



Wesfarmers Arts

SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

Executive Director Carolyn Chard AM
Artistic Director Chris van Tuinen

TOSCA

14, 16, 19, 21, 23 July 2022

His Majesty's Theatre

Composer Giacomo Puccini
Conductor Rebecca Lang
Director Patrick Nolan
Assistant Director Matt Reuben James Ward
Set and Costume Designer Dale Ferguson
Lighting Designer Mark Howett
Fight Coordinator Nastassja Kruger
Fight Coordinator Mentor Andy Fraser
Chorus Master Hugh Lydon
Repetiteur and Organ Tommaso Pollio
Backstage Conductor Kate McNamara

Floria Tosca Maija Kovalevska
Mario Cavaradossi Paul O'Neill
Baron Scarpia Warwick Fyfe
Angelotti / Sciarrone Jake Bigwood
A Sacristan Callen Dellar
Spoletta Matthew Lester
Maid Jillian Halleron
Gaoler Mark Alderson
Roberti Steve Sherwood

Casting correct at time of publication but may be subject to amendment.

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHORUS
WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA CHILDREN'S CHORUS
WEST AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Assoc Concertmaster Riley Skevington

Duration 2 hours & 20 minutes.
Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

An Opera Queensland production. This production first premiered on 13 June 2019 in Brisbane, Australia.

ACT ONE

A CHURCH, ROME. NOON.

Rome is ruled by an authoritarian government. Forces from the left attempt to overthrow the system. Scarpia, Chief of Police, suppresses all dissent.

Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner, takes refuge inside a church. As he hides in a side chapel, a Sacristan appears followed by the artist, Mario Cavaradossi. Cavaradossi is working on a painting of Mary Magdalene, inspired by Angelotti's sister, Marchesa Attavanti.

When the Sacristan leaves, Angelotti comes out of hiding. Cavaradossi barely recognises his old friend and promises to protect him from Scarpia. When Cavaradossi's lover, the famous singer Floria Tosca, arrives, Angelotti hides again. Tosca wants to spend a romantic night with Cavaradossi but is upset that Cavaradossi's painting of the Madonna is a portrait of another woman. Tosca leaves, Angelotti reappears, and a siren is heard signaling the police have discovered his escape. He and Cavaradossi flee to the artist's house.

The Sacristan returns, followed by nuns, clerics, teachers, and choirboys, preparing to sing for the evening mass. They are thrilled to hear they will be singing with Tosca that night. Their celebrations are cut short by the entrance of Scarpia, on the trail of Angelotti. When Tosca arrives looking for Cavaradossi, Scarpia plays upon her distrust of the Marchesa Attavanti in the hope she will lead him to Angelotti...

ACT TWO

SCARPIA'S HEADQUARTERS. EVENING.

In his headquarters, Scarpia anticipates the pleasure of having Tosca for himself. Unable to find Angelotti, Scarpia's henchman Spoletta arrives with Cavaradossi who has been arrested on suspicion of harboring a fugitive.

Interrogated by Scarpia, Cavaradossi denies any knowledge of Angelotti. Tosca arrives and Cavaradossi is taken away to be tortured. Scarpia challenges Tosca to reveal where Angelotti is, using Cavaradossi's cries of pain to torment her.

Refusing to succumb to the torture, Cavaradossi is furious when he realises Tosca had given away Angelotti's location. News arrives that forces from the left have achieved a major victory. Scarpia orders Cavaradossi's execution.

Alone with Scarpia, Tosca begs for her lover's life and Scarpia names his price: she must give herself to him. She agrees, and Scarpia orders Spoletta to perform a sham execution, granting safe conduct for Tosca and Cavaradossi from Rome.

ACT THREE

A PRISON. THE HOUR BEFORE DAWN.

Cavaradossi awaits his execution. Tosca arrives and discloses their plan for escape, telling her lover to pretend to be dead when he hears the gun shot. Tosca waits as Cavaradossi is led away.

Scan the QR code to read the full program:



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



West Australian Opera is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest, and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA