

“Turandot” by Giacomo Puccini  
libretto (abridged) English - Italian

**Roles**

Princess Turandot - soprano  
The Emperor Altoum, her father - tenor  
Timur, the deposed King of Tartary - bass  
The Unknown Prince (Calàf), his son - tenor  
Liù, a slave girl - soprano  
Ping, Lord Chancellor - baritone  
Pang, Majordomo - tenor  
Pong, Head chef of the Imperial Kitchen - tenor  
A Mandarin - baritone  
The Prince of Persia - tenor  
The Executioner (Pu-Tin-Pao) - silent  
Imperial guards, the executioner's men, boys, priests, mandarins, dignitaries,  
eight wise men, Turandot's handmaids, soldiers, standard-bearers, musicians,  
ghosts of suitors, crowd

**ACT ONE**

*The walls of the great Violet City:  
(The Imperial City. Massive ramparts form a semi-circle  
that enclose most of the scene. They are interrupted  
only at the right by a great loggia, covered with  
carvings and reliefs of monsters, unicorns, and  
phoenixes, its columns resting on the backs of gigantic  
turtles. At the foot of this loggia, there is a huge  
bronze gong, held up by two arches. On the ramparts  
are set some stakes, which bear the skulls of the  
executed. At left and in the back, three enormous gates  
open in the walls. When the curtain rises, the sunset  
has reached its most colourful point. Peking, which we  
see in the distance, is all gleaming and golden. The  
palace yard is filled with a picturesque Chinese crowd,  
which is listening to the words of a Mandarin. From  
the top of the rampart, where red and black Tartars  
stand guard, he is reading a tragic decree.)*

## ACT TWO

### Scene One

*A pavilion*

*(It is formed by a huge tent, all strangely decorated with symbolic and fantastic Chinese figures. There are three openings: in the centre and at the sides. Ping appears at the centre. Turning first to the right, then to the left, he calls his companions. They are followed by three servants, who are carrying a red lantern, a green lantern, and a yellow lantern, which they then set on a low table, surrounded by three stools. The servants then retire to the background, where they remain, huddled on the ground.)*

### Scene Two

*A vast square inside the Palace walls*

*(At the centre there is a great marble staircase, whose summit is lost among lacy arches. There are three broad landings. Numerous servants set vari-coloured lanterns everywhere. Gradually the crowd invades the square. The mandarins arrive, dressed in blue and gold.*

*The Eight Sages go by, tall and pompous. They are enormous old men, almost the same size. Their gestures are slow and simultaneous. Each is carrying three sealed silk scrolls in his hand. These scrolls contain the answers to Turandot's enigmas.)*

### THE CROWD

*Grave, enormous, and imposing,  
with the sealed mystery of the enigmas,  
the Sages already come forward.*

*Here's Ping. Here's Pong. Here's Pang.*

*(Among the clouds of incense appear the white and yellow banners of the Emperor. Then at the top of the stairs, seated on a vast ivory throne, the Emperor Altoum is seen. He is very old, all white, venerable. He appears among the clouds like a god.)*

ACT III  
Scene One

*THE UNKNOWN PRINCE*

*No one must sleep!  
No one must sleep...  
You, too, o Princess,  
in your cold room  
look at the stars, that tremble  
with love and with hope!  
But my mystery is shut within me;  
no one will know my name!*

*No, I will say it on your mouth  
when the daylight shines!  
And my kiss will break the silence  
that makes you mine!*

*WOMEN'S VOICES*

*No one will know his name...  
And, alas, we must die!*

*THE UNKNOWN PRINCE*

*Vanish, o night!  
Set, you stars!  
At dawn I will win!  
I will win! I will win!  
(Slipping through the shrubbery come  
the three Ministers, leading a small  
crowd that, gradually,  
becomes more numerous.)*

*IL PRINCIPE IGNOTO*

*Nessun dorma!  
Nessun dorma...  
Tu pure, o Principessa,  
nella tua fredda stanza  
guardi le stelle che tremano  
d'amore e di speranza!  
Ma il mio mistero è chiuso in me,  
il nome mio nessun saprà!*

*No, no, sulla tua bocca lo dirò  
quando la luce splenderà!  
Ed il mio bacio scioglierà il silenzio  
che ti fa mia!*

*VOCI DI DONNE*

*Il nome suo nessun saprà...  
E noi dovrem, ahimè, morir!*

*IL PRINCIPE IGNOTO*

*Dilegua, o notte!...  
tramontate, stelle!  
All'alba vincerò!  
Vincerò! Vincerò!  
(Entrano, strisciando fra i cespugli, i tre  
Ministri alla testa di una piccola folla,  
che poi crescerà sempre più  
numerosa.)*

ACT III  
Scene Two

*THE CROWD*

*Ten thousand years to our Emperor!  
(The three Ministers spread a golden  
mantle on the ground as Turandot goes  
up the stairs. Suddenly there is silence.)*

*TURANDOT*

*August father...I know the name of the  
stranger!  
His name is...Love!  
(Calaf rushes up the steps. The two  
lovers are locked in  
an embrace.)*

*THE CROWD*

*Love!  
O Sun! Life! Eternity!  
Love is the light of the world!  
Our infinite happiness  
laughs and sings in the Sun!  
Glory to you! Glory!*

*END*

*LA FOLLA*

*Diecimila anni al nostro Imperatore!  
(I tre Ministri stendono a terra un manto  
d'oro mentre Turandot ascende le scale.  
D'un tratto è il silenzio.)*

*TURANDOT*

*Padre augusto...Conosco il nome  
dello straniero!  
Il suo nome è...Amor!  
(Calaf sale d'impeto la scala. I due  
amanti si trovano avvinti in un  
abbraccio.)*

*LA FOLLA*

*Amor!  
O sole! Vita! Eternità!  
Luce del mondo è amore!  
Ride e canta nel sole  
l'infinita nostra felicità!  
Gloria a te! Gloria!*

*FINE*