

Puccini Gala Concert

April 29, 2022 Bijou Theatre



Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)



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Puccini Gala Concert In Memory of Richard Tucker

Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Bijou Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Brian Salesky, Artistic Director and Conductor Rochelle Bard, soprano Adam Diegel, tenor Amy Shoremount-Obra, soprano Scott Bearden, baritone

"Ah! Vittoria!" from Gianni Schicchi (1918) Mr. Bearden

"Chi il bel sogno di Doretta" from La Rondine (1917) Ms. Bard

"O Luigi! Luigi!" from II Tabarro (1918) Ms. Bard, Mr. Diegel

La Tregenda from Le Villi (1884)

"Donde lieta usci" from La Bohème (1896) "Un bel dì vedremo" from Madama Butterfly (1904) Ms. Bard

Act III Finale from Tosca (1900) Ms. Shoremount-Obra, Mr. Diegel

Intermission

Act IV from Manon Lescaut (1893) Ms. Shoremount-Obra, Mr. Diegel

"Questo amor, vergogna mia" from Edgar (1889) Mr. Bearden

"Senza mamma" from Suor Angelica (1918) Ms. Bard

Poker Scene from La Fanciulla del West (1910) Ms. Shoremount-Obra, Mr. Bearden

"Nessun dorma" and Finale from Turandot (1924) Mr. Diegel, Ensemble



- 43 Operas
- 5 Gala Concerts
- Mostly Mozart Festival
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- 11 Knoxville Opera Goes to Church Concerts



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A Concert in Memory of Richard Tucker

It is no surprise that growing up in New York City my opera-fanatic parents would supersaturate my youth with exposure to performances at both the old and new Metropolitan Opera houses. Opera fans have their favorites, and my parents had a special affection for a tenor who, like my mother, came from an orthodox Jewish family in Brooklyn and attended New Utrecht High School. Richard Tucker (born Rubin Ticker, 1913) would first make his mark as a chazzan (cantor) in prestigious



Backstage at The Met after 1968 Luisa Miller

synagogues, and then go on to conquer the world's stages in a 30-year operatic and concert career. My first vivid recollection of him was in 1961 in *La* Fanciulla del West with Leontyne Price. In 1964, my father introduced me privately to Tucker during an intermission of Tosca. From then, until his untimely passing in 1975, Tucker was my inspiration and mentor. I observed and learned from his dedication to preparation and to always (in his words) "swing for the fences." To behold his passionate, ardent, voluminous voice and dramatic commitment both in the synagogue and on stage was an overwhelming experience. His vocal technique and imagination allowed him to deliver sweet, bel canto phrases as well as huge, clarion high notes. His most memorable characterizations, such as Des Grieux (Manon Lescaut), Eléazar (La Juive), and Canio (Pagliacci), were riveting and heart-breaking.

In 1969, already immersed in his activities, I stood next to him in performance at The Met as a soldier in Aida. Tucker was generous with his time and guidance, enthusiastic and helpful with my studies and career goals, and he welcomed and trusted my participation in his and his family's lives. He and his wife, Sara, were a blessing to me, like second parents. In 1974, after years of learning the operatic art form from him at the highest level, I was privileged to serve as his coach on new repertoire (I Vespri Siciliani, Ernani), which sadly he would not live to perform. Seated on the piano bench with him, singing duets, was absolute heaven!

Richard Tucker was a brilliant performer who never failed to thrill his audiences. Richard Tucker was a mentor who truly embraced my dreams. Richard Tucker allowed this young man to befriend and demonstrably love him. I miss him and am inspired by him every day of my life. It is my honor to dedicate this concert of Puccini's music, which he dearly loved and performed magnificently, to his blessed memory. "Amici in vita, in morte."

Brian Salesky, 2022



This year marks **BRIAN SALESKY's** 17th and final season as Knoxville Opera's Artistic Director having served as its Executive Director from 2005 to 2020. His administration has been marked by great artistic growth, a tremendous expansion and of the company's 100 annual Education/Community Engagement programs, the creation of a \$1+ million Operating Reserve, and 15 consecutive years of debt-free operations. For Knoxville Opera Mr. Salesky has conducted over 90 performances,

produced 43 operas, 5 Gala Concerts, a Mostly Mozart Festival, 15 Rossini Festivals, 11 Knoxville Opera Goes to Church concerts, an African-American Voices Series, and appeared in over 1,000 Education/Community Engagement programs including 10 in-school operas for over 50,000 students. His tenure has been highlighted by significant new company repertoire (La Forza del Destino, The Girl of the Golden West, Manon, Mefistofele, Norma, I Puritani, Maria Stuarda, Covid-cancelled Harriet Tubman) and the company debuts of many exciting and diverse artists such as J'nai Bridges, Jonathan Burton, Meryl Dominguez, Joyce El-Khoury, Rachele Gilmore, Othalie Graham, Donovan Singletary, Noah Stewart, Kevin Thompson, and Talise Trevigne...all who have gone on to international success.

Mr. Salesky has conducted a vast repertoire of traditional and contemporary works during a versatile, international career with symphonic/chamber orchestras and festivals, opera/operetta/ballet/modern dance companies, and musicals on Broadway. During his five decades in the performing arts, he has also engaged in a wide variety of work as a producer/manager of concerts, opera, television, radio, and videos, and has distinguished himself as an accompanist, music arranger, fund-raiser, educator, lecturer, author, and consultant. Mr. Salesky first won critical plaudits during his six-year tenure as a resident conductor and administrator with the New York City Opera. With the company in NYC and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington, and Mexico, his 25-opera repertoire included Falstaff and the "Live from Lincoln Center" telecast of La Cenerentola. He also served as the director of the NYC Opera National Company, conducting Carmen and La Traviata in 45 cities. The conductor has also appeared with the opera companies of Barcelona (L'Elisir d'amore with Alfredo Kraus, Madama Butterfly with Catherine Malfitano), Australia (in Sydney and Melbourne), Chicago (Lyric), Spoleto (Italy), Cincinnati, Kennedy Center, Atlanta, Dayton, Central City, and Montana. Mr. Salesky has

led the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Madrid (with soloist Renata Scotto), Winnipeg, Peru, Denver, San Diego, Syracuse, the Kennedy Center, Grant Park (Chicago), Napa, South Bend, Greensboro, Utica, and Greeley, and the chamber orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Woodstock. In his native NYC, Mr. Salesky has served as the Music Director of the Broadway revival of Man of La Mancha (starring Raúl Juliá) and as Resident Conductor of the Tony Award production of On Your Toes in addition to Director positions with the Congress of Strings and the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra. During his career, he has accompanied hundreds of distinguished artists including Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, Robert Merrill, and Carlo Bergonzi.

The Indiana University Phi Beta Kappa graduate's range of activities have included positions with the Colorado Symphony, San Francisco Opera, Ravinia Festival, Miami Opera, Utica Symphony, American Guild of Musical Artists, Walt Disney Studios, Indiana University, Hunter College, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, and the NYC Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. From 1996 to 2001, Mr. Salesky served as Co-founder, Executive Producer, and fund-raiser for the Raúl Juliá Ending Hunger Fund.



Meet the Artists



ROCHELLE BARD

Birthplace: Worcester, Massachusetts
Foreign Opera Company: Opera Lirica (Orvieto)
Foreign Festivals: Seoul International Music Festival,
Toulouse International Festival
U.S. Opera Companies: Knoxville Opera (Norma,

Il Trovatore, Maria Stuarda, 40th Anniversary Gala

Concert), Washington Opera Society, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Sarasota Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Baltimore Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Shreveport Opera, Sacramento Opera, Opera Tampa, Opera San José, Opera Idaho, Ash Lawn Opera, Opera Providence, Maine Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of Connecticut, Opera Theatre of Middlebury (CT), MidAtlantic Opera (NJ), Cape Cod Opera, St. Petersburg Opera (FL), Longwood Opera (MA), New England Light Opera (MA), West Bay Opera (Palo Alto), Sugar Creek Opera (IL)

U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Opera Orchestra of New York, Hartford Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony, Wilmington Symphony, MidAmerica Productions (NY), Cambridge Symphony (MA), Pioneer Valley Symphony (MA), Cadenza Orchestra (CA), Farmington Valley Chorale (CT), North Shore Chorus and Orchestra (MA); Tanglewood Festival, Chautauqua Institute (NY), Music by the Lake (WI)

Website: <u>www.rochellebard.com</u>



AMY SHOREMOUNT-OBRA (KO debut)

Birthplace: Edison, New Jersey **Foreign Orchestra and Festival:** Orquesta Filarmónica del Estado de Chihuahua (Mexico), Spoleto Festival (Italy)

U.S. Opera Companies: Metropolitan Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Maryland Opera, Opera Las Vegas,

Odyssey Opera of Boston, Annapolis Opera, Venture Opera (NYC) U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Pacific Symphony, Opera Orchestra of NY, Savannah Philharmonic, National Chorale, Juilliard Orchestra, Camerata Orchestra of NY, Grand Harmonie (NJ), Hawaii International Music Festival, Oregon Music Festival, Savannah Voice Festival Website: www.amyshoremount-obra.com



ADAM DIEGEL (KO debut)

Birthplace: Seoul, South Korea **Foreign Opera Companies:** Opera Australia, English National Opera, Opera Hong Kong, Opéra Nationale de Lyon, Budapest National Theatre, Lithuanian National Opera, Guangzhous Opera (China)

Foreign Festival: Savonlinna Opera Festival

U.S. Opera Companies: Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Atlanta Opera, Minnesota Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Nashville Opera, Arizona Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Opera Tampa, Opera Omaha, Madison Opera, Opera Columbus, Opera San Antonio, Pensacola Opera, Opera Maine U.S. Orchestras: Alabama Symphony, Spokane Symphony Website: www.adamdiegel.com



SCOTT BEARDEN

Birthplace: Flint, Michigan **Foreign Opera Company:** International Vocal Arts Institute (Tel Aviv)

U.S. Opera Companies: Knoxville Opera (Pagliacci, Otello, La Fanciulla del West, Hansel and Gretel, Tosca, Maria Stuarda, Aida, 40th

Anniversary Gala Concert, Gianni Schicchi), San Francisco Opera, Opera Boston, Opera New Jersey, Opera Memphis, Toledo Opera, Mississippi Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Opera San Jose, Opera Grand Rapids, Eugene Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, West Bay Opera, Mercury Opera, Rockland Opera (NY), California Festival Opera **U.S. Orchestras and Festivals:** Knoxville Symphony, Monterey Symphony,

Oakland East Bay Symphony, Midland Symphony, Symphony Silicon Valley, Tanglewood Music Festival, Caramoor Music Festival, Sanibel Music Festival, Mendocino Music Festival



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Translations

"Ah! Vittoria!" from Gianni Schicchi

(Premiere: Metropolitan Opera, NYC, 1918)

Gianni Schicchi Ah! Victory! Victory! But, don't you understand? Ah! What pumpkin heads! You run to the notary [and say] "Master Notary, come quickly to Buoso Donati! He's grown worse and wants to write a will! Bring your parchments with you. Hurry, Master, or it will be too late!" The notary comes...enters...the room is dark. In the bed he glimpses the form of Buoso... nightcap on his head...kerchief on his face! Between the two is a nose like Buoso's but it's mine, because I am there in Buoso's place! I, Schicchi, with a disguised voice and shape! I pretend to be Buoso Donati, giving the will legitimacy! Oh, people! This mad whimsy that springs up in my imagination is such to defy eternity!

"Chi il bel sogno di Doretta" from La Rondine (The Swallow)

(Premiere: Grand Théâtre de Monte Carlo, 1917)

Magda

Who can divine Doretta's beautiful dream?
Its mystery -- how does it end?
Woe! One day a student kissed her fully on the lips, and that kiss was a revelation.
It was passion!...Crazy love!...Mad intoxication!
Who can ever describe the subtle caress of such an ardent kiss! Ah! my dream!...Ah! my life!...
What does wealth matter so long as in the end happiness has blossomed again!
Oh, such a golden dream, to be able to love like that!

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REGAL

"O Luigi! Luigi!" from II Tabarro (The Cloak)

(Premiere: Metropolitan Opera, NYC, 1918)

Giorgietta	Oh Luigi! Luigi! Tell me why you asked him to put you ashore at Rouen?
Luigi	Because I can't share you with him!
Giorgietta	You're right: It's tormenting and I'm overcome
5	by it as well.
	l also feel, stronger than you do, this chain!
	lt's an anguish, a suffering;
	But when you take me, the reward is so great!
Luigi	It's like stealing together something from life!
Giorgietta	The pleasure is more intense!
Luigi	It is joy stolen amid sufferings and fears
Giorgietta	In an anxious embrace
Luigi	Amid stifled cries and kisses without end
Giorgietta	And soft words
Luigi	And kisses without end!
Giorgietta	Vows and promises
Luigi	To be us, alone
Giorgietta	Us alone, far, far away!
Luigi	Us alone, far away from the world!
	Is that him?
Giorgietta	No, not yet. Tell me you'll come back later
Luigi	Yes, in an hour
Giorgietta	Listen, like yesterday I'll leave the gangplank down. I'm the one who removes it
	Do you have on rope-souled shoes?
Luigi	Yesyou'll make the same signal?
Giorgietta	Yesthe lighted match!
	How it trembled, on my outstretched arm, the little flame!
	It seemed like I was lighting a star,
	flame of our love, a star that never sets!
Luigi	I want your mouth and your caresses!
Giorgietta	Then you also feel the mad desire!
Luigi	Mad with jealousy!
-	I would like to hold you close,
	Like something that is mine!
	I would like to suffer no longer,

that another touches you, And take away from everyone your divine body. I swear it to you, I swear it; I do not tremble at wielding the knife, and with drops of blood creating a jewel for you!

La Tregenda from Le Villi (The Fairies)

(Premiere: Teatro Dal Verme, Milano, 1884)

La Tregenda (The Witches' Sabbath) is part of the symphonic intermezzo preceding Act 2. In the Black Forest the fairies come to dance, preceded by wills-o'-the-wisp, floating above the stage. The libretto includes this narration:

"In the Black Forest there is a legend called the Legend of the Fairies, and it strikes terror in all faithless lovers.

If a young lady dies of love, each night in the forest the witches come to dance, waiting for the betrayer.

Then, if they meet him, they laugh and dance with him until, exhausted, he dies. Now for Roberto there came a fatal day.

Abandoned by the siren, in his rags, he decided to return to the forest, and tonight he has indeed returned.

He comes through the wood.

The Fairies whirl about him in the frosty air. Trembling with cold and terror he is already in the midst of the dark forest."

"Donde lieta usci" from La Bohème

(Premiere: Teatro Regio, Torino, 1896)

Mimì [Mimì is going] to the place she left happily at your cry of love,
Mimì is returning alone to the lonely nest.
She's going back again to make artificial flowers.
Goodbye, without bitterness.
Listen, listen:
Gather the few things I left scattered.
In my drawer is a little gold ring and the prayer book.
Wrap them in an apron and I'll send the concierge...
Look under the pillow...there's the pink bonnet.
If you want to keep it in memory of our love...
Goodbye, without bitterness.

"Un bel dì vedremo" from Madama Butterfly

(Premiere: Teatro alla Scala, Milano, 1904)

Cio-Cio-San Crying! Why? Ah, you lack faith. Listen: One beautiful day we'll see a wisp of smoke rising over the furthest edge of the sea. And then the ship appears...the white ship comes into the port, thundering its salute. Do you see? It has arrived! I don't go down to meet him. I don't. I stand there on the brow of the hill and wait for a long time and the long wait won't be tiresome. And, having left the city crowd, a man, a little dot sets off up the hill. Who will it be? Who will it be? And when he is close what will he say? He'll call "Butterfly" from afar. Without responding I will remain hidden partly as a joke and partly so as not to die at our first encounter. And he, somewhat distressed, will call: "Tiny little bride, scent of verbena," the names he gave me when he first came. All this will come true. I promise. Hold on to your fear. I wait for him with confident faith.

Act III Finale from Tosca

(Premiere: Teatro Costanzi, Roma, 1900)

Cavaradossi	Oh sweet hands pure and gentle. Oh hands meant for the fair works of piety, caressing children, gathering roses, for prayers when others meet misfortune Then it was in you, made strong by love, that justice placed her sacred weapons? You dealt out death, victorious hands,
Tosca	Oh sweet hands pure and gentle. Listen, the hour is near. I have already collected my gold and jewels. A carriage is waiting But firstOh, laugh at this my love First you will be shot, in play and pretense, with unloaded armsa mock punishment. Fall down at the shot, the soldiers leave,

Cavaradossi Tosca Cavaradossi Tosca	and we are safe! And then to Civitavecchia, and there a ship. And we're away by sea! Free! Free! Away by sea! Where now have pain and sorrow fled? Do you smell the aroma of the roses? Do you feel that all things on the earth
Cavaradossi	await the sun enamored? Only for you did death taste bitter for me, And only you invest this life with splendor. All joy and all desire, for my being, are held in you as heat within flame. Now I'll see through your transfiguring eyes, the heavens blaze and the heavens darken; and the beauty of all things remarkable from you alone will have their voice and color.
Tosca	The love that found the way to save your life will be our earthly guide, our pilot on the waters, and make the wide world lovely to our eyes; until together we will fade away beyond the sphere of earth, as light clouds fade, at sundown, high above the sea. They still don't come And be careful when you hear the shot. You must fall down at once.
Cavaradossi Tosca	Have no fear, I'll fall instantly and naturally. But be careful not to hurt yourself. With my experience in the theatre I would know how to manage it.
Cavaradossi	Speak to me again as you spoke before. So sweet is the sound of your voice.
Tosca	United and exalted our love will spread throughout the world. Harmonies of colors
Both	and harmonies of song we will spread! TriumphantThe soul trembles with new hope in heavenly increasing ardor, and in harmonious flight the spirit soars to the ecstasy of love.
Tosca	With a thousand kisses I will seal your eyes, and call you by a thousand names of love.
Jailer Cavaradossi Tosca Cavaradossi Tosca Cavaradossi Tosca	It is time. I am ready. Remember: at the first shot, down Down And don't get up until I call you No, my love! And fall down properly

Cavaradossi Tosca Cavaradossi Tosca	Like Tosca on the stage. You mustn't laugh. Like so? Like so. This waiting is so long! Why are they still delaying? The sun's already rising. It is only a comedy, I know, but this anguish seems to last forever!
Tosca	There! They are taking aim! How handsome is my Mario! There! Die! Ah, what an artist! Oh Mario, do not movethey're going now. Be still. They are going down. Not yet, you mustn't move. Up, Mario. Quickly. Come, come. Quickly. Mario! Mario! Dead! Dead! Oh Mario, dead? You? Like this? Is this how it ends? Your poor Tosca!
Voices	Stabbed I tell you! Scarpia? The woman is Tosca! Watch the foot of the stairs. Don't let her escape.
Sciarrone Spoletta Tosca	There she is! Ah, Tosca, you will pay dearly for his life! With mine! Oh Scarpia! Before God!

Act IV from Manon Lescaut

(Premiere: Teatro Regio, Torino, 1893)

Des Grieux	Put all your weight on me, my tired beloved. The dusty road, the cursed road will soon end.
Manon	Onward, ever onward!
	The air around us is getting darker.
Des Grieux	Lean on me!
Manon	The breeze roams over the great plain
	and day is dying! OnwardNo!
Des Grieux	Manon!
Manon	l am finished! Forgive me!
	You are strong, I envy you; a woman, weak, I give up.
Des Grieux	Are you suffering?
Manon	Horribly!
	No! What am I saying? Vain, foolish words.
	Oh, take comfort! I ask for a brief rest – only a moment.
	My sweet lover, come closer to me!
Des Grieux	Manon, listen, my love! You don't answer, dearest?

ManonIs it you weeping? Is it you imploring? I hear your sobs, and your burning tears bathe my face. Ah, is it you weeping and imploring? My love, help me!Des GrieuxOh beloved! Oh, Manon! Ah, Manon my love!ManonMy love! Help me!Des GrieuxOh, my Manon!ManonThirst is destroying me – darling, help me!Des GrieuxOh, my Manon!ManonThirst is destroying me – darling, help me!Des GrieuxAll my blood I would give for your life! Nothing to be seen! Nothing! Barren land, and not a trace of water. O motionless sky! O God, to whom as a child I also raised my prayer, give us your help!ManonYes, help! You can save me! Listen, I will rest here! You scan the hazy horizon and look for hill or cabin. Push forward and return with joyful words and tidings! Alone, lost, abandoned in this desolate land! Oh, horror! The sky is darkening around me. Alas, I am alone! And in the depths of the desert I meet my end, cruel torment, alone, forsaken, I am a deserted woman! I do not want to die! So all is over. This seemed a peaceful land to me! Oh, my fatal beauty kindles a new anger – they wanted to tear me from him; now all my horrible past rises again and comes to life before my eyes. Ah, it is stained with blood! Ah, all is ended! Now I invoke the tomb as a haven of peace. No, I do not want to die! My love, help me! No! In your arms, beloved, for the last time! Do you bring good news?Des GrieuxI found nothing, the horizon revealed nothing to me,		Look, it is I who weep, I who implore you, I who caress and kiss your golden hair! Oh, Manon! Manon, answer me! Silence! Curses! A cruel fever grips her. Desperate, I am haunted by a sense of misfortune, a sense of darkness and fear! Answer me, my love! Still silentManon, won't you answer me?
Des GrieuxOh beloved! Oh, Manon! Ah, Manon my love!ManonMy love! Help me!Des GrieuxOh, my Manon!ManonThirst is destroying me – darling, help me!Des GrieuxAll my blood I would give for your life! Nothing to be seen! Nothing! Barren land, and not a trace of water. O motionless sky! O God, to whom as a child I also raised my prayer, give us your help!ManonYes, help! You can save me! Listen, I will rest here! You scan the hazy horizon and look for hill or cabin. Push forward and return with joyful words and tidings! Alone, lost, abandoned in this desolate land! Oh, horror! The sky is darkening around me. Alas, I am alone! And in the depths of the desert I meet my end, cruel torment, alone, forsaken, I am a deserted woman! I do not want to die! So all is over. This seemed a peaceful land to me! Oh, my fatal beauty kindles a new anger – they wanted to tear me from him; now all my horrible past rises again and comes to life before my eyes. Ah, it is stained with blood! Ah, all is ended! Now I invoke the tomb as a haven of peace. No, I do not want to die! My love, help me! No! 	Manon	ls it you weeping? Is it you imploring? I hear your sobs, and your burning tears bathe my face. Ah, is it you weeping and imploring?
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······································	Des Grieux	

Manon	I am dying: the shadows are closing in;
Des Grieux	night is descending upon me. A fatal delirium assails you. Rest here on my throbbing heart and regain your strength!
Manon	I love you so much – and I am dying! Already I can hardly speak, but I can tell you about how much I love you! Oh, my love, heavenly delight, ineffable rapture! Oh, my supreme desire, I love you so much!
Des Grieux Manon	The chill of death! God, my last hope is shattered. My sweet love, you weep. This is the hour for kisses, not for tears; time is flying – kiss me!
Des Grieux	Oh, my greatest joy, flame of love eternal.
Manon Des Grieux	The flame is dying – speak, oh speak – alas! Manon!
Manon	l can no longer hear you – alas! I want your face here, close to me, so, kiss me, close to me, once more I can feel youAlas!
Des Grieux	Without youI am lost – I will follow you.
Manon	I forbid it! Farewell – dark is the night – I'm cold. Was your Manon loving? Do you remember? Tell me – the splendor of my youth? And I shall never see the sun again!
Des Grieux Manon	My God! My faults will beforgotten, but my lovewill never die.

"Questo amor, vergogna mia" from Edgar (Premiere: Teatro alla Scala, Milano, 1889)

Frank	This shameful love of mine, I wish to forget; But by a horrible spell my emotions are enslaved.
	A thousand times to heaven I swore to flee from her!
	And to her I returned!
	She laughs at my tears;
	Of my indignation she sneers and I, a coward,
	with a crushed heart, I lay prostrate at her feet.
	And of her alone I dream, I desire!
	Ah, misfortune! I love her!

"Senza mamma" from Suor Angelica (Sister Angelica)

(Premiere: Metropolitan Opera, NYC, 1918)

Angelica Without your mother, oh child, you died! Your lips, without my kisses, grew pale and cold! And you closed, oh child, your beautiful eyes! Not being able to caress me, you folded your little hands in a cross! And you died without knowing how much your mother loved you! Now that you are an angel in heaven, you can see your mother, vou can come down from the sky and hover about me. I feel you. You're here, you kiss and caress me. Ah, tell me, when will I see you in heaven? When will I be able to kiss you? Oh, sweet end to all my sorrows, when can I join you in Heaven? When shall I die, oh, when shall I die? Tell your mother, beautiful baby, with a tiny twinkle of a star. Speak to me, my beloved, my love!

Poker Scene from La Fanciulla del West (The Girl of the Golden West) (Premiere: Metropolitan Opera, NYC, 1910)

Minnie	[My stakes in the game are my life and Johnson's!] [We'll play] a game of poker! If you're lucky, you take this wounded man and me. But if I win, your word of honor, Jack, this man is mine!
Jack Rance	How she loves him!
	I'll take you on! I'll win!
Minnie	Your word of honor?
Jack Rance	And if I lose, I lose like a gentleman. But, my God!
	I'm just consumed with hunger and longing
	until I get you. If I'm lucky, you're mine!
Minnie	Turn the lamp down.
Jack Rance	What's that?
Minnie	A fresh pack of cards.
	I'm nervous. Have patience. It's an awful thing to think a game of poker decides two people's lives. Are vou ready?
Jack Rance	
Minnie	The best two out of three.
Jack Rance	What?
Minnie Jack Rance Minnie Jack Rance Minnie	I'm just consumed with hunger and longing until I get you. If I'm lucky, you're mine! Turn the lamp down. What's that? A fresh pack of cards. I'm nervous. Have patience. It's an awful thing to think of game of poker decides two people's lives. Are you ready? I'm ready, cut; your turn. The best two out of three.

Minnie Jack Rance Minnie Jack Rance Minnie Jack Rance Minnie Jack Rance	Two What do you see in him? What do you see in me? What've you got? King high. Jack. Queen. You've got it. Now for the next hand! Two aces and a pair.
Minnie	Nothing!
Jack Rance	Even! We're even!
Minnie	Now it's the next that's final?
Jack Rance	Yes. Cut.
Minnie	Rance, I'm sorry I spoke bitterly to you.
Jack Rance	Shuffle.
Minnie	I've always thought well of you, Jack Rance,
lask Dance	and always will.
Jack Rance	l think only this, that my arms will soon be around you.
	Three Kings! Look! I'm winning!
Minnie	Jack, please, hurry up!
WIITING	Get me something, I'm fainting!
Jack Rance	What can I get you?
Minnie	There!
Jack Rance	Ah! The bottleherebut where is the glass?
Minnie	Hurry, Jack, for pity's sake!
Jack Rance	I know why you're faint: Because you have lost!
Minnie	You're wrong. It's because the game is mine!
	Three aces and a pair!
Jack Rance	Good-night!
Minnie	He's mine!

"Nessun dorma" and Finale from Turandot

(Premiere: Teatro alla Scala, Milano, 1924)

Distant Voices	Tonight, no one will sleep in Beijing.
Prince Calaf	No one will sleep! No one will sleep!
	You too, Princess, in your cold room,
	are looking at the stars
	that tremble with love and hope!
	But my mystery is locked in me
	and no one will know my name.
	No, no, but upon your mouth I shall say it
	when the light shines!
	And my kiss will break the silence
	that makes you mine!



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Distant Voices No one w

Prince Calaf

Ensemble

No one will know his name... And we, alas, will have to die! Night: dissolve! Stars: fade away! And at dawn I will be victorious! O Sun! Life! Eternity! The light of the world is love! Our infinite happiness laughs and sings in the sun! Glory! Glory to you! Glory!



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