

ROLE OF NELLA IN GIACOMO PUCCINI'S GIANNI SCHICCHI
By

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B. Mus., Brandon University, 1989

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF MUSIC

In
THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
(School of Music)

We accept this thesis as conforming to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 2002

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Department of Music

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date 25 April 2002

ABSTRACT

This Master's Thesis for the Master of Music (Opera) was the presentation of the role of NELLA in Puccini's *GIANNI SCHICCHI*, performed March 9 and 10, 2002 at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. The role of NELLA is that of one of the greedy relatives of the now deceased BUOSO DONATI, a pious Italian gentleman of considerable fortune, who has left all of his money to the church rather than his relatives. NELLA is a niece of BUOSO.

NELLA is approximately 35, shrewish and greedy, with a taste for the finer things in life. The greed of the entire family is used by the title character, GIANNI SCHICCHI, to rob them of the choicer pieces of property – the mills at Signa, a mule worth 30 florins, and the house of BUOSO DONATI. SCHICCHI pretends to be BUOSO and changes the will to benefit the relatives, but at the last moment leaves the best items to himself, and the relatives can do nothing as they will have their hands cut off for forgery if they are caught.

NELLA is a high soprano role, which can also be sung by a dramatic soprano, as Puccini's orchestration requires a sizable voice with easy access to the top. My voice type is dramatic coloratura, which is a combination of agility, dark colour, large size and extreme registers, so this role is ideally suited for me vocally.

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THEATRE at UBC

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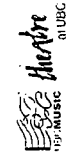


GIANNI SCHICCHI
GIACOMO PUCCINI

DIDO AND AENEAS
HENRY PURCELL

The Chan Shun Concert Hall
March 7 - March 10, 2002

UBC MUSIC



DIDO AND AENEAS

By Henry Purcell

Cast

Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9th.

Understudy for Dido Sandra Stringer
 Aeneas Rose-Ellen Nichols
 Belinda Krzysztof Biernacki
 Second Woman Jinny Park
 Sorceress Janet Vandertol
 First Witch Heidi Meunzel
 Second Witch Jennifer Farrell
 Spirit Rose-Ellen Nichols
 First Sailor Alexandria Beck
 Dido's Attendants Craig Johnson
 Jeanette Gibault
 Cosima Groll
 Whitney Sloan
 Witches Katie Cross
 Erinn Evdokimoff
 Brooke Harris
 Megan Morrison
 Andrew Jameson
 Fraser Walters
 Chorus The University Singers

Friday March 8th and Sunday March 10th.

Understudy for Dido Beverly McArthur
 Aeneas Rose-Ellen Nichols
 Belinda Elio Catana
 Second Woman Cindy Koistinen
 Sorceress Amy La Froy
 First Witch Jeanine Fynn
 Second Witch Soula Parassidis
 Spirit Mia Harris
 First Sailor Mieke Rickert
 Dido's Attendants Jeanette Gibault
 Witches Cosima Groll
 Whitney Sloan
 Katie Cross
 Erinn Evdokimoff
 Brooke Harris
 Megan Morrison
 Andrew Jameson
 Sailors Fraser Walters
 Chorus The University Singers
 Choral Director Bruce Pullian



UBC Symphony Orchestra - Dido and Aeneas

Violin I
 Ruth Huang**
 Evat Kim
 Amy Pei
 Amanda Hsueh
 Drie Ignas
 Regina Ho
 Kimi Hamaguchi
 Michael Yagi
Violin II
 Jason Ho*
 Angela Hodgson
 Tanya Tomasch
 Elaine Griffiths
 Katya Sokolovskaya
 James Wei

*Principal

**Concertmaster

University Singers

Soprano
 Christy Avril
 Caitlin Bradley
 Jardine Chuang
 Bree Dickey
 Brooke Harris
 Nancy Hasluk
 Paula MacNeil
 Marizza Mistang
 Dionne Sellinger
 Whitney Sloan
Alto
 Jennifer Chin
 Naomi Derksen
 Shirm Eskandani
 Eispeth Finlay
 Gillian Hunter
 Jennifer Hutchinson
 Christine Magee
 Megan Morrison
 Amanda Murock
 Katy Skinner
 Sarah Smith
Tenor
 Jordan Back
 David Baker
 Tim Burns
 Stephen Bell
 Charlie Davidson
 Will Howie
 Wei-Hsi Hu
 Ryan Phelps
 Matthew Stephenson
 Fraser Walters
 Kevin Zikorsky
Bass
 Kevin Chui
 John Conlon
 David English
 Andrew Jameson
 Mike Mori
 Jonathan Ng
 David Poon
 Shann Raman
 Matt Ramer
 Joel Stephenson
 Al Smith
 Joseph Su

GIANNI SCHICCHI

By Giacomo Puccini

Cast

Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9th.

Gianni Schicchi Justin Welsh
 Lauretta Neema Bickersteth
 Zita Jeanine Fynn
 Rinuccio Philippe Castagner
 Gherardino Jennifer Farrell
 Bello Elio Catana
 Simone Pierre Hungr
 Nella Rhoslyn Jones (March 7)
 Shauna Martin (March 9)
 Alex Good
 Gherardo Joel Klein
 Marco Sheila Christie
 La Ciesca Erinn Evdokimoff
 Spinelloccio Riley McMitchell
 Amantio di Nicolai John Conlon
 Pinellino Andrew Jameson
 Guccio Michael Mori
 Understudy for Guccio Riley McMitchell
 Buoso Donati David English

Friday March 8th and Sunday March 10th.

Gianni Schicchi Gilbert Anderson*
 Lauretta Rhonwen Adams
 Zita Katherine Landry
 Rinuccio David Doubleday
 Gherardino Jennifer Farrell
 Bello John Conlon
 Simone Gerrit Theute
 Nella Rhoslyn Jones (March 8)
 Shauna Martin (March 10)
 Gherardo Joel Jaffe
 Marco Stephen Bell
 La Ciesca Rosa Nam
 Understudy for La Ciesca Erinn Evdokimoff
 Spinelloccio Michael Mori
 Amantio di Nicolai Andrew Jameson
 Pinellino David English
 Guccio John Hales
 Understudy for Guccio Riley McMitchell
 Buoso Donati David English

*Appears courtesy of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association

UBC Symphony Orchestra - Gianni Schicchi

Bass
 Peggy Tong*
 Jennifer Chu
 Enzo Figliuzzi
 Trevor Yeats

Flute
 Greg Kirzenow*
 Sandi Chih
 Michelle Tsao

Oboe
 Marisa Chang*
 Justina Kuo

Clarinet
 Brenda Kim*
 Samuel Davitison

Bassoon
 Meghan Dahl
 Anne LePage

French Horn
 Chris Unger*
 Garlanda Kwan
 Micajah Sturgess
 Cheryl Lane
 Taitna Osokii
 Adrienne Wasyluk

Trumpet
 Chris Mitchell*
 Alison Gorman
 Rachel Lowry

Trombone
 Andrew Poirier*
 Shawn Wright
 Peter Walckirch

Tuba
 Matt Thompson

Harp
 Larii Krantz

Tympani
 Bruce Henczel

Percussion
 Chris O'Neil
 Kim Ettinger
 *Concert Master
 *Principal

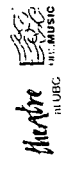
Violin I
 Evet Kim**
 Adrian Dyck
 Ruth Huang
 Amy Pei
 Amanda Hsueh
 Drie Ignas
 Gillian Mott
 Regina Ho
 Kimi Hamaguchi
 Jenny Atkinson
 Alisa van Dijk
 Natalie Jeon
 Jason Ho
 Michael Yagi

Violin II
 Amelia Mori*
 Angela Hodgson
 Tanya Tomaszch
 Elaine Griffiths
 Katya Sokolovskaya
 James Wei
 Karen Mende
 Jessica Wan
 Vincent Wong
 Jack Tsai
 Simon Chow
 Lisa Aird
 Eric Zhang

Viola
 Beth Schaufele*
 Meghan Verdejo*
 James Hill
 Aaron Butler
 Brooke Day
 Szabolcs Kabok
 Sarah Weingarten

Cello
 Kathryn Thompson*
 Anne Davison
 Sarah Tippet
 Tina Hsu
 Alexandra Sia
 Richard St. Onge
 Wesley Atwell
 Chris Sanford
 Regina Matthew
 Karolla Karoli
 Katherine Sepp

Celeste
 Richard Epp



Production

Stage Manager
 Assistant Stage Managers
 Jenny Inkster
 Alishia Harris
 Cat George
 Aaron Brown
 Thompson Tran
 Sabrina Pitre
 Donna Falconer
 Zsuzsanna Lukacs
 Christopher Wong
 Lucas Wong
 Ken Hollands
 Lydia Hiebert
 Elke Engligh
 Nel Voirich
 Janet Bickford
 Lynn Burton
 Valerie Moffat
 Gennie Willoughby Senior
 Jim Fergusson
 Don Griffiths
 Dani Bryant
 Jay Henrickson
 Daryl Lo
 Natalie Gemmell
 Lauren Payne
 Maryam Najafi
 Adam Janusz
 Veronica Stewart
 Mike Wu
 Teiya Kasahara
 Lucas Wong
 Bob Eberle
 Marietta Kozak
 Joan Wellwood
 James A. Glen
 Jennifer Ramsay
 Meghann Shantz
 Sarah Simpson
 Gerry Bratz
 Emma Luna Davis
 Karen Tong
 Gerald Vanderwoude
 Linda Fenton Malloy

Senior Repetiteur
 Repetiteurs
 Technical Director
 Costume Coordinator
 Wig Stylist
 Make-up Artist
 Props Supervisors
 Scenic Artist
 Scenery Construction
 Props Builders
 Lighting Operator
 Stage Crew
 Student Assistant
 Title Operator
 Production Manager
 Business Manager
 Communications
 Poster Design
 Publicity Assistants
 Box Office
 Theatre Secretary
 Administration Assistant
 Web Page

Managing Director
 Director of Facilities and Operations
 Assistant Technical Director
 Programming Manager
 Events coordinator
 Events Manager
 Customer Services Manager
 Audio Coordinator
 Systems Coordinator
 Front of House Coordinators
 Concessions Coordinator
 Ticket Office Coordinator
 Financial Officer
 Financial Clerk

Michael Noon
 Cameron McGill
 Owen Schellenberger
 Joyce Hinton
 Wendy Atkinson
 Lindsay Jameson
 Marie Edwards
 Jay O'Keefe
 Ted Clark
 Carl Armstrong
 Oren Bick
 Nathan Lee
 Donna Caedo
 Flora Lew
 Laura Lee Samuels

For the UBC Symphony Orchestra

Conductor
 Teaching Assistant
 Librarian
 Stage Manager
 Eric Wilson
 Neil Bennett
 Peggy Tong
 Sarah Tippett

For the University Singers

Assistant Conductor
 Stephen Smith

Acknowledgements:

The Chan Family, Michael Noon, the Vancouver Opera Association, The Vancouver Playhouse, The Arts Club Theatre, Valerie Moffat, School of Music Office Staff, Phyllis Lavalie and The Friends of UBC Opera, David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund, Enchanted Florist, Ian Prati, Thomas Thompson, Norman Young representing The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Judith Foist, UBC Opera Ensemble, Jim Wright General Director of The Vancouver Opera, Randy Smith and Nik von Schulman, Stuart Tarbuck, Peggy Jameson, A Special Thank You to the Vancouver Opera Guild for their donation to this production.

Plot Synopsis - Gianni Schicchi

The action takes place in the house of Buoso Donati in Florence, at the time of the Renaissance. The rich Buoso Donati has died and his relations and their dependents are divided over uncertainly mourning his departure: no one knows to whom he has left his possessions, in particular his house in Florence, his mule, and his sawmills at Signa. The relations despair at the outcome of the will and are most unsympathetic to Rinuccio's ill-timed suggestion that they should ask the wily Gianni Schicchi to help them. Apart from being the father of Rinuccio's beloved Lauretta, Gianni is a somewhat disreputable, though highly successful merchant who has risen from the ranks of the peasantry. It is this fact which makes him so unpopular with Buoso's audacious relatives. However, they find that they have no option but to ask for his help. But the tables are turned on them more than once before the end of the opera when, in Schicchi's words, Buoso's money is put to better use.

Gianni Schicchi forms part of Puccini's *Trilitta*, three one-act operas of which the other two are *Sue Angelica* and *Il Tabarro*. Today, the operas are more often than not performed separately, but the first performance of the complete *Trilitta* was given by the Metropolitan Opera in 1918.



Giuseppe De Luca, the first Gianni Schicchi, at the Metropolitan Opera, 1918

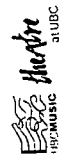
Plot Synopsis - Dido and Aeneas

The action of the opera takes place in Dido's Palace, the cave of the Sorceress, a Forest and the Harbour of Carthage. The story is the familiar one concerning the tragic relationship of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and Aeneas, son of Anchises, a Trojan prince and Venus, Goddess of Love. In Virgil, it is Mercury, messenger of the Gods, who is sent to shatter their dreams of love and empire-building with the reminder that Aeneas is to fulfill his destiny with the founding of Rome as a new Troy. In the opera, it is a false Mercury who is sent by the Sorceress, seen here not merely as a malevolent operatic prototype but a rival, an outlaw queen, who uses the black arts to achieve the downfall of Dido.



Didon et Aeneas, Purcell's only through composed opera, was written originally for performance by a girls' school in London's Chelsea in 1689. It is unique among Purcell's other principal dramatic works (*The Fairy Queen*, *The Indian Queen*, *King Arthur* and *The Tempest*) in that there is no dialogue,

and because it is the only one not cast in the stylized form of a Masque. It is a miniature masterpiece where the interplay of love, hatred, and despair is given full dramatic opportunity at the same time as being distilled into little more than an hour of music. The two existing manuscript copies of the score both date from the eighteenth century and it is on these that the present version is based. In any vocal - dramatic work of the period, the arrangement of the continuo (the harpsichord, cello and string bass which accompany so much of the opera) is left to the discretion of the performer or editor and it is principally with this aspect, and sometimes with the indication of vocal ornamentation (or lack of it) and the lay-out of the string parts, where the Britten/Holst realization is involved: there is no new harmonization nor reorganization of Purcell's original, in fact no alteration of any kind other than the supplying of some Purcell music from other sources for a missing scene for the witches at the end of Act II. This music does not exist in any available manuscript, but the words for it do appear in the published libretto of 1698.



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April 26 and 27, 8:00pm
- UBC Symphony Orchestra**
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
April 4, 12:00pm
April 5, 8:00pm
Free Admission
- University Singers**
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
March 21, 12:00pm
March 22, 8:00pm
- Stravinsky!**
Faculty and student performers
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts
April 7, 8:00pm
- Masterclasses with Edith Wicus**
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