



- ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE
- FOOD & BEVERAGE
- TECHNOLOGY
- HOME & GARDEN
- HEALTH & BEAUTY
- STYLE & FASHION
- TRAVEL & LEISURE
- LIFE'S JOURNEY
- SPORTS
- VEHICLES

**[How To Sing - Really Sing](#)**  
[TheSingingZone.com/Voice-Training](http://TheSingingZone.com/Voice-Training)  
 Breakthrough Method Releases Your Unique Voice! Watch Free Video Here

[AdChoices](#)

## Schicchi Review – Part Two of Opera San José’s double bill from Puccini’s Il Trittico

By Philip Hodge

[Email this Article](#) · [Printer Friendly Page](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Tweet](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [+](#)
- 

Twenty-minutes after the ethereal redemption which ended *Suor Angelica* I’m back in my seat applauding Maestro **Joseph Marcheso** as he makes his way to the podium. He well deserves the applause for the way he led the orchestra in perfect sync with the action and the singing through all the rapid swings of mood throughout the first opera. And with the crashing discords which begin the overture, we immediately know that the forthcoming mood will be drastically different from the emotional wringer we have just been through.



Cast A: Buoso (Tony Ciliberto) lies dying at opening curtain

The discords are prophetic as the curtain rises to reveal the discordant Donati family, gathered together in the elegant Florence home of Buoso (**Stephen Howes**), the oldest and richest member of the clan who lies dying in his massive bed. In fact, most productions have him already dead, but Stage Director **Lorna Haywood** added a cute twist which fits equally well with the music. The family is wailing and mourning his imminent death when he suddenly sits up in bed, points to his throat as if he were trying to say something, and falls back dead.

Find us on Facebook

**Splash Magazines - adding style to your life TM**

[Like](#)

1,702 people like Splash Magazines - adding style to your life TM.

Facebook social plugin



[calendar](#)

[gift guides](#)





Cast A: The Donati clan; sitting (L to R): Simone (Isaiah Musik-Ayala)m Zita (Nicole Birkland), and Betto di Signa (Jo Vincent Parks); standing (L to R): Rinuccio (James Callon), Marco (Peter Tuff), La Ciesca (Tori Grayum), Nella (Jillian Boye), and Gherardo (Robert Norman)

The family now mourns loudly and competitively about how long they will cry, escalating from hours to all day to days, weeks, months, years, to (the winner) Forever. Said family consists of Buoso’s elderly cousins Simone (**Silas Elash**) and Zita (**Patrice Houston**), Zita’s nephew Rinuccio (**Alexander Boyer**), Buoso’s brother-in-law Betto di Signa (**Rolfe Dautz**) and his nephew Gherardo (**Robert Norman**) along with Gherardo’s wife and 7-year old son Nella (**Elisabeth Russ**) and Gherardino (**Joshua Grzymala**), and Simone’s nephew and wife Marco (**Krassen Karagiozov**) and La Ciesca (**Rebecca Krouner**).

When everyone is sure that Buoso is really dead, their eyes and their voices light up as they think of their likely inheritances. But a whispered rumor starts circulating about what “they are saying in the streets of Signa,” and faces begin to drop. Zita tries vainly to catch the whispers and finally corners Betto with an imperious demand to hear all. At which point she and the others (and we, the audience) learn that the rumor is that Buoso’s will disinherits his whole family and leaves everything to the friars of a monastery!

Consternation, chaos, and pandemonium. It is inconceivable that rumor be true. The will must be found and the rumor proved false. Mad rushing about in random uncoordinated searching for the will. They even roll the body around searching the bedclothes. The genius of Puccini is that his music perfectly matches all of this slapstick activity. To get the most out of this scene, we must keep both eyes and ears fully alert.

Mother’s Day Home & Garden Gifts – Mother’s Day Home & Garden Gift Guide 2011

Sports Gifts – Sporting Gift Guide for 2011



Pet Gifts Guide 2011



Home & Garden Gift Guide - Home 2011



Mother’s Day Food & Beverage Gifts – Mother’s Day Food & Beverage Gift Guide 2011 Over \$15



Mother’s Day Family Gifts – Mother’s Day Family Gift Guide 2011



Mother’s Day Vehicle Gifts – Mother’s Day Vehicle Gift Guide



Mother’s Day Hot Lingerie & Sleepwear Gifts – Mother’s Day Lingerie & Sleepwear Gift Guide 2011



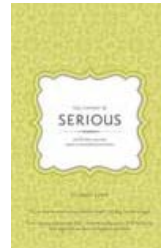


Cast 1: Tenor Alexander Boyer as Rinuccio with Buoso’s will

Eventually Rinuccio finds the will. “Give it to me and I will read it,” Zita demands imperiously. (Zita, by the way, is played by **Patrice Houston** whom we saw earlier as the Princess – that singer knows how to be imperious). But Rinuccio holds it out of reach: “Not so fact, Aunt Zita. Since we’re all going to be rich, can I marry Lauretta on the first of May?” “Marry whoever you want, but *give me that will.*” He does – and then quietly gives Gherardino (**Joshua Grzymala**) and his pal Antonio (**James Costigan**) a couple of coins to run to Gianni Schicchi and tell him to immediately come to Buoso’s house with his daughter Lauretta. Antonio appears to be another clever invention by stage director **Haywood**. Somehow two 7-year old boys completely oblivious to all of the adult turmoil seems more natural than just one.

Zita wastes no time reading the will, first with eager anticipation, then with growing dismay. Finally she hurls it to the floor and moans, “It’s true. Every last penny goes to the Friars.”

Another slapstick scene with the entire family pacing around the room in a sort of Conga line with everyone asking everyone else “what can we do?” and no one having any answers. Eventually they become exhausted and slump down, dejected and quiet. At which point Rinuccio says there is only man in all Florence who can help us: Gianni Schicchi. The family is horrified. “What! Consult with a Commoner about our most intimate family affairs? No way!”



Mother's Day Handbag & Purses Gifts – Mother's Day Handbag & Purses Gift Guide 2011

Mother's Day Entertainment Gifts – Mother's Day Entertainment Gift Guide 2011



Mother's Day Health & Beauty Gifts Over \$25 – Mother's Day Over \$25 Health & Beauty Gift Guide 2011

Mother's Day Travel & Leisure Gifts – Mother's Day Travel & Leisure Gift Guide 2011

**Feature Article**

Tempflow™ and Tempur-Pedic® Reviews - What 35 Hours of Research Uncovered

**Rolling Stones Concert Tickets**

[TicketLiquidator.com/RollingStones](http://TicketLiquidator.com/RollingStones)

Cheap Rolling Stones Tickets. HP Pavilion and Oracle Arena.







Cast 1: Lauretta (Cecilia Violetta López) pleads with her father Gianni Schicchi (Zachary Altman)

But before you know it, Gherardino has returned and Gianni Schicchi (**Zachary Altman**) is in the room along with his daughter Lauretta (**Cecilia Violetta López**). Rinuccio asks him to find a way to negate the will, but Schicchi takes umbrage when Zita insults him. He says he wants nothing to do with this gang of snobs and forbids Lauretta from having anything more to do with them. To most of Florence Schicchi appears to be hard-hearted and selfish, but to his daughter he's a pussycat. In the lovely song *Oh! mio babbino caro* (Oh! My beloved Daddy), she pleads with him to help the Donatis so she can marry the man she loves, he melts like wax and agrees to try.

Schicchi studies the will and frowns. "Hm, nothing can be done." Gloom descends. "You're the smartest man in Florence," Rinuccio says. "Surely you can think of something." Schicchi studies some more, frowns again, and shakes his head as the family waits with bated breath and the music helps build the mounting tension. Slowly his frown disappears and is replaced with a smug smile. He sends his daughter out of the room – alone – so she won't hear his nefarious scheme, then unveils it to the Donatis.



Cast A: Gianni Schicchi (Zachary Altman) (C): Nella (Jillian Boye), and Gherardo (Robert Norman) (L): Marco (Peter Tuff) and La Ciesca (Tori Grayum) (R)

No one knows that Buoso is dead so he, Schicchi, will take his place and dictate a new will. Everyone is delighted with the scheme, but Schicchi warns them, “It’s highly illegal; if we are found out, our right hands will be cut off and we will be forever exiled from Florence.” He emphasizes this by tucking his right hand inside its sleeve and waving it about as if it were a bloody stump.

Come see one of the remaining performances to see how it all plays out. A couple of things you might want to notice, particularly if you see Cast 1 (the performance I’m reviewing). **Zachary Altman** is outstanding in the title role, both in singing and in acting. In his makeup he is far from handsome, but he has a matter-of-fact diffidence that I found most appealing. **Alex Boyer** has an outstanding voice as I have mentioned more than once in previous reviews. As Rinuccio he has a simple smile that marks him with a naïve innocence of the evils in the world – he’s in love and that’s all that matters. As for **Cecilia Violetta López** - . . . I remarked earlier that 20 minutes was barely long enough for me in the audience to switch moods between the two operas; she from her infinitely closer involvement on the stage had only a few minutes longer to change her whole personality from the unhappy nun to a starry-eyed innocent teenager in love – but she did it most convincingly.

My review is based on seeing Cast 1, but knowing **Opera San José** I am confident that I will equally enjoy hearing Cast A when I go again this Sunday, April 21.



Cast 1: Gianni Schicchi (Zachary Altman)

Rather than give you the details of how Schicchi's plot works out, I just say that it ended up with him in possession of a large portion of the estate – including the house in Florence which he will give to Rinuccio and Lauretta as a wedding present. He also has the last word, spoken directly to the audience as he points to the embracing young couple:

*Could Buoso's wealth have gone to better ends than this? For this prank, Dante has condemned me to Hell but with all due respect, if you have been amused, grant me extenuating circumstances!*

We answered with standing applause as the curtain descended.

*The Opera Nut*



**CREATIVE TEAM**

<b>Conductor</b> <a href="#">Joseph Marcheso</a>	<b>Set Designer</b> <a href="#">Charlie Smith</a>
<b>Assistant Conductor</b> <a href="#">Anthony Quartuccio</a>	<b>Costume Designer</b> <a href="#">Elizabeth Poindexter</a>
<b>Stage Director</b> <a href="#">Lorna Haywood</a>	<b>Lighting Designer</b> <a href="#">Kent Dorsey</a>
<b>Chorus Master</b> <a href="#">Andrew Whitfield</a>	<b>Wig &amp; Makeup Designer</b> <a href="#">Jeanna Parham</a>

<b>Roles</b>	<b>CAST A</b> April 13, 18, 21, 26	<b>CAST 1</b> April 14, 20, 23, 28
--------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

**Suor Angelica**

Sister Angelica	<a href="#">Cecilia Violetta López</a>	<a href="#">Cecilia Violetta López</a>
The Princess	<a href="#">Nicole Birkland</a>	<a href="#">Patrice Houston</a>
The Abbess	<a href="#">Sophia Chew</a>	<a href="#">Rebecca Krouner</a>
The Monitress	<a href="#">Tori Grayum</a>	<a href="#">Tania Mandzy Inala</a>
Mistress of the Novices	<a href="#">Cathleen Candia</a>	<a href="#">Michelle Rice</a>
Sister Genovieffa	<a href="#">Jillian Boye</a>	<a href="#">Elisabeth Russ</a>
Sister Osmina	<a href="#">Claire Myers</a>	<a href="#">Katherine Gunnink</a>
Sister Dolcina	<a href="#">Heather Clemens</a>	<a href="#">Antonia Tamer</a>
Nursing Sister	<a href="#">Jane Burghardt</a>	<a href="#">Amy Dabalos</a>

**Gianni Schicchi**

Gianni Schicchi	<a href="#">Evan Brummel</a>	<a href="#">Zachary Altman</a>
Lauretta	<a href="#">Cecilia Violetta López</a>	<a href="#">Cecilia Violetta López</a>
Zita	<a href="#">Nicole Birkland</a>	<a href="#">Patrice Houston</a>
Rinuccio	<a href="#">James Callon</a>	<a href="#">Alexander Boyer</a>
Gherardo	<a href="#">Robert Norman</a>	<a href="#">Robert Norman</a>
Nella	<a href="#">Jillian Boye</a>	<a href="#">Elisabeth Russ</a>
Gherardino	James Costigan	Joshua Grzymala
Betto di Signa	<a href="#">Jo Vincent Parks</a>	<a href="#">Rolfe Daux</a>
Simone	<a href="#">Isaiah Musik-Ayala</a>	<a href="#">Silas Elash</a>
La Ciesca	<a href="#">Tori Grayum</a>	<a href="#">Rebecca Krouner</a>
Spinelloccio	<a href="#">Michael Mendelsohn</a>	<a href="#">David Zelenka</a>
Marco	<a href="#">Peter Tuff</a>	<a href="#">Krassen Karagiozov</a>

[Opera San José Orchestra, Chorus, Dancers and Supers](#)

Casts for Puccini double bill, April 13-28, 2013

All photos by **Pat Kirk**



More Entertainment & Culture

- Film & TV
- Art & Books
- Music
- Celebrity Talk
- Celebrity Gift Suites
- Fresh Faces
- New Talent
- Romance
- Local Events
- Local Performances
- Local Charities
- Entertainment Gift Guides
- Goodies

Top of Page


Comment using... ▾

Facebook social plugin

### Featured Articles

#### Angelica Review – Part One of Opera San José’s double bill from Puccini’s Il Trittico



The baby boy was snatched from her immediately upon birth and Angelica was sent immediately to a convent to spend the rest of her life in repentance, never to be spoken of or communicated with again

[READ ARTICLE](#)

#### Francesca da Rimini MetHD Review-A Star-Crossed Love



They say all is fair in love and war; Riccardo Zandonai’s masterpiece “Francesca da Rimini” has plenty of both

[READ ARTICLE](#)

#### Sorcerer Review – Lamplighters excel in seldom-heard early Gilbert and Sullivan opera



A man falls in love with the first unmarried woman he sees – and that might not be the same woman he was courting a mere 12 hours before; it is not surprising that in Act II All Hell breaks loose

[READ ARTICLE](#)

#### Pocket Opera’s Don Giovanni Review – A Masterpiece



Donald Pippin goes on to admit that Don Giovanni can be utterly charming, and concludes with an explicit warning to the women in the audience that they stay here

at their own peril

[READ ARTICLE](#)

#### PARS EQUALITY CENTER’S 3rd ANNUAL NOWRUZ (PERSIAN NEW YEAR) GALA RAISES FUNDS FOR BAY AREA COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Pars Equality Center celebrated its 3rd Annual Nowruz Gala in honor of the Persian New Year. 770

guests gathered to raise awareness and over \$250,000 in funds for the Center’s programs, as well as support its expansion into additional U.S. markets

[READ ARTICLE](#)

#### Lucia Review – And a Special Extra Treat at West Bay Opera



When Lucia (Rochelle Bard) came on for her curtain call, the applause level doubled and nearly everyone was standing

[READ ARTICLE](#)

AdChoices ▾

[Carmen Opera](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Giacomo Puccini](#)

[My Opera](#)



#### Select Your Location

[Amsterdam](#)

[Atlanta](#)

[Bangkok](#)

#### Browse Splash

[Home](#)

[Entertainment](#)

#### Company Details

[Masthead](#)

[Contact Splash](#)





<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	<a href="#">Boston</a>	<a href="#">Chicago</a>	<a href="#">Food &amp; Beverage</a>	<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>
<a href="#">Dallas</a>	<a href="#">Denver</a>	<a href="#">Detroit</a>	<a href="#">Technology</a>	
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	<a href="#">Los Angeles</a>	<a href="#">Las Vegas</a>	<a href="#">Home &amp; Garden</a>	
<a href="#">London</a>	<a href="#">Miami</a>	<a href="#">New York</a>	<a href="#">Health &amp; Beauty</a>	
<a href="#">Paris</a>	<a href="#">San Diego</a>	<a href="#">San Francisco</a>	<a href="#">Style &amp; Fashion</a>	
<a href="#">Tokyo</a>	<a href="#">Toronto</a>	<a href="#">Washington D.C.</a>	<a href="#">Travel &amp; Leisure</a>	
			<a href="#">Life's Journey</a>	
			<a href="#">Sports</a>	
			<a href="#">Vehicles</a>	

