

## ACT III.

THE VOICE OF A SHEPHERD BOY IS HEARD AS CHURCH BELLS TOLL THE DAWN. MARIO AWAITS EXECUTION AT THE CASTEL SANT'ANGELO; HE BRIBES THE JAILER TO CONVEY A FAREWELL NOTE TO TOSCA. WRITING IT, OVERCOME WITH MEMORIES OF LOVE, HE GIVES WAY TO DESPAIR ("E LUCEVAN LE STELLE"). SUDDENLY TOSCA RUNS IN, FILLED WITH THE STORY OF HER RECENT ADVENTURES. MARIO CARESSES THE HANDS THAT COMMITTED MURDER FOR HIS SAKE ("O DOLCI MANI"), AND THE TWO HAIL THEIR FUTURE. AS THE FIRING SQUAD APPEARS, THE DIVA COACHES MARIO ON HOW TO FAKE HIS DEATH CONVINCINGLY; THE SOLDIERS FIRE AND DEPART. TOSCA URGES MARIO TO HURRY, BUT WHEN HE FAILS TO MOVE, SHE DISCOVERS THAT SCARPIA'S TREACHERY HAS TRANSCENDED THE GRAVE: THE BULLETS WERE REAL. WHEN SPOLETTA RUSHES IN TO ARREST TOSCA FOR SCARPIA'S MURDER, SHE CRIES TO SCARPIA TO MEET HER BEFORE GOD, THEN LEAPS TO HER DEATH.

## THE END

# TOSCA

## THE STORY

### ACT I

CESARE ANGELOTTI, AN ESCAPED POLITICAL PRISONER, RUSHES INTO THE CHURCH OF SANT' ANDREA DELLA VALLE TO HIDE IN THE ATTAVANTI CHAPEL. AS HE VANISHES, AN OLD SACRISTAN SHUFFLES IN, PRAYING AT THE SOUND OF THE ANGELUS. MARIO CAVARADOSSI ENTERS TO WORK ON HIS PORTRAIT OF MARY MAGDALENE - INSPIRED BY THE MARCHESA ATTAVANTI (ANGELOTTI'S SISTER), WHOM HE HAS SEEN BUT DOES NOT KNOW. TAKING OUT A MINIATURE OF THE SINGER FLORIA TOSCA, HE COMPARES HER RAVEN BEAUTY WITH THAT OF THE BLONDE MAGDALENE ("RECONDITA ARMONIA"). THE SACRISTAN GRUMBLES DISAPPROVAL AND LEAVES. ANGELOTTI VENTURES OUT AND IS RECOGNIZED BY HIS FRIEND AND FELLOW LIBERAL MARIO, WHO GIVES HIM FOOD AND HURRIES HIM BACK INTO THE CHAPEL AS TOSCA IS HEARD CALLING OUTSIDE. FOREVER SUSPICIOUS, SHE JEALOUSLY QUESTIONS HIM, THEN PRAYS, AND REMINDS HIM OF THEIR RENDEZVOUS THAT EVENING AT HIS VILLA ("NON LA SOSPIRI LA NOSTRA CASETTA?"). SUDDENLY RECOGNIZING THE MARCHESA ATTAVANTI IN THE