

OperaStreaming presents Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* in new digital production marking the 700th anniversary of Dante's death



Friday 22 January, 20:00 CET

Teatro Municipale, Piacenza

Puccini *Gianni Schicchi*

With readings from Dante's *Inferno* by Mino Manni

Roberto de Candia Gianni Schicchi

Giuliana Gianfaldoni Lauretta

Valeria Tornatore Zita

Matteo Desole Rinuccio

Massimiliano Stefanelli conductor

Renato Bonajuto director

Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana

operastreaming.com

Streaming live from Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Ravenna, Reggio Emilia & Rimini

In homage to the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante (1321-2021), on **Friday 22 January, OperaStreaming** presents a **new live digital production** of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* from the **Teatro Municipale di Piacenza**, opening with readings from the famous work that inspired it, Dante's *Inferno*.

Puccini's last completed opera, *Gianni Schicchi* was composed during the **Spanish influenza pandemic of 1917-18**, in which the composer lost his sister. The one-act comic opera is based on a well-known incident from Dante's *Inferno*, where the 13th-century Florentine knight Gianni Schicchi de' Cavalcanti is seen condemned to Hell for impersonating Buoso Donati and changing his will so it is favourable to Schicchi. Puccini's setting includes the famous aria 'O mio babbino caro', sung by Lauretta as she begs her father Schicchi to let her marry Rinuccio.

The Teatro Municipale di Piacenza's production of *Gianni Schicchi* is sung by an Italian cast including baritone **Roberto de Candia** in the title role, with **Giuliana Gianfaldoni** and **Matteo Desole** as the lovers Lauretta and Rinuccio, and **Valeria Tornatore** as Buoso's cousin Zita. De Candia appears regularly at the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala, and Gianfaldoni has performed at Wexford Festival and previously sang Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* at the Opéra de Montpellier.

The new production by **Renato Bonajuto** transports the story to an old Florentine palace in 1950's Italy, inhabited by the family for generations. The post-war economic boom is just around the corner, and the characters are hungry for more.

Renato Bonajuto said:

"Human nature has been the same for millennia, and Schicchi's adventures are eternal, in 1299 as in 2021. The manoeuvring of kinship in exchange for "goods" has never changed. The "petit bourgeoisie" wants to evolve, to have more and more... and in this bubbling panorama of possibility, the "gente nova", a nice schemer like Schicchi, finds a way of emerging and carving out a slice of the cake, leveraging cunning and the mediocrity of others."

The performance will be preceded by a short reading of Dante's verses from the *Commedia*. The Italian poet, writer and philosopher **Dante Alighieri** died and was buried in Ravenna, itself one of the cities of Emilia-Romagna behind the OperaStreaming initiative.

Following its successful launch in 2019, **OperaStreaming** is streaming twelve operas on YouTube from the historic opera houses of Emilia-Romagna during the 2020-21 season in **fully-staged productions**.

OperaStreaming brings together **eight magnificent opera houses** for the joint venture to promote the region's unique operatic heritage, home to legendary singers Luciano Pavarotti, Leo Nucci and Mirella Freni, and the great opera composer Giuseppe Verdi, born in Busseto near Parma. **Verdi's Aroldo** premiered at the opening of the opera house in Rimini in 1857 and the rebuilt opera house on the site will present a fully-staged production of this little-known work on 16 April 2021.

As audiences return to theatres in Italy, OperaStreaming enables opera lovers across the world to view outstanding performances for free from the homeland of bel canto singing. Performances are **streamed live** and made available indefinitely with full subtitles in Italian and English. During intervals, the camera goes behind-the-scenes of the production for exclusive interview with the cast and team.

In the face of performance restrictions in Italy, OperaStreaming has boosted its output and is broadcasting **more new performances live** on YouTube this Winter. OperaStreaming recently presented the first performance in modern times of [Handel's *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo*](#) from Piacenza in the version written for the famous castrato singer Senesino, following [Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*](#) and [Massenet's *Werther*](#) from the Teatro Comunale di Modena. Over the Christmas period, it presented two sparkling Rossini comedies: [Il barbiere di Siviglia](#) from the Teatro Municipale, Piacenza and [La Cenerentola](#) from the Teatro Comunale, Modena. All performances remain online for at least six months after their premieres.

The **region of Emilia Romagna** is committed to the preservation of its operatic heritage. OperaStreaming has **800,000 viewers and 15,000 subscribers** with a large audience in the US. OperaStreaming is a continuation of TeatroNet, the initiative launched by the local department of culture in 2012. The productions are made in collaboration with students from the EDUNOVA E-Learning Center (Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia).



[Watch the introduction to OperaStreaming here: youtu.be/ZzOPh0g0LEI](https://youtu.be/ZzOPh0g0LEI)

Upcoming Livestreams

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Renata Campanella Nella

Graziano Dallavalle Betto Di Signa

Mattia Denti Simone

Juliusz Loranzi Marco

Stefania Ferrari La Ciesca

Valentino Salvini Maestro Spinelloccio

Simone Tansini Ser Amantio Di Nicolao

Francesco Cascione Pinellino Calzolaio

Lorenzo Sivelli Guccio Tintore

Elettra Secondi Gherardino

Michele Zaccaria Buoso Donati

Massimiliano Stefanelli conductor

Renato Bonajuto director

Danilo Coppola concept

Artemio Cabassi costumes

Michele Cremona lights

Teresa Gargano assistant director

Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana

28 February 2021: Monteverdi *Orfeo* | Teatro "Dante Alighieri", Ravenna

26 March 2021: Rossini *Il barbiere di Siviglia* | Teatro Municipale, Reggio Emilia

16 April 2021: Verdi *Aroldo* | Teatro "Amintore Galli", Rimini

18 April 2021: Donizetti *La Favourite* | Teatro Municipale, Piacenza

14 May 2021: Vivaldi *Il Farnace* | Teatro Comunale, Ferrara



OperaStreaming



The melodramma tradition in the Emilia-Romagna region, with its stars and the popular passion that has been handed down over the centuries, constitutes a heritage of global interest. Emilia-Romagna is the region of Giuseppe Verdi and of performers who have changed the history of this musical genre such as Carlo Bergonzi, Luciano Pavarotti, Leo Nucci and Mirella Freni. It enjoys today one of the most prolific musical life in the operatic world thanks to the highest concentration of historical theaters of the nation. Every year, the

theaters of Emilia-Romagna produce lyrical performances of the highest standard, thanks not only to the quality of the artists but also to the preservation of a unique mastery and craftsmanship in the construction of the operatic productions.

OperaStreaming offers a seasonal program of video broadcasts, freely available on YouTube, from the Opera Theatres of Emilia-Romagna (Bologna, Piacenza, Parma, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Ferrara Ravenna and Rimini) in collaboration with EDUNOVA-University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. The project, that will run from 2019 through 2021, let enjoy Emilia-Romagna's lyric tradition and opera productions from the rest of the world. OperaStreaming was born thanks to TeatroNet, a pioneering streaming program launched by the Culture Department of the Emilia-Romagna Region in 2012 who provided the technology that enabled all theatres to transmit their shows live.

OperaStreaming is a continuation of TeatroNet, the initiative launched by the Department of Culture of the Emilia-Romagna region in 2012 and aimed at streaming musical performances from the theaters and institutions of the territory, and also thanks to the equipment of the fiber optic network put in place by Lepida S.p.A.

Following the experience of TeatroNet, numerous theatres continued and developed in the following years the digital broadcasting channel following, thanks to a state-of-the-art technological endowment, a trend that is emerging as a fundamental component of the international opera scene.

Among these, the Teatro Comunale di Modena has found in the communication by video an indispensable opportunity for the development of the live show and has activated, starting in 2013, a collaboration with the EDUNOVA E-Learning Center, a leading reality in the video production industry. The shows, filmed live in HD, were broadcast regularly and

seen in free-to-air on the YouTube platform by tens of thousands of viewers from all over the world.



operastreaming.com

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