

## Introduction

This wonderful aria, *O Mio Babbino Caro*, was written by Puccini as part of *Gianni Schicchi*, in turn part of *Il Trittico*, or triptych; three one-act operas often performed together because of their brevity. The comic libretto is taken from *Dante's Inferno*, and concerns a nefarious, hilarious attempt that relatives of a dying man make to alter his will. The aria is sung by a beautiful young woman who wants to marry the love of her life, and implores her father for help.

The three operas were first performed at the Met in 1918, and were greeted with spectacular applause. In particular, the audience demanded that this aria be repeated before the opera could continue.

For this arrangement for classical guitar, the original key of A flat was transposed to C. The accompaniment was taken from the harp part, which so felicitously follows the soprano in the opera, plus a little from the strings. All performance indications match the original.

-- John Rethorst

# O Mio Babbino Caro

Arranged for classical guitar  
by John Rethorst

Giacomo Puccini

*Andantino ingenuo*

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written for a single system in 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of *Andantino ingenuo* and a metronome marking of  $\text{♩} = 120$ . The music features a melodic line in the upper voice and a supporting bass line. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. The dynamics *pp* and *p* are used to indicate soft and piano playing, respectively. The instruction *(piangendo)* is placed above the music at the end of the piece. The score concludes with a double bar line.