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*Pagliacci*  
(PUNCHINELLO)

*Drama in Two Acts*  
*Words and Music by*  
*R. Leoncavallo*

ENGLISH VERSION BY  
HENRY GRAFTON CHAPMAN



VOCAL SCORE

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*Srita. Felicitas Lozoya*  
PROFESORA DE CANTO

ALLA VENERATA MEMORIA  
DE' MIEI GENITORI  
VINCENZO LEONCAVALLO  
E  
VIRGINIA D'AURIA  
IL FIGLIO SEMPRE MEMORE  
R. LEONCAVALLO

## *Pagliacci*

### ARGUMENT

**T**HE last part of the Introduction takes the form of a Prologue, sung by Tonio, one of the characters, in which he reminds the audience that even actors are men, with passions like their own, and begs them to bear this in mind, rather than dwell only on the poor theatrical trappings of the players. Having said this, he orders up the curtain.

The scene is laid in Calabria, near Montalto, on the Feast of the Assumption. The time is in the nineteenth century (1865-70).

ACT I. Canio and his troupe of strolling players, consisting of his wife Nedda, Tonio and Peppe, having made the round of the village, come back to their travelling theatre followed by a noisy crowd of villagers. Canio announces a performance for that evening and goes off to the tavern with several villagers; the rest troop away to vespers in the church. Tonio finds Nedda singing alone, and makes ilove to her. She laughs at him, and when he persists, strikes him with her whip. He leaves her, swearing that he will be revenged. No sooner is he gone than Silvio, a young countryman, in love with Nedda, joins her by leaping over a neighboring wall, and begs her to fly with him. She refuses, and asks him not to tempt her, but admits that she loves him. This confession is overheard by Tonio, who has come back unobserved. He hurries off to fetch Canio, and brings him back, too late to see Silvio, who has disappeared over the wall, but just in time to hear Nedda call after him, "To-night—and for ever I shall be thine."

Canio, mad with jealousy, upbraids her, and orders her to tell him her lover's name. She refuses, and Canio is about to stab her, when Tonio and Peppe interfere. Nedda is hurried off to dress for the performance, and Canio left alone is desperate at being forced to act and to laugh while grief is gnawing at his heart.

ACT II. The villagers flock to the theatre and find their places with much confusion and many calls for the play to begin. Nedda collects the money. Silvio is in the audience. She tells him that he had not been seen by Canio.

"The Play" is the usual farce, in which Taddeo, the Clown (Tonio), in the absence of Pagliaccio, the husband (Canio), makes love to Columbine, the wife (Nedda), and gets laughed at, till Harlequin (Peppe), Columbine's accepted lover, comes to sup with her. Taddeo resigns his pretensions, and stations himself at the door as a guard. He soon cries that Pagliaccio is upon them, and hides himself. Harlequin escapes, as Silvio had escaped, without being seen, but Canio hears his wife recite the very same words she had used in the afternoon—"To-night—and for ever I shall be thine." This so excites and enrages him that he throws off the part of Pagliaccio, and begins to upbraid Nedda in her own right, and taking up their quarrel where they had left it, demands her lover's name. Nedda sticks to her part in the hope of saving the situation. The audience, delighted at first with the realism of the acting, is soon completely mystified. Peppe tries to break up the performance. Tonio silences him. Canio insists. Nedda defies him. Suddenly he stabs her, crying that in her death-agony she will speak. She does so, by calling on Silvio to help her. Silvio runs towards her, his dagger drawn. As he comes, Canio, with "It was you, then!" stabs him also, and turning to the audience, says, "La commedia è finita!"—"The comedy is ended."

CHARACTERS OF THE DRAMA

NEDDA ( <i>in the play "COLÚMBINE"</i> ), a strolling player, wife of CANIO	<i>Soprano</i>
CANIO ( <i>in the play "PAGLIACCIO" [PUNCHINELLO]</i> ), master of the troupe	<i>Tenor</i>
TONIO ( <i>in the play "TADDEO"</i> ), the Clown	<i>Baritone</i>
PEPPE ( <i>in the play "HARLEQUIN"</i> )	<i>Tenor</i>
SILVIO, a villager	<i>Baritone</i>

VILLAGERS AND PEASANTS

THE SCENE is laid in Calabria, near Montalto, on the Feast of the Assumption

PERIOD, between 1865 and 1870

First performed at the Teatro dal Verme, Milan, on May 21, 1892, with the following cast:

<i>Canio</i>	GERAUD
<i>Tonio</i>	VICTOR MAUREL
<i>Nedda</i>	ADELINA STEHLE
<i>Silvio</i>	ANCONA
<i>Peppe</i>	DODDI