

Gianni Schicchi

music by **Giacomo Puccini**

libretto by **Giovacchino Forzano**

premiered December 1918 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York as part of *Il Trittico*,
along with *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica*

based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Canto XXX - The Circle of Impersonators

Florence, 1299

Povero Buoso

**La Famiglia: Zita, Rinuccio, Nella, Gherardo, Gherardino,
Marco, La Ciesca, Simone, Betto**

The members of Buoso Donati's family swarm his deathbed and grieve, while also exchanging rumors about the contents of his will. Is it possible that the whole fortune will go to a brotherhood of monks?

O Simone?

La Famiglia

The relatives turn to the eldest, Simone, for advice. If the will is in the room, there's hope for them yet. Rinuccio finds the will but refuses to hand it over until permission is given him to marry Lauretta.

“Ai miei cugini Zita e Simone”

La Famiglia

The relatives read the contents of the will.

Dunque era vero

La Famiglia

The monks are set to inherit. The relatives express their horror at how richly the monks will live and how they themselves will be mocked.

E non c'è nessun mezzo...

La Famiglia

Rinuccio has summoned the only man in Florence who could possibly help the relatives inherit after all. A man who knows the law and can use it to suit his purposes. A man who is also the father of Rinuccio's beloved Lauretta - Gianni Schicchi!

The family wants nothing to do with Schicchi because he comes from the country, and status in Florence is dependent on a family's long established history in the city.

Avete torto... Firenze e come un albero fiorito **Rinuccio**

Rinuccio sings a glorious aria comparing Florence to a tree - deeply rooted but dependent on the surrounding land to flourish.

(Quale aspetto sgomento e desolato!) **Gianni Schicchi, Rinuccio, Lauretta, Gherardo, Zita**

Schicchi enters and takes in the scene. Lauretta and Rinuccio express their love for each other. Zita rebuffs Schicchi. Now that the relatives will not be inheriting, she cannot afford to marry her nephew Rinuccio to Lauretta, who has no dowry.

Brava la vecchia! Brava! Schicchi, Laretta, Rinuccio, Zita, rest of La Famiglia
Schicchi criticizes Zita for being so focused on money. A fight erupts, Laretta and Rinuccio despair, until...

O mio babbino caro Laretta
Laretta takes the stage and pleads with her father.

Datemi il testamento! Schicchi, Laretta, Rinuccio
Schicchi studies the will. Laretta and Rinuccio despair. Schicchi sends Laretta out of the room.

Nessuno sa Schicchi, La Famiglia, Doctor Spinelloccio
Schicchi confirms that no one apart from the family members present know that Donati is dead. He gives instructions for the relatives to move the corpse. The doctor arrives and the family assures him that there is no need for him to enter, that Donati is better.
Donati speaks! Schicchi has taken Donati's place.

Era uguale la voce? Schicchi, La Famiglia
The impersonation works! Schicchi explains his plan - as Donati he will make a new will. The family is overjoyed.

Va, corri dal notaio La Famiglia, Schicchi, Laretta
As they wait for the notary, Donati's relations plan how they will distribute his wealth.

Ecco la cappellina! La Famiglia, Schicchi
As the relatives help transform Schicchi into Donati, they individually attempt to bribe him to sign over the house, mills, a mule, etc.

Prima un avvertimento Schicchi, La Famiglia
Schicchi reminds Buoso's gathered relatives that the Florentine punishment for what they are undertaking is exile and the loss of a hand.

Ecco il notaro. La Famiglia, Notary, Pinellino (shoemaker) & Guccio (dyer) as witnesses
Schicchi dictates a new will. He leaves something to each of the relatives, but the bulk of the estate goes to... Gianni Schicchi!

Ladro! La Famiglia, Schicchi
As the notary and witnesses have left, the relatives attack Schicchi, who throws them out of what is now legally his house.

Laretta mia, staremo sempre qui. Rinuccio, Laretta
The young lovers are seen on the balcony, recalling their first kiss.

La masnada fuggi Schicchi
Schicchi addresses the audience directly.