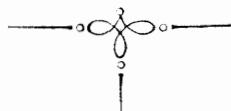


FIRST ACT



"Mimi was a charming girl specially apt to appeal to Rudolph, the poet and dreamer. Aged twenty-two, she was slight and graceful. Her face reminded one of some sketch of a highborn beauty; its features had marvellous refinement. The hot, impetuous blood of youth coursed through her veins, giving a rosy hue to her clear complexion that had the white velvety bloom of the camelia. This frail beauty allured Rudolph. But what wholly served to enchant him were Mimi's tiny hands, that, despite her household duties, she contrived to keep whiter even than those of the Goddess of Ease."

"...Mimi era una graziosa ragazza che doveva particolarmente simpatizzare e combinare cogli ideali plastici e poetici di Rodolfo. Ventidue anni; piccola; delicata... Il suo volto pareva un abbozzo di figura aristocratica; i suoi lineamenti erano d'una finezza mirabile..."

"Il sangue della gioventù correva caldo e vivace nelle sue vene e coloriva di tinte rosee la sua pelle trasparente dal candore vellutato della camelia..."

"Questa beltà malaticcia sedusse Rodolfo... Ma quello che più lo resero innamorato pazzo di madamigella Mimi furono le sue manine che essa sapeva, anche tra le faccende domestiche, serbare più bianche di quelle della dea dell'ozio..."

LA BOHÈME

BY

GIACOMO PUCCINI

FIRST ACT

IN THE ATTIC

Spacious window from which one sees an expanse of snow-clad roofs, on left a fireplace. A table, a small cupboard, a little book-case, four chairs, a picture easel, a bed; a few books, many packs of cards, two candlesticks. Door in the middle; another on left.

(Curtain rises quickly. Rudolph and Marcel. Rudolph looks pensively out of the window, Marcel works at his painting "The Passage of the Red Sea" with hands nipped with

♩ = 108
Allegro vivace

ff ruvido

cold, and warms them by blowing on them from time to time, often changing position, on account of

the frost.)

p

MARCEL (seated, continuing to paint)

a piacere a Tempo

This Red Sea Pas - sage feel - eth damp and chill to me.
Que - sto Mar Ros - so mi ammol - li - sce e as - si - de - ra

a Tempo

col canto

1
ff

MARCEL

As if a - down my back a
co - me se ad - dos - so mi pio -

stream were flowing.
-ves - se in stil - le.

MARCEL

*rall.**a Tempo*(turns to
his work)

But, in re - venge a Pharaoh will I drown.....
Per ven - di - car - mi af - fo - go un Fa - ra - on!.....

col canto *p*

a Tempo

p

pp

RUDOLPH

(looking at Marcel)

La - zi - ly
Nei cie - li

MARCEL

(to Rudolph)

And you?
Che fai?

p

6
RUDOLPH *Lo stesso movimento*

ris - ing, See, how the smoke from thou - sands of chim - neys floats
 bi - gi guardo fu - mar dai mil - le co - mi - gnoli Pa -
Lo stesso movimento

RUDOLPH

(pointing to the fireless stove)

up - ward..... And yet that stove of ours..... No
 - ri - gi,..... e pen - so a quel pol - tro - ne d'un

RUDOLPH

fu - el seems to need, the i - dle ras - cal!..... Content to
 vec - chio ca - mi - net - to ingan - na - to - re..... che vi - vein

RUDOLPH *poco rit.*

a Tempo

live in ease, just like..... a lord!
 o - zio co - me un gran..... si - gnor!
a Tempo

MARCEL

'Tis a ve-ry long time since we paid his law-ful
 Le sue ren-di-te o - ne - ste da un pez - zo non ri -

2

RUDOLPH

Of what use are the for - ests, all white under the snow?.....
 Quelle sciocche fo - re - ste che fun sot-to la ne - ve?

MARCEL

wa - ges. Now,
 - ce - ve. Ro-

Lo stesso movimento

poco rit.

Ru - dolf, let me tell you a fact that o - ver -
 - dol - fo, io vo - glio dir - ti un mio pen - sier pro -

Lo stesso movimento

f *p* *f* *col canto*

RUDOLPH

(approaching Marcel) a Tempo

(blowing on his fingers) a piacere And I, Mar-
 Ed io, Mar-

- comes me: I'm sim - ply frozen.
 - fon - do: Ho un fred - do ca - ne.

a Tempo

ff *ff* *col canto*

RUDOLPH

_cel, to be quite candid I've no faith in the sweat of my brow.
 _cel, non ti na_scondo che non cre_do al su_dor del_la fron_te.

3

ff

MARCEL

All my fingers are
 Hoghiao - cia - te le

p staccatissimo

MARCEL

fro - zen Just as if they'd been touch_ing that
 di - ta... quasi an_cor le te_nes_si im_mol.

ff *p stacc.*

MARCEL

ice_berg, Touching that block of mar - ble, the heart of
 _la_te giù in quella gran ghiac_cia - ia che il cuo_re

cres. e string.

Ah! love's..... a stove con -
L'a - mor..... è un ca - mi -
(heaves a long sigh, laying aside his palette and brushes, and ceases painting)

false Mu - set - ta!
 di Mu - set - ta!

Musical accompaniment for the first system.

RUDOLPH

-sum - ing a deal of fu - el Where the
-net - to che sciu - pa trop - po... do - re

Too quickly!
 ...e in fret - ta!

Musical accompaniment for the second system.

RUDOLPH

man does the bur - ning
l'uo - mo è fa - sci - na

p and the wo - man the light - ing:
e la donna è l'a - la - re...

Musical accompaniment for the third system.

RUDOLPH *rapido*

pp As the one becomes ashes.
l'u - no brucia in un soffio...

The oth - er stands and watch -
e l'al - tro sta a guar - da -

Musical accompaniment for the fourth system.

RUDOLPH

MARCEL *a Tempo* Mean while, in here we're fro-zen
Main-tan-to qui si ge-la...

-es
-re. And we're
e si

a Tempo

RUDOLPH

MARCEL The Fire must be lighted:
Fuo-co ci vuo-le...

dy-ing of hung-er! I
muo-re d'i-ne-dia! A

(VUOTA)

(seizing a chair and about to break it up.)

(Rudolph energetically resists
Marcel's project)

MARCEL have it! This crazy chair shall save us.
-spet-ta... sa-cri-fi-chiam la se-4-dia!

(VUOTA)

RUDOLPH (joyous at an idea which has seized him)

(Runs to the table and from below
he lifts a bulky manuscript)

Eu-re-ka! Yes!
 Eu-re-ka! Sì!

You've found it?
Tro-va-sti?

(VUOTA)

A Tempo come prima

When gen - ius is rous - ed, i -
A - gus - za l'in - ge - gno. L'i -

A Tempo come prima

RUDOLPH

flash - - es

Opp.

- deas come fast and fur - ious..... No;
- de - a vam - pi in fiam - ma..... (pointing to his picture) No.

MARCEL

Let's burn the Red Sea!.....

Bru.ciamo il Mar Ros - so?

espressivo

RUDOLPH

think what a stench'twould oc - cas - ion! But my
Puz - za la te - la di - pin - ta. Il mio

RUDOLPH

rit.

dra - ma..... my beauti - ful dra - ma shall give..... us
dram - ma,..... l'arden.te mio dram - ma ci scal - - us

m. d. *rit.* *col canto*

RUDOLPH

a Tempo

warmth.

- di.

No,

the

No,

in

MARCEL (with comic terror)

Do you mean to read it. 'Twill chill us.

Vuoi leggerlo for - se? Mi ge - li.

*a Tempo**pp*

RUDOLPH

string.

paper in flame shall be burn - ing, the soul to its heaven re - turn - ing; great

ce - ner la car - ta si sfal - di e l'estro ri - voli a' suoi cie - li. Al

*cres.**string.*

RUDOLPH (with importance)

*a piacere**a Tempo**a piacere*

loss, but the world yet must bear it

when Rome is in

se - col gran dan - no mi - nac - cia,...

è Roma in pe -

*a Tempo**col canto**ff**col canto*

RUDOLPH

(gives Marcel a portion of the manuscript)

peril!
-riglio!Well, here is the
A te l'at-to

(with exaggeration)

MARCEL

Great soul!
Gran cor!

5 a Tempo

fp *dolcissimo*

RUDOLPH

first act.
pri - mo.Tear it.
Straccia.

MARCEL

Good!
Qua.And
Ac.

p

MARCEL (Rudolph strikes a flint on steel, lights a candle and goes to the stove with Marcel; together they

light it.
-cen-di.

f

set fire to a part of the manuscript thrown into the fireplace, then both draw up their chairs and sit down, delightedly warming themselves.)

RUDOLPH

MARCEL

How joyous the rays!
Che lie - to ba - glior!

How cheerful the
Che lie - to ba -

p *f*

MARCEL

(The door at the back opens violently and Colline enters woking frozen, stamping his feet and throwing angrily on the table a bundle of books)

blaze!
glor!

6

ff un po' sostenuto *a Tempo*

COLLINE tied up in a handkerchief.)

Sure ly miracles
Già dell'Apoca-

COLLINE

A-po-calyptic are dawning!
-lis se appa-ri-scono i se-gni.

For,
In

ff *p*

COLLINE (checks himself,

Christmas eve they ho-nour by al-low-ing no pawning!
 gior - no di..... Vi - gi - lian on s'ac - cet - ta - no pe-gni!

7

RUDOLPH (to Colline)

Gently, it
 Zit.to,... si

COLLINE seeing fire in the stove)

What's that? a fire, eh?
 U-na fiamma-ta!

RUDOLPH

is my drama
 di il mio dramma...

COLLINE

In blazes. I
 ...al fuoco. Lo

RUDOLPH

(The fire languishes)

COLLINE

Brilliant!

Vi-vo.

find it ve - ry sparkling!

tro - vo scin - til - lan.te.

RUDOLPH

Brevity's deemed a
La bre-vi - tà, gran

COLLINE

Too short its phrases!
Ma du - ra po-co.*p**dim.*

RUDOLPH

treasure.

*pregio.**rall.*

(taking the chair from Rudolph)

COLLINE

Your chair pray give me,

Au - to - re, a me la

*m.d.**pp**ff*

Red.

p

115494

p

*

MARCEL

COLLINE

These foolish entr' - actes mere - ly make us
 Que - st' in - ter - mez - si fan mo - rir d' i -

Au - thor.
 se - dia.

pp

RUDOLPH (taking another portion of the manuscript.)

Here is the next act.
 At - to se - con - do.

(to Colline)

MARCEL

shiv - er. Quickly!
 - ne - dia. Pre - sto.

Hush, not a
 Non far su -

*p**p*

MARCEL

whis - per.
 [8] - sur - ro.

*string.**pp*

VUOTE

p

115494

p