

# Three's the lucky number for Puccini Festival

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By PAUL HORSLEY  
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One of my picks for "Best of 2005" in local classical and dance was the Puccini Festival's performance of "Turandot," with Elizabeth Bennett in the title role and 200 singers and instrumentalists.

It had fire and guts and made a lot of noise. The amazing thing about the Puccini Festival is that no one is paid: It's all volunteer. Moreover, the performances are free.

This season the group, under Andy Anderson's baton, takes on another Puccini favorite, "11 trittico" — a triptych of short operas.

"Il tabarro," "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi" will be performed in concert version at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Folly Theater, 12th and Central.

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## MUSIC & DANCE NOTES

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It's the seventh annual festival, and it won't be long before the group will have worked through all the Puccini.

"Then we're going to start over and do them again better the second time," said founder and conductor Anderson.

The production features Bennett in the title role of "Suor Angelica," with Simon Kyung Lee, Megan King, Matthew Black, Jonathan Moots, Un Chong Yi-Christopher, Josh Black and others. For more information about the festival and its auxiliary activities, go to [kcpuccini.fest.org](http://kcpuccini.fest.org).

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