

Suor Angelica

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 *Gianni Schicchi*

A Convent, late 17th Century

Ave, Maria Chorus of Sisters (offstage), Sister Angelica

The Sisters are heard singing in the Chapel.

Two Lay-Sisters and Sister Angelica cross the stage and enter the Chapel.

Sorelle in umilita The Monitor, Lay-Sisters, The Mistress of the Novices, Sister Osmina, Six Sisters

The Sisters gather outside the Chapel.

The Monitor enumerates instances of wrongdoing and metes out punishments.

The Monitor bids all to take a moment for rest and recreation.

O sorelle, sorelle Sister Genevieve, Chorus of Sisters, A Novice, The Mistress of the Novices

It is one of the three evenings a year when the Sisters exit Chapel at the right time to see the sun light up their fountain so that the water looks as though it were made of gold.

O sorelle in pio lavoro Sister Genevieve, Chorus of Sisters, Sister Angelica, The Monitor

The sun lighting up the water marks the passing of a year, during which Sister Bianca Rosa died.

The Sisters will sprinkle some of the water on her tomb.

The women speak of desire, and desires.

Ho un desiderio anchi'io! Sister Dolcina, Chorus of Sisters, Suor Angelica, A Novice

The Sisters inform a Novice that Sister Angelica comes from a noble family but stop short of telling her why Sister Angelica was forced to take the veil.

Suor Angelica, sentite! Nursing Sister, Sister Angelica, Chorus of Sisters

Sister Chiara has been bitten by a wasp.

The Nursing Sister comes to Sister Angelica for assistance, as Sister Angelica is a master of plant based tonics and balms.

Laudate Maria! Two Tourieres (Alms Sisters), Chorus of Sisters, The Monitor, Sister Dolcina

The Tourieres arrive with what they've gathered.

Chi e venuto First Touriere, Chorus of Sisters, Sister Angelica, Sister Genevieve

The First Touriere reports that a carriage has arrived, a very grand carriage.

Sister Angelica presses her for details on the description of the carriage.

The bells ring - the Convent has a visitor!

***Suor Angelica!* The Abbess, Chorus of Sisters, Sister Angelica**

The Abbess calls Sister Angelica, who has waited seven years for this moment.

The Sisters are heard singing in the cemetery.

The Abbess informs Sister Angelica that her Aunt, the Princess has arrived, and warns her to be careful of her words and behavior.

***Il Principe Gualtiero vostro padre* The Princess, Sister Angelica**

The Princess details the legalese of Sister Angelica's parents' will and gives Sister Angelica a document to sign, forfeiting her right to her inheritance.

Sister Angelica asks for some tenderness.

***Vostra sorella Anna Viola* The Princess, Sister Angelica**

The event perpetuating the adjustment to the will is the marriage of Sister Angelica's sister. Sister Angelica delights in the news, but again asks for kindness from her aunt, who chastises her.

***Nel silenzio di quei raccoglimenti* The Princess**

Sister Angelica's aunt recounts how, when in church, communing with her dead sister's spirit, she feels nothing for her niece but disappointment.

***Tutto ho offerto alla Vergine* Sister Angelica, The Princess**

Sister Angelica has repented, and repents, but cannot forget her son.

She longs for news of him.

The Princess informs her that two years previously the little boy died of illness.

***Senza mamma* Sister Angelica**

Sister Angelica laments her son's passing, and grieves that he never knew how much she loved him.

Wishing to be reunited with him, she begs him to speak to her.

***Sorella, o buona sorella* Sister Genevieve, Chorus of Sisters, Sister Angelica**

The Sisters come to comfort Sister Angelica.

***La grazia e discesa* Sister Angelica**

Sister Angelica calls upon her knowledge of herbs to end her own life.

She bids her life adieu as she sees an image of her son and hears him call her to paradise.

***Ah! Son dannata* Sister Angelica, Chorus of Children**

Realizing what she has done, Sister Angelica begs the Virgin Mary for mercy.

We hear a chorus of children and Sister Angelica's son appears.