



STREAMING THE FIRST CENTURY

SESSION 3: Italian Roots

FEATURED CAST AND LIBRETTO EXCERPTS: *Tosca*, 1932

Inaugural Opening Night of the War Memorial Opera House

TOSCA

(in Italian)

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

War Memorial Opera House

October 15, 1932 Opening Night (Broadcast Act I)

CAST

Tosca	Claudia Muzio
Cavaradossi	Dino Borgioli
Scarpia	Alfredo Gandolfi

Conductor	Gaetano Merola
Director	Armando Agnini

Clip 1: Tosca enters Rome's church of Sant'Andrea della Valle looking for her lover, Mario Cavaradossi.

TOSCA Mario! Mario! Mario!	TOSCA Mario! Mario! Mario!
CAVARADOSSI Son qui	CAVARADOSSI I'm here

Clip 2: Tosca sings of their house in the grove, a refuge from the world where she and Cavaradossi can be alone together. Cavaradossi and Tosca profess their love.

TOSCA Non la sospiri, la nostra casetta che tutta ascosa nel verde ci aspetta? Nido a noi sacro, ignoto al mondo inter,	TOSCA Don't you long for our little house that is waiting for us, hidden in the woods?
--	--

<p> pien d'amore e di mister? Al tuo fianco sentire per le silenziose stellate ombre, salir le voci delle cose! Dai boschi e dai roveti, dall'arse erbe, dall'imo dei franti sepolcreti odorosi di timo, la notte escon bisbigli di minuscoli amori e perfidi consigli che ammolliscono i cuori. Fiorite, o campi immensi, palpitate, aure marine, nel lunare albor. Ah, piovete voluttà, volte stellate! Arde in Tosca un folle amor! CAVARADOSSI Ah! M'avvinci nei tuoi lacci, mia sirena... TOSCA Arde a Tosca nel sangue il folle amor! CAVARADOSSI Mia sirena, verrò! TOSCA O mio amore! </p>	<p> Our refuge, sacred to us and unseen by the world, that is filled with love and mystery? I'll be at your side to listen to the sounds of the night as they rise through the starlit, shadowed silences: from the woods and the brambles and the meadows, from the depths of ancient tombs overgrown with thyme, the night whispers its sweet words of love and treacherous advice to soften the heart. Blossom, you great fields! Blow, you sea breezes, basking in the moon's radiance. Ah, rain down desire, you vaulted stars! Tosca burns with a mad love! CAVARADOSSI Ah! I'm under your spell, my enchantress! TOSCA Tosca's blood burns with a mad love! CAVARADOSSI Enchantress, I will come! TOSCA Oh, my love! </p>
--	---

Clip 3: Scarpia's insinuations about Cavaradosi's infidelity enflame Tosca's jealousy.

<p> TOSCA Traditor! Oh mio bel nido insozzato di fango! Vi piomberò inattesa Tu non l'avrai stasera. Giuro! SCARPIA In chiesa! TOSCA Dio mi perdona. Egli vede ch'io piango! </p>	<p> TOSCA Traitor! Oh, my beautiful nest defiled! I'll catch them unawares! You shall not have him tonight, I swear! SCARPIA In church! TOSCA God will forgive me when He sees how I'm suffering! </p>
---	--

Clip 4: Scarpia desires Tosca and envisions her in his arms while her lover hangs. The church procession around him startles Scarpia out of his reverie and he kneels and makes the sign of the cross.

SCARPIA	SCARPIA
---------	---------

Ah, di quegli occhi vittoriosi veder la fiamma
illanguidir con spasimo d'amor fra le mie braccia
illanguidir d'amor...
l'uno al capestro, l'altra fra le mie braccia...

CORO

Te Deum laudamus:
Te Dominum confitemur!

SCARPIA

Tosca, mi fai dimenticare Iddio!

CORO, SCARPIA

Te aeternum
Patrem omnis terra veneratur!

Ah, to see the fire in her proud eyes
grow languid with passion in my arms,
grow languid with love... .
For him, the rope, and for her, my arms...

CHORUS

Te Deum laudamus:
Te Dominum confitemur!

SCARPIA

Tosca, you make me forget God!

CHORUS, SCARPIA

Te aeternum
Patrem omnis terra veneratur!