

- 1 VISSI D'ARTE 5:14
- 2 E LUCEAN LE STELLE 5:13
- 3 STRETCH 4:16
- 4 INTERMEZZO 5:11
- 5 O MIO BABBINO CARO 4:42
- 6 SOSEEJI 3:50
- 7 VALZER DI MUSETTA 5:03
- 8 MY FUNNY VALENTINE 6:07
- 9 LES BELLES FEMMES 4:16
- 10 NESSUN DORMA 4:54 Total time 48:46

ROY POWELL
PIANO

LORENZO FELICIATI
BASS

LUCREZIO DE SETA
DRUMS

All compositions by Puccini
except 3, 6, 9 by Roy Powell, 8 by Rodgers and Hart

Recorded February 14 & 15, 2025 by Lucrezio de Seta
at HEMIOLA Studio di Registrazione, Rome, Italy
Mixed and mastered August 2025 by Lucrezio de Seta
Produced by Roy Powell, Lorenzo Feliciati, Lucrezio de Seta
Executive producer Odd Gjelsnes
Cover photo by Ronny Østnes
Trio photo by Laerte de Seta
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LOS 321-2



ROY POWELL / LORENZO FELICIATI / LUCREZIO DE SETA ARIA

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Roy Powell Lorenzo Feliciati Lucrezio de Seta

ARIA



A JAZZ TRIBUTE TO GIACOMO PUCCINI

Aria marks the latest chapter in pianist Roy Powell's long-running collaboration with bassist Lorenzo Feliciati, a partnership that began in 2007 and has since produced nearly two decades of innovative recordings and performances. Their shared exploration of Italian music through a jazz lens first took shape in 2009 with the album *Napoli*, a project rooted in the songs of Naples.

Following a wide range of projects together, Powell and Feliciati revisited the idea in 2024 with *The Italian Songbook*, a collection of Roman songs and Powell's original compositions. Joined by drummer Lucrezio de Seta, the trio discovered a chemistry so inspiring that they were compelled to continue their journey – this time delving into the operatic world of Giacomo Puccini.

Puccini's timeless melodies, long admired by Powell, provide the foundation for *Aria*. The pianist recalls how jazz legend Miles Davis once considered a collaboration with Gil Evans centered on Puccini's *Tosca* – a project that never materialized but planted a seed that ultimately bore fruit in this album.

In many ways, *Aria* continues a rich jazz tradition of reinterpreting material from musicals, film scores, and the Great American Songbook. Puccini's arias, with their lyrical beauty and harmonic depth, offer fertile ground for improvisation, revealing unexpected colours and progressions when refracted through a jazz idiom.

The recording also features a spontaneous performance of the jazz standard "My Funny Valentine", captured serendipitously on Valentine's Day. Reharmonized and expanded into an extended jam, the trio gives the classic a fresh perspective. Powell's gentle original "Les Belles Femmes" offers a heartfelt dedication to the remarkable women in his family, a personal and intimate counterpoint to the operatic drama elsewhere on the album.

The journey culminates with perhaps Puccini's most iconic aria, "Nessun dorma". Powell recalls the goosebumps he felt upon first hearing Pavarotti sing this masterpiece, and its majestic form and triumphant spirit make it a fitting conclusion to an album that bridges two great musical traditions.

