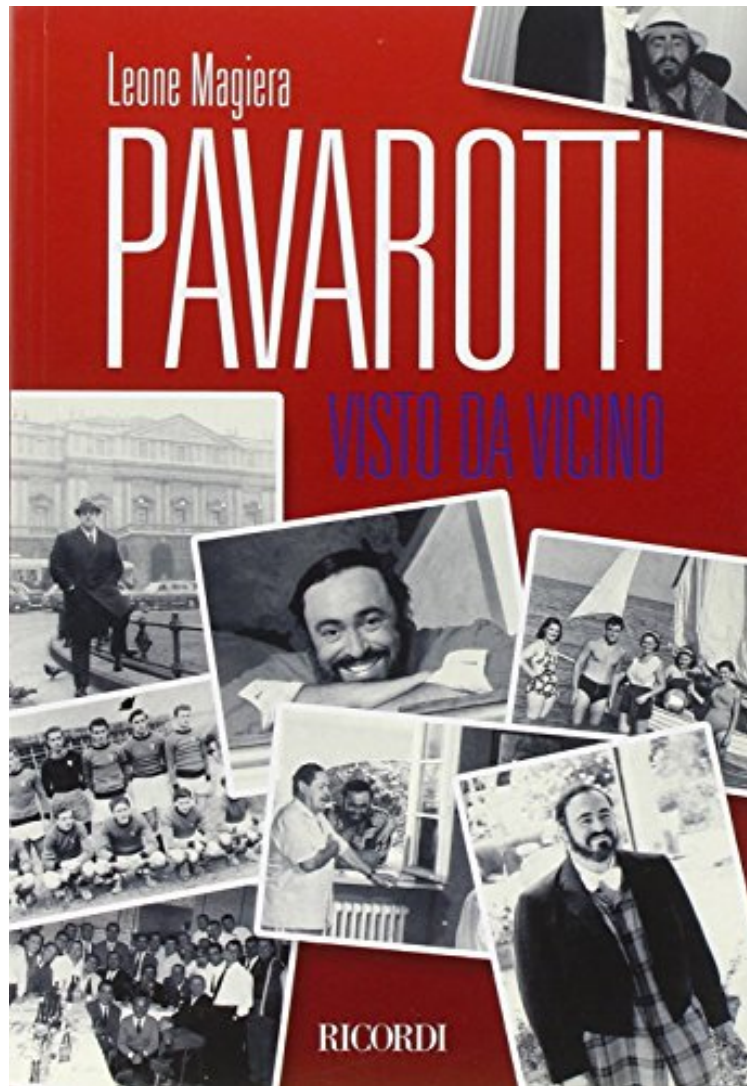


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## **Pia de' Tolomei: Tragedia lirica in Two Parts, libretto by Salvatore Cammarano (The Critical Edition of the Operas of Gaetano Donizetti: Operas)**

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Cammarano (The Critical Edition of the Operas of Gaetano Donizetti: Operas):

By the mid 1830s, as he began to dominate European stages, Gaetano Donizetti was pushing the boundaries of heightened romanticism in music, seeking texts that featured increasingly melodramatic and violent emotions and the savage consequences of irrational passion. *Pia de Tolomei* ranks among his more disquietingly intense and fast-paced works. Indeed, as one historian observed, there is ample reason to recognize *Pia* as one of the most strikingly pre-Verdian of all Donizetti's operas. Yet *Pia* was also a protean text, having no stable form, but changing in shape according to each new venue, as Donizetti returned to the score on a number of occasions. This critical edition reconstructs the premiere Venice version (1837) as the base text, but it offers in appendixes the possibility of reconstructing the two other principal versions, of *Senigallia* (1837) and *Naples* (1838).

About the Author Giorgio Pagannone teaches music at the University of Pisa.