



L'Opera Lirica Italiana

Go to the [Euroclub Schools Website](#). Click on the [Italian door](#).
Click on [Italian Opera](#) and follow the links until you reach the [Opera Jukebox](#).

Click on Track 1.

O mio babbino caro. (Oh my dear daddy.)

This aria is from the short opera called *Gianni Schicchi* by *Giacomo Puccini*.

*Pretend that you are in the audience at an Italian opera house such as *Il Teatro Alla Scala di Milano*.

*Listen carefully to the *aria* sung by the female singer. She is *un soprano*.

*At the end of the *aria*, decide what you think of her performance.

*If, in your opinion, it was good:- **clap**.

*If you think that it was very good: - **clap and shout "Brava!"**

*If it was wonderful:- **clap and stand up and shout "Brava!"** You could even shout
"Bravissima!"

*If it was so great that you would like to hear it again:- **clap and stand up and shout "Bis!"**

The story of *Gianni Schicchi* takes place in Florence.

This *aria* is sung by a girl called *Lauretta*. She is in love with *Rinuccio*. They want to get married. Her father is *Gianni Schicchi*.

In this *aria*, *Lauretta* is pleading for her father's permission to marry *Rinuccio*.

She sings that if he does not give his permission then she will jump off the bridge and into the river! This famous bridge in Florence is called *Il Ponte Vecchio* and the river is the River *Arno*.

Some questions:-

1. Do you think that *Lauretta* sounds happy or sad? Or something else?
2. Do you think that *Lauretta* really sounds serious about jumping off the bridge?
3. What effect do you think this *aria* will have on her father as he listens?
4. How does the music make you feel?
5. Are there any musical instruments that can be heard very clearly as *Lauretta* sings?