

WESTERN ONTARIO CONSERVATORY  
OF MUSIC

and

ANN SUMMERS RESOURCE CENTRE  
FOR CAREER PERFORMING ARTISTS

presents  
a celebration of

*Giacomo Puccini*  
his life and work

with

*Simonetta Puccini*  
President, *Institute of Puccini Studies*, Milan

and a viewing of  
*Vissi d'arte - Tosca*  
directed by Joseph Wishy

Friday October 17, 1986  
Room 2050, Social Science Building  
The University of Western Ontario  
London, Canada

P R O G R A M M E

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a celebration of

***Giacomo Puccini***  
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Welcoming Remarks  
*Carl Duggan, Principal*  
*Western Ontario Conservatory of Music*

II

*Ann Summers, Founder/Executive Director*  
*Resource Centre for Career Performing Artists*

III

*Simonetta Puccini, President*  
*Institute of Puccini Studies, Milan*

IV

*Vissi d'arte - Tosca*  
*directed by Joseph Wishy*

Simonetta Puccini, granddaughter of the composer, is President of the *Institute of Puccini Studies* in Milan, which she co-founded with eleven other Puccini specialists in 1979. Among the founders, a group composed primarily of French and Italian experts, are two conductors, three music critics, and Mosco Carner, a musicologist who is credited with writing the most important biography of Giacomo Puccini. Carner, an Austrian residing in London, England is an affiliate of the *Institute*.

The *Institute of Puccini Studies* was created to research Puccini and to disseminate the information. This is done through the publication each year of collected papers, essays, and other works about the composer, in the *Quaderni Puccini*; by making the information available to those who seek it, particularly students; and organizing seminars.

In 1982, for example, the *Institute* conducted a seminar on the four versions of *Madama Butterfly*, as well as presenting the exhibit *Puccini and the Painters*, held at the Scala Museum in Milan the same year. *Puccini and the Painters* is the lead article of the book published to accompany the exhibit, written by Simonetta Puccini. It was recently reprinted in English in the Autumn, 1984 edition of *Opera Quarterly*. Simonetta Puccini has also published, in 1982, a collection of Giacomo Puccini's letters, entitled *Giacomo Puccini: Letters to Riccardo Schnabl*. Schnabl was a life-long friend of the composer and received over 250 letters from him. The book, which Miss Puccini edited, was published in 1982 by Emme Dizioni - Il Sormichere.

## Vissi d'arte - Tosca

A film directed by Joseph Wishy, featuring the greatest divas of our time performing and commenting on Puccini's *Tosca*.

Those appearing include: Dame Eva Turner (now 94 years of age), Licia Albanese, Renata Tebaldi, Dame Kiri te Kanawa, Montserrat Caballe, Galina Vishnevskaya, Grace Bumbry, Leonie Rysanek, Zinka Milanov, Ljuba Welitsch, and Gina Gigna, Dorothy Kirsten, and Maria Callas.

Dame Eva Turner states:

*"The singer is the only one in the avenue of applied music whose instrument comes from the subconscious forces. Their instrument is not visual, and therefore the singer (he or she) has to work enormously to get the absolute control of their person, and to bring about "limpo spazione davante", which is of course the forward placement and the matching of tones; and then making the words pregnant with meaning and becoming so involved..."*

The film includes a unique 5-minute segment showing Puccini in the garden, which was made available by Simonetta Puccini.

We are grateful for the visit of Miss Puccini, made possible by the Ann Summers Resource Centre, Toronto.