

# SCENE 3

---

The Cat and the Fox



SCENE 3  
THE CAT AND THE FOX

PHOTO C. 2023 FT



## TWO CROOKS

- The Cat and the Fox are among the most famous characters that Pinocchio meets on his journey from puppet to real boy. They are nearly one hundred per cent deceptive imps who realize how young and gullible Pinocchio is.

*Photo c. 2023 FT*



- They use many ploys to deceive the poor puppet. The first is their ruse of acting poor and disabled. “Alms for the poor,” they cry, pretending to be lame and blind (which they are not). Their second lie is to tell Pinocchio that it was by studying and going to school that they became handicapped. Then, they fabricate a false tale about how Pinocchio will get rich by planting his gold coins in the ground, an awful deception to use against the young puppet. They leave on the pretext of going to eat dinner, but in reality they go to disguise themselves. They return intending to mislead Pinocchio and then to do him harm.

# . DUET OF THE CAT AND THE FOX

---



DUETTO



RECITATIVO

- In Opera, two characters that speak together often sing their parts as a **DUET**. In this scene, the Cat and the Fox sing a duet at the beginning, and then say their words in the form of a **RECITATIVO** with Pinocchio.
- Listen to the recitative:  
<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxNpgxX8V2DCXVFvOUtGPe4CsyjDjH0pky>

# THE CRICKET ARRIVES

---

- Further along in this scene, the Talking Cricket arrives. His goal is to convince Pinocchio to return to the father, Geppetto, and to warn Pinocchio of the falseness of the Cat and the Fox. The Aria of the Cricket, “It is I, the Talking Cricket,” is calm, frank and honest. He is the complete opposite of the Cat and the Fox. Unfortunately, Pinocchio is so fascinated by the promises of these crooks that he can’t bear to listen to the good advice of the Cricket. He rejects the Cricket brusquely, and the Cricket, Pinocchio’s best friend, goes away.

- *Photo c. 2023 FT*



### **Talking Cricket:**

Let's go, little Pinocchio!

You mustn't trust those people who promise

To make you rich from morning to evening.

Usually they are crazy or they are troublemakers!

Listen to me, go home!

Your father has always a place for you

In his heart!

You are the hope and the dream that he carries in his soul, a small  
dream to be proud

Of his child that he holds in his heart!

And you who are thinking only about having fun,

Wasting time in your life.

Without studying

Or working how can you become a man,

Real and true?

Only by growing can you learn

The great love of your parent.

He wants to see you honest and good.

And only then will you be able to live life truly!

Listen to me, go home.

# WORD-FIND: THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY

---

<https://mywordsearch.com/711132/Unita-dItalia>





# A NATION THAT GROWS...

---

If we consider the new Kingdom of Italy at the time Carlo Collodi wrote *Pinocchio*, we can understand why the government initiated a monumental effort to bring literacy to the entire population, to give every child in Italy the ability to read and to write. The new united Italy had dire need of citizens who could become educated in youth and then work in adulthood to improve their own country...citizens who would be mature and wise. Collodi demonstrates through this famous fable how easy it is for naive and ignorant people to be deluded and led astray.

# ITALY, 1843

# ITALY, 1861



- The Talking Cricket summarizes this idea: “Without studying or working, how will you become a true man?” Pinocchio symbolizes the nation of Italy in its infancy, still young: the potential for growth and maturation that Pinocchio possesses is an example of how the entire population of Italy has the ability to grow and mature as a united nation.
- How will he do this? The story, and our Opera, continue...

---

- The Cat and the Fox return in disguise. They are hooded with two black coal sacks. “Give us your purse or we will kill you! Hand over the money or you are dead!” they yell ruthlessly. Although Pinocchio runs off, they catch him. Mercilessly they threaten to kill his father as well. We see now that their first words to the puppet were totally false, and that their intentions all along were to trick him.

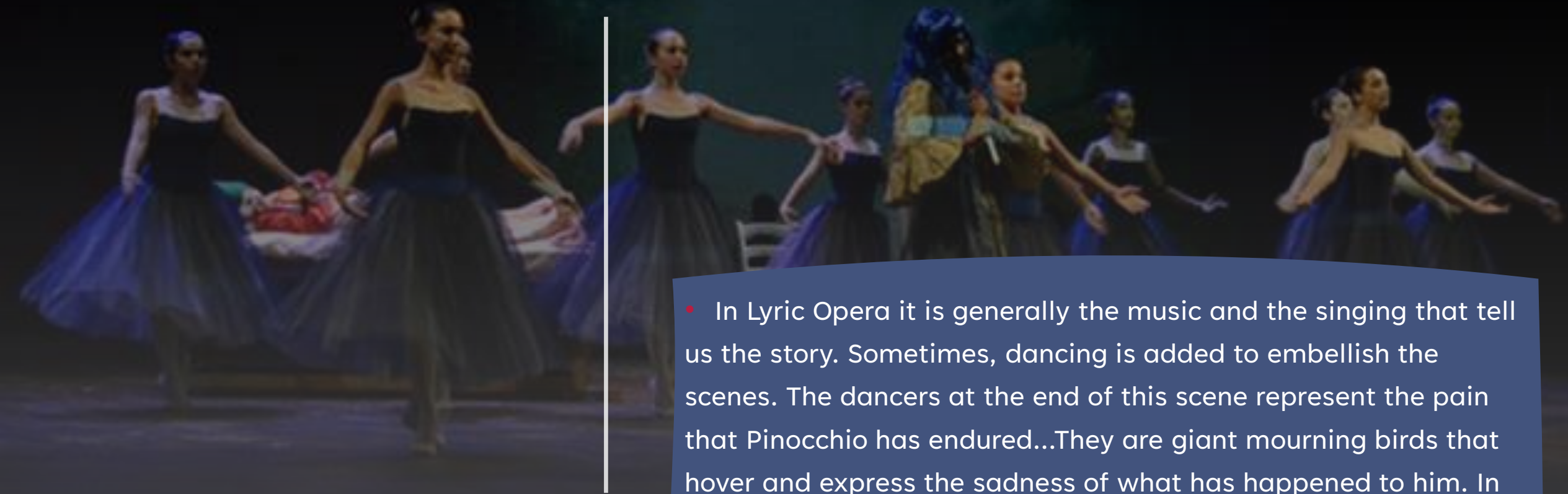
- In Pinocchio Park in the town of Collodi, Tuscany, the statues of the Cat and the Fox are comical and mischievous. The statues of them as the assassins are dark and scary however.





All photos c. 2019 FT

At the end of this scene, everything seems lost for Pinocchio. The crooks have left him tied to an oak tree. There is no one to come and help him. His father Geppetto, who loves Pinocchio, is very far away.



- In Lyric Opera it is generally the music and the singing that tell us the story. Sometimes, dancing is added to embellish the scenes. The dancers at the end of this scene represent the pain that Pinocchio has endured...They are giant mourning birds that hover and express the sadness of what has happened to him. In the book by Collodi, the Turquoise Fairy sends another bird, a giant Talking Falcon, to cut the knot that binds the puppet. In our opera, we do not see this Falcon, but in the following scene, we will know that the puppet is liberated...

# The Witches' Oak

## The legendary tree that inspired the fable

Maybe only a few know about it, but on a hill near Collodi, in the midst of a forest, there is an extraordinary tree – extraordinary because of its huge size as well as because of the legends that surround it! It is known by the name of the Witches' Oak, the tree that inspired Pinocchio.



Photo c. 2023 FT

