

# *Cavalleria Rusticana*

music by **Pietro Mascagni**

libretto by **Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci**

adapted from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, a short story (1880) and later a play by **Giovanni Verga**  
premiered at Teatro Costanzi in Rome on May 17, 1890

Easter Sunday, a Sicilian village

## **PRELUDE**

*O Lola, bianca come fior*                      **Turiddu**

Offstage, Turiddu sings of his love for, and devotion to, Lola.

## **INTRODUCTORY CHORUS**

*Ah! Gli aranci olezzano*                      **Villagers**

The villagers describe the natural delights of spring, and take pleasure in resting from their labors in the fields.

## **SCENE AND ARRIVAL OF ALFIO**

*Dite, Mamma Lucia*                      **Santuzza, Lucia (owner of an inn and mother of Turiddu)**

Santuzza asks to speak to Lucia's son, Turiddu.

Lucia says that he is away.

Santuzza contradicts her and says that he was seen in the village the previous evening.

*Il cavallo scalpita*                      **Alfio (a teamster), Villagers**

Alfio rejoices in his lifestyle.

He praises the soundtrack of his work, that of cracking whip and animals' bells.

Alfio loves his wife Lola, and is happy to be home for Easter.

## **REGINA COELI: SCENE AND PRAYER**

*Beato voi, compar Alfio*                      **Lucia, Alfio, Santuzza**

Again, there is some confusion about whether Turiddu left town to pick up a shipment of wine.

*Regina Coeli, laetare*                      **Villagers, Santuzza, Lucia**

The villagers pray, then enter the church for Easter services.

## **ROMANCE AND SCENE**

*Voi lo sapete, o mamma*                      **Santuzza, Lucia**

When he returned from his army service, Turiddu discovered that Lola, whom he loved, had married Alfio.

In desperation he began an affair with Santuzza.

Lola became jealous and began an affair with Turiddu.

What a mess.

## DUET

*Tu qui Santuzza?*

**Turiddu, Santuzza, Lola**

Santuzza confronts Turiddu. Turiddu tells Santuzza to stay out of his affairs. Santuzza affirms her love for him. Lola is heard offstage.

Lola enters and engages with Turiddu and Santuzza.

They touch on sinners, who are not permitted to attend the Easter mass.

Lola goes to church, Santuzza asks Turiddu to stay and speak to her.

She asks, implores, begs him not to abandon her.

When Turiddu rejects her, Santuzza curses him.

Turiddu goes to church.

## DUET

*Oh! Il Signore vi manda*

**Santuzza, Alfio**

Alfio enters. Santuzza tells him of the affair between Turiddu and Lola.

Alfio swears that he will have revenge.

Santuzza immediately feels remorse.

## INTERMEZZO

### CHORUS AND BRINDISI

*A casa, a casa, amici*

**Villagers, Turiddu, Santuzza**

The villagers gather at Lucia's and greet each other.

Turiddu greets Lola and urges her to stay and have a drink with him and the others.

*Viva il vino spu muggiante*

**Turiddu, Villagers, Lola**

A drinking song.

## FINALE

*A voi tutti salute.*

**Alfio, Villagers, Turiddu, Lola**

Alfio enters. Turiddu offers him a drink, Alfio turns it down. A challenge is understood.

Turiddu confesses, then speaks on behalf of Santuzza.

Alfio leaves for the appointed place.

*Mamma, quel vino e generoso* **Turiddu, Lucia**

Turiddu blames his anguish on the wine.

He asks his mother for her blessing and forgiveness, and asks her to take Santuzza under her wing should he not return.

He also asks for a kiss. Turiddu exits.

*Turiddu? Che vuoi dire?*

**Lucia, Santuzza, Villagers**

Santuzza joins Lucia.

A villager runs on with the news that they've killed Turiddu.