

**LODOLETTA: AN  
OPERA IN  
THREE ACTS**

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Lodoletta: An Opera in Three Acts by C. Forzano & Pietro Mascagni & Frederick H. Martens

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**C. FORZANO & PIETRO MASCAGNI & FREDERICK H. MARTENS**

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## ARGUMENT

The scene of action is a little Dutch village, and the Paris of the third empire. The plot hinges on the unhappy love of Lodoletta, an innocent country girl, for Flammen, a famous Parisian painter.

In the opening scene the village folk and children, Daddy Antonio, Lodoletta's foster father, and Giannotto, who is in love with her, are preparing to celebrate her birthday. It is Spring. While the children play hide-and-seek, their parents decorate Lodoletta's cottage with flowers, and Giannotto brings a handsome gift to be added to those already laid on her table. Antonio regrets that he has no money with which to buy her a pair of little red shoes. As the children begin, directed by the old fiddler, to rehearse a birthday song in honor of their playmate Lodoletta, they are interrupted by the appearance of Flammen and a party of his Parisian friends. Flammen's friends, since the villagers can give them only milk to drink, are eager to drive on, but the painter, seeing a picture of the Madonna in a shrine set in the wall about Lodoletta's cottage, tarries and tries to buy it from Antonio. The latter demurs, but on Flammen's promise that once copied it will be returned, and the offer of a gold piece, making possible his purchase of the little red shoes for Lodoletta, he yields. Flammen's friends depart with him. Antonio hastens to town to buy his gift and, while the villagers finish decorating the cottage, Lodoletta comes running up, back from the flower-market. The villagers crowd about and congratulate her, the children sing the birthday song, and the returned Antonio presents his gift. Giannotto tries to tell Lodoletta of his love, but she puts him off. Antonio, who has climbed into a peach-tree and is showering the dancing children with blossoming boughs, suddenly falls. The festivities come to an end. He is carried away to die, and Lodoletta is supported to the cottage, where she asks to be left alone. Here Giannotto, the last to leave her, begs her in vain to come to his home, to call his mother her own. Flammen, who has returned to seek Antonio, unconscious of the tragedy, finds Lodoletta weeping, enters the cottage and soothes her grief till she falls asleep with her head against his shoulder. Departing, he places some roses—"For Lodoletta"—in the shrine which the young girl has for the first time neglected to adorn with flowers.

In the second act Autumn has supplanted Spring in the little Dutch village. Flammen, who lives in an adjacent cottage, has been painting Lodoletta's picture. She has learned to love him, but is unconscious of the fact. Yet the intimacy of the village girl and the painter has been misconstrued by the villagers, and Lodoletta's fair name has suffered. In a scene of innocent coquetry, while she is posing for Flammen at the easel, she discloses her pure and guiltless affection. The postman brings a letter for Flammen, telling him his Parisian friends are coming to visit him. While he returns to his house, jeered by the village children, after sending Lodoletta for flowers, the children enter the cottage, and Lodoletta, coming back, finds them admiring the painting. She coaxes them to no longer insult the painter, and gathering them in her arms,

is about to tell them a fairy tale, when the indignant mothers call them off, and forbid their having anything to do with "that woman." Lodoletta, standing sad and deserted on the threshold of her cottage, is now approached by Giannotto. He reproaches her, and again offers her his heart and hand, but with sublime innocence she denies his imputation of evil, and defends the painter, who has shown her only kindness and respect. Flammen, returning after leaving the girl, finds Lodoletta in tears, and her innocent loveliness carries him away. He declares his love and begs her to return it. But her purity and innocence triumph, she rejects his passionate appeals, and imploring him to leave her, takes flight. Flammen, conscience-stricken and ashamed, decides to leave the village.

The third act opens with the shouts, blowing of horns and songs of the crowd thronging the Boulevards of Paris, beyond the railing surrounding the garden of Flammen's villa. From the villa itself come the strains of a waltz, and the silhouettes of dancing couples are seen through the panes. Flammen is entertaining his friends. He comes out of the villa, followed by Franz, and complains to the latter that he is bored and distressed, and can no longer enjoy anything. Lodoletta is ever in his thoughts. Remorsefully he recalls that he left her helpless and alone. Franz tells him that she has, no doubt, long since consoled herself, and leaves him. Flammen continues to express his love and yearning, until drawn into the house by his friends, who deride his sentimentality. Lodoletta now appears in the garden, worn out and in rags. She sees the brilliantly illuminated villa, and tears of joy come to her eyes, for she believes Flammen is awaiting her. She has come to offer him her love and life. But about to enter the villa, she sees the dancers, the beautifully gowned women—Flammen himself making merry in their midst. With a cry of torture she realizes that the light and laughter are not for her. Thinking that the painter has forgotten her, she turns to fly, falls, her little wooden shoes that have tramped so many weary miles slipping from her feet, and can rise no more. In her passing fancies she recalls her happy girlhood and Flammen's love, and dies with the illusion that his lips are pressed to hers. Flammen's party breaks up; but the host refuses to accompany his guests to Montmartre. Alone in the garden, he treads on Lodoletta's little wooden shoes, finds her rigid little body, and sinks to earth clasping it in his arms, and crying wildly that he would die with his love.

## PERSONAGGI

LODOLETTA	<i>Soprano</i>
LA PAZZA	<i>Contralto</i>
MAUD	<i>Soprano</i>
LA VANARD	<i>Soprano</i>
FLAMMEN	<i>Tenore</i>
GIANNOTTO	<i>Baritone</i>
FRANZ	<i>Baritone</i>
ANTONIO	<i>Basso</i>
UNA VOCE	<i>Tenore</i>
IL PORTALETTERE	<i>Tenore</i>

Le Olandesine, le Comari, i Bimbi, le Amiche, gli Amicli, e la Folla del Boulevard.

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L'azione si svolge nel 1853.

Il primo atto ha luogo in un villaggio olandese (È primavera):—il secondo nello stesso villaggio (È il mese di Novembre);—il terzo a Parigi, nel giardino e nella villa di Flammen (È l'ultimo dell'anno).

*Per qualche dettaglio del I° e III° atto, l'autore del libretto si è ispirato ad alcune pagine del romanzo dell'Ouida : « Due Zoccoletti. »*

## CHARACTERS

LODOLETTA	<i>Soprano</i>
THE MAD WOMAN	<i>Contralto</i>
MAUD	<i>Soprano</i>
LA VANARD	<i>Soprano</i>
FLAMMEN	<i>Tenor</i>
GIANNOTTO	<i>Baritone</i>
FRANZ	<i>Baritone</i>
ANTONIO	<i>Bass</i>
A VOICE	<i>Tenor</i>
THE POSTMAN	<i>Tenor</i>

Dutch Women, Villagers (Neighbors), the Children, the various Parisian Friends,  
and the Crowd on the Boulevard.

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Act I takes place in a Dutch village (in Springtime). Act II in the same village (in the month  
of November). Act III at Paris, in the garden and villa of Flammen (New Year's Eve).

Time: 1853.

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*The author of the libretto has drawn on certain pages of Ouida's romance "Two Little Wooden  
Shoes" for some of the details of Acts I and III.*



# LODOLETTA

## An Opera in Three Acts

### ATTO I

*A destra la capanna di LODOLETTA. Dietro la capanna un pesco fiorito. A sinistra una fila di casette. Nel fondo, un muro di cinta. Nel muro un tabernacolo; dentro il tabernacolo una tavoletta su cui è dipinta una Madonna. Oltre il muro la strada, un laghetto, la campagna.*

LE COMARI, I BIMBI, AN-  
TONIO E GIANNOTTO PER  
LA FESTA DI LODOLETTA.

*Tramonto di primavera. Le comari stanno adornando la capanna con tralci e fiori. Il vecchio suonatore di violino è seduto in un angolo e rimette le corde al suo strumento.*

#### I BIMBI

*(irrompono in scena correndo e gridando come una compagnia di balestrucci: giocano a nascondello).*

Cercalo cercalo,  
prendilo prendilo,  
uì uì uì!  
cercalo qui!

*(al bimbo che deve cercare e che è fuori)*

Aspetta! aspetta!

*(consigliandosi sul posto dove nascondere il bimbo che deve esser nascosto)*

— Dietro la siepe?  
— Là nel cespuglio?  
— Dietro la casa!  
— Vicino al pesco!...  
Vicino al pesco?

### ACT THE FIRST

*On the right, the cottage of LODOLETTA. To the rear of the cottage, a peach-tree in flower. On the left, a row of cottages. At the back, an enclosing wall. Set in the wall is a small shrine; within the shrine a small altar-piece, a painted picture of the Madonna. Beyond the wall the highway, a pond, the countryside.*

VILLAGERS, CHILDREN, AN-  
TONIO AND GIANNOTTO, CELE-  
BRATING LODOLETTA'S BIRTHDAY

*It is an evening in Spring. VILLAGERS are decorating the cottage with branches and flowers. The old FIDDLER, seated in a corner, is tuning the strings of his instrument.*

#### THE CHILDREN

*(irrupt on the scene like a flight of swallows, running, and shouting; they are playing hide-and-seek).*

Look for him, look for him,  
Find him, find him,  
Oh ho ho!  
Look for him here!

*(to the child who is seeking, and who is without)*

Wait! wait!

*(deciding where the child who is to conceal himself shall hide)*

Behind the hedge?—  
There, in the bushes?—  
Behind the house!—  
By the peach-tree!—  
By the peach-tree?

(nascondendo il bimbo e chiamando l'altro  
che è fuori)

Si!

Vieni! Vieni!

(mentre il bimbo del carbonaio entra e cerca)

Acqua! Acqua!...

Brucicchia! Brucicchia!...

Brucia! Brucia!...

Fuoco! Fuoco!...

(è scoperto: tutti fuggendo via)

Cercami cercami,  
prendimi prendimi,

uì uì uì!

cercami qui!

(sono scomparsi)

ANTONIO

( esce dalla capanna e vedendo le comari  
affaccendate ):

Grazie comari  
di quel che fate  
per Lodoletta!

LE COMARI.

È la sua festa! è la sua festa!  
Qui deve sorgere una foresta.  
Profumi freschi, vivi colori,  
una foresta di frutti e fiori!

LA VOCE DI GIANNOTTO.

Quando all'alba il sol mi desta,  
la prima canzone la canto per te!...  
La canzone è sempre mesta,  
o bimba tu sola puoi dire perchè!

(GIANNOTTO compare al di là del muro, quasi  
sdraiato, sul carico di fieno, sopra il bar-  
roccio.)

Lodoletta è tornata?

(They hide one boy and call the other, who is  
without)

Ready!

Come! Come!

(as the charcoal-burner's son enters and looks)

Cold! Cold!—

Warmer! Warmer!—

Hot! Hot!—

Burning! Burning!—

(He is discovered: all run away)

Look for me, look for me,

Find me, find me,

Oh ho ho!

Look for me here!

(They disappear)

ANTONIO

(issues from the cottage, seeing the VILLAGERS  
at work)

Thanks, neighbors,  
For all you are doing  
For Lodoletta!

NEIGHBORS

It is her birthday, her natal day;  
A forest shall rise, its homage to pay.  
Fragrance sweet, bright hues its dower,  
A forest shall rise of fruit and flower!

GIANNOTTO'S VOICE

When at dawn the sun awakes me,  
To you my first song forth I sigh!  
My song is sad. If sad it makes me,  
You, child, alone could tell me why!

(GIANNOTTO appears on the other side of the wall,  
reclining on the hay with which the cart is  
loaded.)

Has Lodoletta come back?

LE COMARI.

È ancora al mercato dei fiori.

GIANNOTTO (*gettando loro un involto*).

Prendete. Un regaluccio di mia madre.

LE COMARI

(*aprono l'involto, guardano*)

Ah, che bellezza !  
quale ricchezza !  
È seta e trina !  
Con questo Lodoletta  
sembrerà una regina !

ANTONIO.

Ringrazia e saluta la mamma !

LE COMARI.

E tu non resti ?

GIANNOTTO.

Vo' a scaricare  
il fico e torno !

LE COMARI.

Stasera c'è festa al villaggio !  
Si balla e si canta  
e senza lanterne  
chè poi fa la luna  
e il cielo è sereno ;  
bisogna tornare !

(GIANNOTTO *prosegue la sua strada ; le comari vanno a mettere il regalo fra gli altri che sono sul tavolo dentro la capanna.*)

ANTONIO.

Tutti, tutti un regalo a Lodoletta...  
Ed io soltanto nulla.  
Ah ! che peccato non aver denaro  
per farle la sorpresa...  
gli zoccoletti rossi !...

VILLAGERS

She's still at the flower-market.

GIANNOTTO (*tossing them a parcel*)

Take it. A little present from my mother.

VILLAGERS

(*opening the package and examining its contents*)

Ah, how beautiful !  
How costly !  
It's of silk and satin !  
This will make Lodoletta  
Look like a queen !

ANTONIO

Thanks, and a greeting to your mother !

VILLAGERS

Are you not staying ?

GIANNOTTO

I go to unload my hay  
And will then come back !

VILLAGERS

To-night there's a festival in the village !  
There'll be dancing and singing ;  
No lanterns are needed,  
The moon will give light,  
And skies will be clear ;  
We'll have to go home !

(GIANNOTTO *continues on his way ; the VILLAGERS add the gift to the others on the table within the cottage.*)

ANTONIO

All, all presents for Lodoletta,  
And I have given nothing.  
Ah, it's a sin not to have money  
To give her a surprise!—  
Those little red shoes!—