



Mid-Hudson Opera Theatre, Inc. Presents...

# Cavalleria Rusticana

Pietro Mascagni

## Cast

<i>Santuzza</i>	Catherine Booth
<i>Turiddu</i>	Tony Angelo
<i>Alfio</i>	Del Neroni
<i>Mamma Lucia</i>	Katharine Montgomery
<i>Lola</i>	Nancy Werfel
<i>Chorus</i>	Michael Baxter, Elissa Bowen, Henry Bowen, Beth Daniels, Gloria Haarbye, Pat Kvamme, Kay Lahey, Don McTernan, Lynn Osborne, Mary Osinski, Ray Teichman, Arlene Van Luvanee, Susan Waltz.

## INTERMISSION

# Gianni Schicchi

Giacomo Puccini

## Cast

<i>Gianni</i>	John Ericson
<i>Rinuccio</i>	Michael Handy
<i>Lauretta</i>	Elissa Bowen
<i>Simone</i>	Carl Fredrickson
<i>Zita</i>	Mary Maresca
<i>Marco</i>	Robert Casper
<i>Ciesca</i>	Maria Lustgarten
<i>Gherardo</i>	Robert Santero
<i>Nella</i>	Linda Cahill
<i>Betto</i>	Keith Lewis
<i>Spinelloccio</i>	William Brooks
<i>Pinollino</i>	Henry Bowen

## CREDITS

<i>Stage Director</i>	Drew G. Kopf
<i>Technical Director</i>	John Norton
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Sylvia Anderson
<i>Musical Directors</i>	Willard McNary "Cavalleri Rusticana" Al Rothstein "Gianni Schicchi"
<i>Accompanist</i>	Ed Lustgarten

# PROGRAM NOTES

## *Gianni Schicchi* by Giacomo Puccini

In the bedroom of the rich Buoso Donati his relatives lament his death. When they learn that he has cut them all out of his will in favor of a religious order, they search for a way to alter it. Gianni Schicchi is summoned. On arrival he reviews the situation and conceives a plan. He attempts a fantastic charade to fool the authorities. Pretending to be Buoso he dictates a new will, however, it has a surprise ending to those he ostensibly came to help.

## *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Pietro Mascagni

Easter morning in a Sicilian village, Santuzza, who has learned that her sweetheart Turiddu is having an affair with Alfio's wife Lola, is trying to get him to come back to her. She seeks the aid of Mama Lucia, Turiddu's mother, but is ignored. She confronts Turiddu himself and is rejected completely. Frustrated and humiliated, Santuzza shares her story with Alfio precipitating an immediate resolution to the problem. With vengeance as his goal, Alfio insults Turridu publicly to draw a challenge. Turridu is resigned to die. He bids his mother farewell asking her to watch after Santuzza. Moments later the news of his death is reported.

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## Cavalleria

*Catherine Booth* (Santuzza) First Major role for Co., has sung several cameos. Soloist at Mt. Carmel Church. Has performed on night club circuit.

*Tony Angelo* (Turiddu) Tenor with the Co. for four years. Has worked in many capacities, currently Vice Pres. of Artistic Affairs.

*Del Neroni* (Alfio) Singing his third major role with the Co. He studied and sang

professionally in NYC. Also an accomplished pianist.

*Katharine Montgomery* (Lucia) New to the Co. has sung in NYC clubs and worked the summer stock circuit in PICNIC and LADIES IN RETIREMENT.

*Nancy Werfel* (Lola) Has a degree in music, has studied at Juillard. Currently "freelancing" throughout NY area in workshops and small Companies.

## Gianni Schicchi

*John Ericson* (Gianni) A Wappingers Falls music teacher, in his third major role with MHOT. Has sung in musicals with other Companies.

*Michael Handy* (Rinuccio) Sings professionally throughout NY area, has toured with Goldofsky & Rondoliers. His third appearance in Pok.

*Elissa Bowen* (Lauretta) New to the Co. Has just received her BA in music from Oswego, where she appeared in leading roles.

*Carl Fredrickson* (Simone) Basso is a nationally known composer, arranger and teacher. Is also working in LA SERVA for the MHOT.

*Mary Maresca* (Zita) Contralto trained at Juillard, has sung roles and for GALAS and promotionals since Co. began.

*Robert Casper* (Marco) Popular entertainer in Hudson Valley, has directed & sung with several local organizations. New in MHOT.

*Maria Lustgarten* (Ciesca) Has danced professionally, a charter member of Co. She's worked in many areas of productions.

*Robert Santero* (Gherardo) Tenor new to Co. Has had a career in musical and toured with many. Sang Charley in BRIGADOON.

*Linda Cahill* (Nella) New to Co. Sang roles at Chataqua and Ithaca College. Is organist and choir director in Kingston

*Keith Lewis* (Betto) Baritone, new with the Co. Has performed in musicals and is soloist at St. Patrick's in Central Valley.

*William Brooks* (Spinelloccio) Basso, sang Balthasar in AMAHL and has been a chorus member since the beginning of the MHOT.

*Henry Bowen* (Pinollino) Basso Buffo, Comic parts in several MHOT productions. Has performed in musicals and operas for twenty years.

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

*Sylvia Anderson* – Stage Manager – A Co. member who has “done everything” from running props to Leading Soprano in FIGARO and FAUST. She is Zoning Administrator for Town of Wappingers, and studies with M. Clapp.

*Ed Lustgarten* – Accompanist – Has a degree from Juillard and is the Co’s “resident pianist”, truly the musician’s musician, he’s also an IBMer.

*John Norton* – Technical Director – Backstage manager for many school and community productions, he teaches apprentice programs for young people on production techniques.

*Willard McNary* – Music Director – Cavalleria Rusticana – As PHS Chorus Director worked several musicals, is past director Marist Glee Club, and Euterpe Choir. He’s pianist with LaFalce Bros. Dance Band and a member of Capella Festiva. Graduate of State University, Potsdam.

*Al Rothstein* – Music Director – Gianni Schicchi – Has BA and MA in music and education, Hofstra University. Instrumental Director at PHS he’s worked many musicals. Music Director for New Paltz Theatre Group.

*Drew Kopf* – Stage Director – Holds BA in English, Yeshiva Univ. and MFA in Directing, Temple Univ. He believes in artistic “honesty” to be the way of life for his theatre; has directed INCIDENT AT VICHEY, SUBJECT WAS ROSES among many. Cultural director and theatrical consultant for communities in Columbus, Ohio, Providence, RI, and Pok. Theatrical preference; theatre in the round.

Production Personnel-Props-Ethel Martineau, Costumes-Virginia Herring (Cav) and Nancy Ericson (*Schicchi*), Make-up-Frederica Arico, Publicity-Tony Angelo, Programs-Kay Lahey, Tickets-Vicki Kampf.

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