



Fondazione
ARENA DI VERONA

**This is the program booklet
in Easy English
for the opera La Traviata
by Giuseppe Verdi**



Fondazione
ARENA DI VERONA

**This is the program booklet
in Easy English
for the opera La Traviata
by Giuseppe Verdi**

Title

The title of this opera is La Traviata.
La Traviata is Italian
and it means the misguided,
the one who has made wrong decisions.

Opera is a way to tell a story
with music, actors singing lyrics
and sometimes with dancing.

La Traviata has 3 acts.
An act is a part of an opera or a play,
like the chapter of a book.

Composer

The composer of La Traviata
is **Giuseppe Verdi**.
A composer writes music for an opera.

Giuseppe Verdi was an Italian composer
during the 19th century.
He composed La Traviata in 1853.

Libretto

Francesco Maria Piave

wrote the lyrics of La Traviata.

The lyrics of an opera are called librettos
and the writer is called a librettist.

Francesco Maria Piave was an Italian librettist.
He wrote librettos to many of
Giuseppe Verdi's operas.

Characters

The characters in an opera sing songs.

Some of the songs are for voices in a high pitch.

They are called sopranos, mezzo-sopranos and altos.

Some are in low pitch for tenors, baritones and bass.

The characters in the opera La Traviata are:

- **Violetta Valéry**

Violetta is a rich prostitute in Paris.

A prostitute is a woman who sells sex to men.

She is very ill.

Violetta is a soprano.

- **Flora Bervoix**

She is Violetta's friend.

Flora is a mezzo-soprano.

- **Annina and Giuseppe**

They are Violetta's servants.

Annina is a mezzo-soprano.

Giuseppe is a tenor.

- **Alfredo Germont**
Alfredo is a young man who lives in the town.
He is in love with Violetta.
Alfredo is a tenor.
- **Giorgio Germont**
He is Alfredo's father.
Giorgio is a baritone.
- **Gastone**
Gastone is a viscount.
A viscount is a title of nobleman,
like a baron or a marquise.
Gastone is a tenor.
- **Barone Douphol**
He is a nobleman.
Baron Douphol is a baritone.
- **The Marquise of Obigny**
He is a nobleman.
The Marquise is a bass.
- **Doctor Grenvil**
He is a medical doctor.
Grenvil is a bass.

Other characters in La Traviata are:

- **Ladies and Gentlemen**
They are friends of Violetta and Flora.
- **The Matadors**
A group of bullfighters
who perform at Flora's party.
- **The Picadors**
A group of men working at bullfights.
They also perform at Flora's party.
- **The Gypsies**
A group of women dressed as gypsies.
They entertain at Flora's party.
- **The Servants of Violetta and Flora**
- **The Masked Persons**
Friends of Violetta and Flora
who wear masks at the party.

Photos from La Traviata

In this photo you can see an example of the scenography of La Traviata.

Scenography is the decor and all the objects on the stage during a performance.



In this photo,
the scene is inside a large golden frame.
In the background is a painting
of flowers and exotic plants.
The persons are Violetta and Giorgio.
Giorgio is Alfredo's father.

This photo shows **Violetta**.



Violetta is wearing a long white dress.
She is holding a crown of flowers
with a long white veil.

This photo shows **Alfredo**.



Alfredo is sitting to the right at a card table.
He is wearing a black suit.

A woman is sitting next to Alfredo.
She is wearing a red corset
and black stockings.
There are also some other men
and women in the picture.

This photo shows Violetta, Alfredo and Annina.



Violetta and Alfredo are close together.
Alfredo is sitting on his knees
and he is holding Violetta's hands.
Violetta is wearing a long white dress.

Annina is sitting by herself.
She is looking down.

In the background is a mirror
reflecting the three persons on the stage.

The story of La Traviata

The opera La Traviata takes place in the city of Paris in France in the 1800's.

The opera has 3 acts.

Here is a summary of what happens in the different acts.

Act 1

We are in Paris.

Violetta throws a party at her house.

She is ill with the disease tuberculosis.

But her illness does not stop her from living a life of luxury with lots of parties.

At the party

Violetta meets Alfredo Germont.

Alfredo tells Violetta

that he is in love with her.

Violetta says no to Alfredo at first.

But then she changes her mind.

She wants to start

a new life together with Alfredo

and they leave Paris.

Act 2 - Part 1

It is 6 months after
Violetta's party in Paris.
Violetta and Alfredo now
live together in the countryside.
They love each other
and are very happy.

One day Giorgio arrives
when Alfredo is not at home.
Giorgio is Alfredo's father.
He has found out
about their relationship
and wants Violetta to end it.

He says that Violetta must leave Alfredo.
Her background as a prostitute
ruins the good reputation
of Alfredo's family.

Violetta writes a letter to Alfredo
and then she returns to Paris.
In the letter she writes that she
does not want to be with him anymore.
When Alfredo reads the letter
he gets very angry.

Act 2 - Part 2

The same evening,
Flora throws a party at her house.
Alfredo, Giorgio, Violetta
and Baron Douphol are at the party.

Alfredo is very angry with Violetta
for writing the letter and for leaving him.
Baron Douphol wants to protect Violetta
and challenges Alfredo in a card game.

They play cards and Alfredo wins.
He throws the money he has won
at Violetta's feet and leaves the party.
Violetta leaves too.

Act 3

It is one month after the party
at Flora's house.
Violetta has returned to her old life
as a prostitute.
But she is very ill.
The doctor has told her friend Annina
that Violetta is going to die soon.

Giorgio writes a letter to Violetta.
In the letter he says
that Alfredo now knows
the reason why Violetta
does not want to be with him.

Alfredo goes to Violetta to apologize
and to make peace.
But Violetta is too sick.
She dies in Alfredo's arms.

Director's Notes

La Traviata is inspired by the book
“The Lady of the Camellias”
written by Alexandre Dumas.

The book has also
been made into a play.

Hugo De Ana is the director
of this version of La Traviata.

A director decides
how the actors should act, what to do
and how they should stand and walk
on the stage.

Hugo De Ana is from Argentina.
He has directed more than 60 operas.

Hugo De Ana is also the scenographer.
He has decided about the decor
and all the objects on the stage.

In his version of La Traviata,
the scenes are designed as a picture gallery.
It is like a museum with many paintings.
You will see frames, mirrors
and canvases of paintings.

Hugo De Ana has also designed all the costumes the actors wear. He got the inspiration from a painting by the artist Eugenio Scomparini. The name of the painting is “The Lady of the Camellias”.

Hugo De Ana saw this painting in Revoltella Museum in Trieste, Italy.



Fondazione
ARENA DI VERONA

**The program booklet in Easy English
for the opera La Traviata
by Giuseppe Verdi**

You can find the online version of this booklet
on the website of the “Arena for All” project

<https://www.arena.it/en/arena-verona-opera-festival/arena-per-tutti/>



© European Easy-to-Read Logo: Inclusion Europe.

More information at

<https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read/>

