

LA TRAVIATA

MUSIC BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

LIBRETTO BY FRANCESCA MARIA PIAVE

BROADCAST DATE: JULY 29, 2024

Conductor Corrado Rovaris

Director Louisa Muller*

CAST

Violetta Valéry Mané Galoyan*

Alfredo Germont Bekhzod Davronov*

Giorgio Germont Alfredo Daza*

Flora Bervoix Kaylee Nichols=

Gastone Garrett Evers=*

Baron Douphol Sejin Park=*

Marchese d'Obigny Sam Dhobhany=

Doctor Grenville Keith Klein=*

Annina Elisa Sunshine=*

Giuseppe Ryan Bryce Johnson=*

Messenger Luke Harnish=

Flora's Servant Drew Comer=*

Dancers Nicholas Sipes*, Emily Cardea*

The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Music Director Harry Bicket; **Chorus Master** Susanne Sheston

*Santa Fe Opera debut, +Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, =Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Singer

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Setting: *Paris, 1939. Violetta's Salon.*

Violetta Valéry, the most beautiful courtesan in Paris, is hosting one of her extravagant parties. Although her energy is vibrant and engaging, she wonders how much longer her health will permit her to continue this life of vivacious frivolity.

Violetta's friend Gastone introduces her to a new suitor... Alfredo Germont... a young man who has been yearning for Violetta's love from a distance. Her current escort, the Baron Douphol, certainly disapproves, and Violetta laughs off Alfredo's devotion to the idea of true love. The other guests find Alfred's devotion amusing, encouraging him to make a toast to pleasure. The guests enjoy his entertainment and eventually retire to other rooms.

Now alone with Violetta, Alfredo swears that his love could cure her Tuberculosis. She protests his advances, offering only friendship. Then she surprises the young man by giving him a camellia flower, telling to return to her once it has wilted.

When the party is over and guests depart, Violetta searches her soul: amidst her frantic life of parties and pleasures, could the courtesan really be cured by this new spark? This seems to have awakened a new earthly desire....to love, and be loved.

ACT II

Setting: A New Country Home.

Three months have passed. Violetta has left Paris and her decadent life behind, choosing to pursue a life of love with Alfredo.

Violetta's servant Annina secretly confides in Alfredo that Violetta has been selling her jewels to maintain their lifestyle. Alfredo is ashamed and distraught. He leaves immediately to return to Paris and find a new source of income.

Later on, Violetta receives an invitation to her friend Flora's ball, but no longer has interest in that type of amusement.

A visitor arrives, and Violetta assumes it's her business agent. She is taken aback to learn the visitor's true identity.....Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's father.

Germont asks Violetta to leave his son. He tells her of his family's life, and worries his young daughter will never be able to marry with the stain of her brother's affair hanging over her. Violetta initially protests, telling Germont how ill she is and how she needs Alfredo. Ultimately she agrees to make the sacrifice for the sake of Alfredo's family. She will pretend not to love him, and only after her death will he learn the truth. Germont sings "piangi, piangi" or "cry, cry," seemingly in sympathy with her great sacrifice.

After Germont departs, Violetta writes a note to Baron Douphol accepting the invitation to Flora's soirée that evening. She then writes her goodbye to Alfredo, and departs for Paris.

Alfredo returns to find his father waiting for him. The elder Germont appeals to his son to remember their life together and urges him to return home to Provence. Alfredo then finds the invitation to Flora's ball. Consumed with rage and heartbreak, he rushed back to Paris to find his beloved.

Scene Two, Flora's Ball, Paris.

Violetta enters on the arm of the Baron, to the shock of the other guests! Alfredo arrives alone, his rage seemingly masked underneath his attire.

With baited breath, Alfredo and the Baron sit down to play cards, resulting in Alfredo winning a generous sum of money. When the other guests go to dinner, Violetta pulls Alfredo aside and begs him to leave out of fear the Baron will challenge him to a duel. He responds by calling the other guests back, hurling his winnings at Violetta, and publicly shaming her, telling the guests: "you are all my witnesses that I have hereby paid her!"

The scene is too much for Violetta, who faints in Flora's arms. Germont has come in search of his heartbroken son, and bears witness to the exchange. Only he knows the truth behind the mayhem.

ACT III

Violetta's Bedroom.

Violetta, weak from a failing body, asks her maid Annina to open the curtains so she can enjoy a few golden rays of light. It is Carnival season, and revelers and parties will soon fill the streets. Violetta asks Annina to see how much money remains for the household.

Violetta's faithful Dr. Grenville arrives and puts on a cheerful face for his dying friend... but secretly whispers to Annina that her mistress has only hours to live. Violetta senses her death approaching, and sends Annina out to distribute the last of her funds to the poor.

Struggling, Violetta re-reads a letter she received from Germont stating he's told his son the truth about her sacrifice and begging her forgiveness, promising that both he and Alfredo will soon visit. Violetta fears they may not make it in time.

Suddenly Annina returns, breathless with joy. Alfredo rushes into the room, takes Violetta in his arms, and they vow to go away together to a quiet place where their love can be restored.

Alas... he is too late. She staggers across the room, clearly moments from her demise. Germont and Dr. Grenville soon arrive, and Violetta rises, free of pain, takes her last breath...and is gone.