



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA OLIVER MEARS

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm; opera begins at 7.30pm

Act I 50 minutes

Interval

Act II 45 minutes

Interval

Act III 35 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 10.30pm

Please note that there will be gunshots on stage in Act III.

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts,
during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHtosca**

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2017/18 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

THE WINTER'S TALE WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018

CARMEN TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018

BERNSTEIN CENTENARY TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

MACBETH WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

MANON THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

SWAN LAKE TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

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TOSCA

MELODRAMMA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC **GIACOMO PUCCINI**

LIBRETTO **GIUSEPPE GIACOSA** AND **LUIGI ILLICA** AFTER
VICTORIEN SARDOU'S PLAY LA TOSCA

CONDUCTOR **DAN ETTINGER**

DIRECTOR **JONATHAN KENT**
REVIVAL DIRECTOR **ANDREW SINCLAIR**
DESIGNER **PAUL BROWN**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **MARK HENDERSON**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
CHORUS DIRECTOR **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
CO-CONCERT MASTER **SERGEY LEVITIN**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY **JONATHAN HASWELL**

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018, 7.15PM

Synopsis

The events take place in Rome on 17–18 June 1800

ACT I

The church of Sant'Andrea della Valle

The political prisoner Cesare Angelotti has escaped and seeks refuge in the Attavanti chapel. The painter Cavaradossi arrives for work. He shocks the Sacristan by admitting that his painting of Mary Magdalen has been inspired both by his lover, the singer Floria Tosca, and the Marchesa Attavanti, whose prayers in the chapel masked her leaving a female disguise and a key for her brother, Angelotti. When the Sacristan leaves, Angelotti comes out of the chapel and runs into Cavaradossi; fortunately, the painter sympathizes with his political views and promises to help him. Angelotti hides as Tosca calls outside for her lover.

Tosca believes that Cavaradossi has been talking to a woman. He calms her, but she needs further reassurance after she recognizes the Marchesa Attavanti's features in Cavaradossi's Mary Magdalen painting. After she has gone, Cavaradossi agrees to hide Angelotti at his villa, and the men hurry off together.

The Sacristan returns with news – later proved false – that Napoleon Bonaparte has been defeated at Marengo. A celebratory Te Deum will be sung, and that evening Tosca will perform at the Palazzo Farnese. Scarpia, the dreaded Chief of Police, interrupts the jubilations. He and his agent Spoletta have tracked Angelotti to the church. Cavaradossi's empty food basket and a fan bearing the Attavanti coat of arms convince Scarpia that Cavaradossi has helped Angelotti escape.

Tosca returns, and Scarpia, who desires her, arouses her jealousy by showing her the fan and insinuating that Cavaradossi and the Marchesa Attavanti are having an affair. Tosca hurries to Cavaradossi's villa and Spoletta follows her. To the sounds of the Te Deum, Scarpia plots to execute Cavaradossi and possess Tosca.

ACT II

Scarpia's apartment at the Palazzo Farnese

Scarpia sends Tosca a note asking her to come to his apartment. Spoletta tells his employer that he was unable to find Angelotti but has arrested Cavaradossi. Scarpia questions Cavaradossi as Tosca sings in the concert below. Cavaradossi denies everything, and Scarpia orders his torture as Tosca arrives.

Scarpia interrogates Tosca, and orders the torture chamber door to be opened so she can hear her lover's cries. At last, she tells him Angelotti's hiding place. The wounded Cavaradossi is brought in, and Scarpia reveals what Tosca has done. The police officer Sciarrone arrives to announce that Bonaparte has triumphed at Marengo after all. Cavaradossi exults and is dragged off.

Tosca pleads with Scarpia, and finally agrees to give herself to him if he frees Cavaradossi. Scarpia appears to instruct Spoletta to arrange a mock execution, and writes out a pass for the lovers' safe conduct. As he turns to possess Tosca, she stabs him. She finds the safe conduct, lays out Scarpia's dead body and leaves.

ACT III

The Castel Sant'Angelo

At dawn, Cavaradossi attempts to write his farewell to Tosca but is overwhelmed by memories of her. Tosca arrives and tells her lover she has killed Scarpia. The pair plan a happy future, and Tosca instructs Cavaradossi on how to act during the mock execution. When the firing squad carry out their work, she is impressed by her lover's fine acting – only to discover after the soldiers have filed out that Scarpia has double-crossed her and Cavaradossi is dead. Spoletta and Sciarrone rush in to arrest Tosca for Scarpia's murder, but before they can do so, she leaps to her death from the castle battlements.

Cast

CESARE ANGELOTTI
A POLITICAL PRISONER

SIMON SHIBAMBU

SACRISTAN

JEREMY WHITE

MARIO CAVARADOSSI
A PAINTER AND REPUBLICAN

JOSEPH CALLEJA

FLORIA TOSCA
A CELEBRATED SINGER

ADRIANNE PIECZONKA

BARON SCARPIA
CHIEF OF POLICE

GERALD FINLEY

SPOLETTA
A POLICE AGENT

ALED HALL

SCIARRONE
A POLICE OFFICER

JIHOON KIM

SHEPHERD BOY

EDWARD HYDE

GAOLER

JOHN MORRISSEY

SOLDIERS, PRIESTS, POLICE AGENTS, NOBLE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN