

## Messa Di Gloria Mascagni Score

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just twenty six when the electrifying premiere of his *cavalleria rusticana* at the teatro costanzi in rome catapulted the impoverished musician into sudden fame and fortune petro mascagni 1863 1945 went on to write fifteen more operas including *I amico fritz* *guglielmo ratcliff* *iris parisina* and *il piccolo marat* with privileged access to extensive primary sources including mascagni s 4 200 letters to anna lolli his mistress for more than three decades author alan mallach provides a compelling portrait of a flamboyant combative and emotional man who was passionately devoted to the italian opera tradition and committed to innovation in musical language and dramatic form deftly combining serious biography with critical commentary mallach begins with the captivating story of mascagni s rags to riches adventure from his birth in livorno in tuscany to his musical studies first with alfredo soffredini and later at the milan conservatory to his years as a vagabond musician to the worldwide success of his breakthrough opera he then traces mascagni s private and professional life after *cavalleria* examining a prolific yet controversial career that was forever overshadowed by the work that unexpectedly thrust him into the limelight mallach provides a full analysis of mascagni s oeuvre and discusses his complex relationships with such italian cultural and political figures as

edoardo sonzogno giacomo puccini gabriele d'annunzio luigi illica and benito mussolini he also thoroughly chronicles mascagni's bouts with manic depression his marriage to lina and devotion to their three children his grueling schedule of concert and operatic tours his patriotism and bitter opposition to italy's involvement in both world wars and his passionate love affair with anna lolli this richly textured biography will appeal to fans of the still beloved and popular cavalleria and it will introduce opera enthusiasts to the power intensity and melodic beauty of the brilliant composer's many other significant works

although books have been written about various opera houses throughout the world no one work has covered more than a relatively small number of the larger well known companies and houses and none have made more than brief mention of the smaller houses no book has comprehensively listed opera repertoires little in sum has been written about any of the smaller companies and houses located in non english speaking countries this is the most comprehensive reference book ever written on opera companies and houses in western europe canada australia and new zealand over 300 from the well known to the smaller each entry includes a history of the opera house or company the works title and composer and type of productions offered company staff world and country premieres repertory and practical information on the theater's address nearby hotel accommodations and how to order tickets most entries conclude with a bibliography

mr ashbrook's book is addressed equally to those who love puccini's music and to those who want to know a good deal about it while there have been several biographical studies of puccini no other book treats his operas all twelve of them in such detail and in close relation to his life the author examines each opera musically discusses the libretto and the performance history of each and relates them to events in puccini's life he avoids excess psychological theorizing and stresses puccini's professional activities and the course of his musical development treating the composer and his works fairly and objectively as products of a particular time and place in history among the features of the book are plot summaries of all the operas and a close consideration of their dramaturgy as developed in the music a review of the circumstances of composition of each opera a description of puccini's rejected ideas which reveal his conception of suitable operatic form and subject an account of the librettos relation to the music and puccini's own contributions to the librettos a capsule history of each opera's performances with his revisions which shed light on puccini's sense of the musical theater and detailed references to the autograph scores and proofs in puccini's publisher's office which offer fresh insight into his musical methods

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