoria de los Ángeles, Sir Thomas Beecham. Extracts. In *A Celebration of Defining Moments in Recording History: 150 Legendary Recordings. Complete Catalogue, Including Two Bonus CDs.*  (EMI Classics - Great Recordings of the Century). Booklet + 2 CDs. EMI Records, 2004.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. From *La Bohème.* Luciano Pavarotti, Mirella Freni. RAI Symphonic Orchestra, Rome / Thomas Schippers. In Pavarotti, *Una voz inolvidable.* CD. (Grandes voces). Barcelona: Altaya, n.d.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. From *La Bohème* (Duet: "O Mimi, tu più non torni"). Jerry Hadley. Thomas Hampson. Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia / Leonard Bernstein. Rec. Rome, 1987. In Bernstein, *The Artist's Album.* CD. Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon, 1998.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Katia Ricciarelli, Ashley Putnam, José Carreras, Ingvar Wixell, Hakan Hagegard, Robert Lloyd. Chorus and orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden / Sir Colin Davis. 2 CDs. Philips Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Bohème.* Film. Cast: Anna Netrebko, Rolando Villazón. Photog. Walter Kindler. Ed. Ingrid Koller and Klaus Hundsbichler. Exec. prod. Andreas Kamm and Oliver Auspitz. Prod. Jan Moito, Kurt J. Mrkwicka, Jeffrey D. Vanderveen. Dir. Robert Dornhelm. *YouTube (IchLiebeAlteFilme)* 20 Aug. 2017.\*

<https://youtu.be/GwjjCjudgzI>

2018

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca.* Opera in three acts. Libretto by L. Illica and G. Giacosa, based on Victorien Sardou. Premiere at Rome, 14 Jan. 1900, with Emilio de Marchi.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca: Drama en tres actos de Victorien Sardou.* *(24-1-1964).* Maria Callas, Renato Cioni, Tito Gobbi, Victor Godfrey, Eric Garett, Robert Bowman, Dennis Wicks.Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, London / Carlo Felice Cillario. New Remastering. 2 CDs. (Maria Callas). Barcelona: DiVa/RBA, 2000.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca.* Tebaldi, del Monaco, London.CD/MC. (Bouquet: Grosser Opern – Querschnitt). Hamburg: Polygram Klassik – Decca.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca.* Angela Gheorghiu, Roberto Alagna, Ruggero Raimondi. Antonio Pappano. 2 CDs. EMI Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca: Highlights.* Gheorghiu, Alagna, Raimondi. Pappano. CD. EMI Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tosca.* Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras, Ingvar Wixell, Samuel Ramey, Piero de Palma, William Elvin, Domenico Trimarchi, Ann Murray. Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden / Sir Colin Davis. 2 CDs. Philips Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Madama Butterfly.* Opera. Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, based on a story by John Luther Long. Premiere at Milan, 17 Feb. 1904 (failure); rev. version at Brescia, 28 May 1904.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Madame Butterfly.* Renata Tebaldi, Carlo Bergonzi., Enzo Sordello, Fiorenza Cossotto, Angelo Mercuriali, Lidia Nerozzi. Chorus and orchestra of the Academy of St. Cecilia, Rome (chorus master: Bonaventura Somma) / Tulio Serafin. Recorded 1958. Selection. (Homenaje a la Opera, 6). CD. Alfadelta / El Mundo, 2000.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Madame Butterfly.* A film by Frédéric Mitterrand based on the opera by Giacomo Puccini. Prod. Daniel Toscan Du Plantier / Erato Films and Pierre-Olivier Bardet / Idéale Audience. Cast: Ying Huang, Richard Troxell, Ning Liang, Richard Cowan, Jing Ma Fan. Choeurs de Radio France (François Polgar), Orchestre de Paris / James Conlon. 2 CDs. Sony Classical, 1995.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Madama Butterfly.* (Ópera en Abierto). Online at *YouTube (Teatro Real)* 5 Dec. 2021.\*

<https://youtu.be/NcihLTqIrhk>

2021

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Fanciulla del West.* Opera. Based on David Belasco's *The Girl of the Golden West.* Premiere Metropolitan Opera House, New York, 10 Dec. 1910, with Enrico Caruso, Emmy Destinn, Pasquale Amato, Albert Reiss, Adam Didur, Dinh Gilly, Angelo Badà and Antonino Pini-Corsi / Arturo Toscanini.

\_\_\_\_\_. From *La Fanciulla del West* ("Minnie, dalla mia casa"). Tito Gobbi. Orchestra dell'Opera di Roma / Oliviero di Fabritiis. Prod. 1959. In Tito Gobbi, *Arias de ópera italiana.* CD. Prod. EMI, 1989. (Grandes Voces). Barcelona: Altaya, 1998.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Fanciulla del West: Auszüge/Highlights/Extraits.* Carol Neblett, Paul Crook, John Dobson, Francis Egerton, William Elvin, Gwynne Howell, Robin Leggate, Tom McDonnell, Sherrill Milnes. Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden / Zubin Mehta. Prod. Hamburg: Polydor, 1978. CD/MC. (Domingo Edition). Hamburg: Polydor, n.d.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Rondine.* Opera. Libretto by Giuseppe Adami, based on Dr. A. M. Willner and Heinz Reichert. 1914-17, premiere at Montecarlo, 27 March 1917, with Tito Schipa.

\_\_\_\_\_. *La Rondine.* Opera. Angela Georghiu, Roberto Alagna, William Matteuzzi, Inva Mula, Alberto Rinaldi, Patrizia Biccire, Patrizia Ciofi, Monica Bacelli, Toby Spence, Riccardo Simonetti, Enrico Fissore. London Voices (Terry Edwards). London Symphony Orchestra, first violin: Marcia Crayford / Antonio Pappano. 2 CDs. EMI Classics, 1997. (With *Morire* and select. from *Le Villi*).\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Il Trittico*  of 3 1-act operas: 1) *Il Tabarro,* 2) *Suor Angelica* 3) *Gianni Schicchi*, premiere at Metropolitan Opera House, New York, 14 Dec. 1918, with Giovanni Zenatello.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Il Trittico: Il tabarro, Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi.* Prod. 1956, 1958, 1959. 3 CDs. Holland: EMI Classics, 1992.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Il tabarro.* Opera. Libretto by Giuseppe Adami. Based on the play *La Houppelande,* by Didier Gold.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Il tabarro.* Tito Gobbi, Giacinto Prandelli, Piero de Palma, Plinio Clabassi, Margaret Mas, Miriam Pirazzini, Renato Ercolani, Silvia Bertona. Orchestra e Coro del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (Giuseppe Conca) / Vincenzo Bellezza. Rec. 1955, prod. 1956. In *Il Trittico.* 3 CDs. Holland: EMI Classics, 1992.\*

\_\_\_\_\_.  *Il Tabarro.* In *Gianni Schicchi & Il Tabarro.* Roberto Alagna, Angela Gheorghiu. Antonio Pappano. 3 CDs. EMI Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Suor Angelica.* Opera. Libretto by Giovacchino Forzano.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Suor Angelica.* Victoria de Los Ángeles, Fedora Barbieri, Mina Doro, Corinna Vozza, Lidia Marimpietri, Santa Chissari, Anna Marcangeli, Teresa Cantarini, Lidia Marimpietri, Santa Chissari, Silvia Bertona, Maria Huder. Orchestra e Coro del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (Giuseppe Conca) / Tullio Serafin. Rec. 1957, prod. 1958. In *Il Trittico.* 3 CDs. Holland: EMI Classics, 1992.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. Intermezzo from *Suor Angelica.* In Mascagni, *Cavalleria Rusticana.* Ruggiero Leoncavallo, *Pagliacci.* Coro e Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala / Herbert von Karajan. Prod. 1966. *Intermezzi.* Berliner Philharmoniker / Herbert von Karajan. Prod. 1968. 3 Cds. Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon, n.d.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. From *Suor Angelica.* Cristina Gallardo-Domâs, Dorothea Röschmann. Tiffin Boys' Choir. London Voices. Philharmonia Orchestra / Antonio Pappano. Prod. EMI, 1999. In *Classic CD 110.* CD. UK: Classic CD, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Gianni Schicchi.* Opera in one act. Libretto by Giovacchino Forzano. Premiere at New York, 1918.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Gianni Schicchi.* Tito Gobbi, Victoria de Los Angeles, Anna Maria Canali, Carlo del Monte, Adelio Zagonara, Lidia Marimpietri, Claudio Cornoldi, Saturno Meleti, Paolo Montarsolo, Fernando Valentini, Giuliana Raymondi, Alfredo Mariotti, Virgilio Stoco, Paolo Caroli. Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma / Gabriele Santini. Rec. 1958, prod. 1959. In *Il Trittico.* 3 CDs. Holland: EMI Classics, 1992.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Gianni Schicchi.* Tito Gobbi, Victoria de Los Angeles, Carlo del Monte / Gabriele Santini. CD. (HMV Classics). EU: EMI, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Gianni Schicchi.* In *Gianni Schicchi & Il Tabarro.* Roberto Alagna, Angela Gheorghiu. Antonio Pappano. 3 CDs. EMI Classics.Verdi, Giuseppe. *Verdi Arias.* CD. EMI, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. "O mio babbino caro." From *Gianni Schicchi.* Montserrat Caballé live in concert at Berlin, 1990. *YouTube (LadyArmide)* 28 June 2008.\*

<https://youtu.be/4zvrpXjUrw0>

2018

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot.* Opera. Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni, based on the play *Turandotte* by Carlo Gozzi, 18th-c. (on the Italian version, trans. Andrea Maffei, of the trans. F. Schiller). Premiere at La Scala, Milan, dir. Arturo Toscanini, April 25, 1926, with Miguel Fleta. (Unfinished, completed by Franco Alfano).

\_\_\_\_\_. From *Turandot.* Renata Scotto, Franco Corelli, Bonaldo Giaiotti, Guido Mazzini. Coro e Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (Gianni Lazzari) / Francesco Molinari-Pradelli. Prod. EMI, 1966. Remastered. EMI, 1988. In Scotto, *Arias y escenas de ópera italiana.* CD. (Grandes voces). Barcelona: EMI Odeón / Altaya, 1998.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot.* Borkh, Tebaldi, del Monaco. CD/MC. (Bouquet: Grosser Opern – Querschnitt). Hamburg: Polygram Klassik – Decca.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot.* Joan Sutherland, Luciano Pavarotti, Montserrat Caballé, Nicolai Ghiaurov, Peter Pears, Tom Krause, Pier Francesco Poli, Piero de Palma, Sabin Markov. John Alldis Choir (John Alldis). Wandsworth School Boys' Choir (Russell Burgess). Adviser: Roberto Benaglio. London Philharmonic Orchestra / Zubin Mehta. Rec. Kingsway Hall, London, August 1972. Prod. Decca, 1973. 2 CD. Londn Decca, 1984.\* (Notes by William Weaver; libretto in German, Italian, English and French).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot (Arias and Scenes).* Sutherland - Pavarotti - Caballé- Ghiaurov - Krause. John Alldis Choir. London Philharmonic Orchestra. Zubin Mehta. Prod. Decca, 1973. CD. (La Gran Opera). Club Internacional del Libro, 1999.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot.* Mirella Freni, José Carreras. Cheurs de l'Opéra du Rhin (John McCarthy). Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg (Alain Lombard). EMI, 1978.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Turandot:*  *Highlights.* CD/MC (Domingo Edition). Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon.

\_\_\_\_\_. "In questa reggia." From *Turandot.* In *Joan Sutherland: The Voice of the Century.* 2 CDs. EU: Universal Music – Decca, 2006.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Morire?* Text by Giuseppe Adami. Roberto Alagna, tenor. Antonio Pappano, piano. In Puccini, *La Rondine.* EMI Classics, 1997.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Puccini: 16 grandes arias.* Prod. EMI Records / Disky Communications. CD.(Royal Opera, 8). Madrid: Emi Records / El Día del Mundo, c. 1996.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The World of Puccini.* CD. Decca.

Bergonzi, Carlo. *Escenas de La Forza del Destino y Tosca.* CD. (Grandes voces). Barcelona: Emi Classics / Altaya, 1997.\*

*Classics on a Summer's Evening.* Angela Gheorghiu, Roberto Alagna / Giuseppe Sinopoli. Live, Dresden 1999. DVD (PAL; NTSC). EMI Classics. (Bizet, Puccini, Verdi).

Cura, José. *Puccini Arias.* Philharmonia Orchestra / Plácido Domingo. CD. Paris: Erato Disques, 1997.\*

Domingo, Plácido. *Arias de óperas italianas y francesas.* CD. (Grandes Voces). Barcelona: EMI Classics / Altaya, 1998.\* (Verdi, Gounod, Boito, Puccini).

Fleming, Renée. *The Beautiful Voice: Gounod-Lehár-Orff-Puccini-Rachmaninov, Strauss.* English Chamber Orchestra, dir. Jeffrey Tate. CD. London: Decca, 1998.\*

Gheorghiu, Angela. *Puccini.* With Roberto Alagna. Chorus of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Renato baldassona). Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi / Anton Coppola. CD. EMI Classics, 2004.\* (With bonus CD).

Freni, Mirella. *Arias de óperas italianas y francesas.* (Grandes Voces). Prod. Emi, 1989. CD. Barcelona: EMI classics / Altaya, 1997.\*

Scotto, Renata. *Arias y escenas de ópera italiana.* Prod. EMI, 1980. (Grandes voces). Barcelona: Emi Odeón / Altaya, 1998.\*

**Criticism**

Arrabal, Fernando. "La Tosca." In Arrabal, *Genios y figuras.* Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1993. 173-7.\*

Ashbrook, William. *The Operas of Puccini.* New York: Oxford UP, 1968.

Carner, Mosco. *Puccini.* London: Calder.

Della Corte, Andrea. Review of the premiere of *Turandot.* By Giacomo Puccini. *La Stampa* (Turin) (1926).

Fernández-Cid, A. *Puccini: el hombre, la obra, la estela.* Barcelona: Guadarrama.

Gara, Eugenio, ed. *Carteggi pucciniani.* Milan: Ricordi, 1958.

Gramola, Antonio. Rev. of *Le Villi.* By Giacomo Puccini. *Corriere della sera* (1884).

*La Gran Ópera* no. 23 (2004). (Richard Strauss; Puccini).

Garber, Marjorie. "The Occidental Tourist: Madame Butterfly and the Scandal of Transvestism." In *Nationalisms and Sexualities.* Ed. A. Parker et al. New York: Routledge, 1992.