

# Tosca

**GIACOMO PUCCINI** / 1900

**SUNG IN ITALIAN**  
**APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 125 minutes**

Alongside with La Bohème and Madama Butterfly, Tosca is undoubtedly Puccini's most famous opera.

Most likely due to its heroic tone and the exuberance of its musical score, the opera has been successful ever since it first premiered in Rome in 1900. Its musical structure, using leitmotifs to typify characters and situations, is constructed in such a way that all musical parts are interlaced together, thus creating a continuous music fabric.



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## MAIN CHARACTERS

**Tosca** : Singer (soprano)

**Caravadossi** : Painter (tenor)

**Scarpia** : chief of secret police (baritone)

**Angelotti** : old consul of the republic, (basso)

**Spoletta** : one of Scarpia's agents, (tenor)

**The Sacristan** : (basso)

## THE PLOT

The action unfolds in 1800 in a Rome ruled by the regime of secret police, headed by sinister Scarpia. A group of rebels try to restore the Republic, instated by French in 1798 but in spite of their actions, painter Mario Cavaradossi and singer Floria Tosca will fall prey of unfortunate events leading to their tragic end.

### Act 1

Painter Mario Cavaradossi is finishing a fresco of Maria Magdalene in San Andrea del Valle Church when his girlfriend, famous singer Floria Tosca enters and, mistakenly thinking the man is hiding a mistress, gives him a harsh telling off. He tries to calm her down promising to eternally and faithfully love her. After she leaves, former consul, now political prisoner on the run Angelotti gets in the church seeking for protection and a place to hide. Mario finds him and hides him in the roman countryside. Sacristan informs the mob that had gathered up to attend the mass, that Napoleon's army has been annihilated. Baron Scarpia, who has feelings for Tosca, that loathes him, instead, tries to instigate the woman jealousy in the hope she would leave his boyfriend and in an attempt to get rid of the opponent he manages to have him arrested for treason and prepared for execution.

### Act 2

Evil Baron meets Caravadossi, who had just been arrested for treason, at Palazzo Farnese, he tortured him into disclosing information as to where Angelotti is hiding but the brave painter puts up with the terrible baron and says nothing. Tosca makes a deal with Scarpia, who promises to let Cavaradossi go in exchange for the woman's love. According to the plan, after undergoing a mock execution and pretending to actually die, the painter would be free to go. While discussing the plan, Scarpia and Tosca hug each other and she stabs him to death.

### Act 3

At Castel Sant'Angelo, all is ready for the mock execution. Floria tries to ease Cavaradossi's mind repeating everything would work out just fine. Nevertheless, the execution turns out to be real and Cavaradossi actually falls under the bullets and dies. In the meanwhile the murder of Scarpia comes to light and Floria, who is devastated for the loss and afraid of the consequences of her doing, jumps off the parapet and kills herself. Far away the napoleon troops are seen approaching the city that will finally be freed.

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