

Pinocchio

fiaba musicale in due atti

liberamente tratta da *Le avventure di Pinocchio* di Carlo Collodi

musica di Pierangelo Valtinoni, su testo di Paolo Madron

Atto I. In the Prologue, Geppetto makes a marionette with a piece of wood. The fairy tells us that this is the story of a marionette that is a 'gift of love'. All the characters in the story appear and explain their role: Talking Cricket, the cat, the fox and Candlewick. Geppetto is happy because he is now a father but Pinocchio begins to be naughty: he wants to move around and to eat, but he doesn't like the pieces of bread and cheese that Geppetto is giving him: he wants braised meat and *crème caramel*. Talking Cricket and Geppetto want Pinocchio to go to school; Geppetto even pawns his apron to buy his school books, but Pinocchio sells his book straightaway so he can buy tickets for the Marionette Theatre; tired of being told off by Jiminy Cricket, his conscience, he hits him. At the Marionette Theatre Mangiafuoco doesn't want to keep on repeating the same scenes; his marionettes are bored as well. Pinocchio comes in and wants to save Harlequin from Mangiafuoco's ire, but two gendarmes try to arrest him. Pinocchio slyly convinces Mangiafuoco that they could invent new stories, for example his own, and he is therefore given five coins to make new scenes for the Marionette Theatre. Glad he has made some money, Pinocchio thinks he will be able to help Geppetto but at the Osteria del Gambero Rosso he falls asleep and the cat and fox steal his money. When he wakes up, Pinocchio can't pay the bill so the innkeeper wants to arrest him. Pinocchio is able to escape thanks to a pigeon that flies away with him, leaving him in front of the fairy's house: Pinocchio knocks but it takes the snail living in the house a terribly long time to reach the door...

Atto II. Three weeks later, the snail finally reaches the door and opens it only to find Pinocchio who is by now almost at death's door and is being looked after by the fairy and two doctors, Doctor Owl and Doctor Crow. If he is to get better, Pinocchio has to drink a terribly bitter medicine; however, he only pretends to drink and so his nose grows. But when he sees four rabbits carrying his coffin, Pinocchio is so frightened that he drinks all of the medicine in one go. In the next scene Pinocchio meets his friend Candlewick, who convinces him to go to the Land of Toys, a place where you don't work or go to school but only have fun. The scene is then transformed into a circus where Pinocchio is turned into a donkey and is forced to dance; but when he hurts his leg and they no longer have any use for him in the show, he is thrown into the sea where he is eaten by a huge dogfish. In the enormous dogfish's stomach, with the fairy's help he finds his father Geppetto. Together they walk in the dark until they find the path and come out of the fish's mouth. Out in the sunlight Pinocchio meets all the characters from his manifold adventures: they each express a thought, a hope, encouragement, an eulogy, including the fairy who sings: "He was called Pinocchio; now he is a man, a real man".

