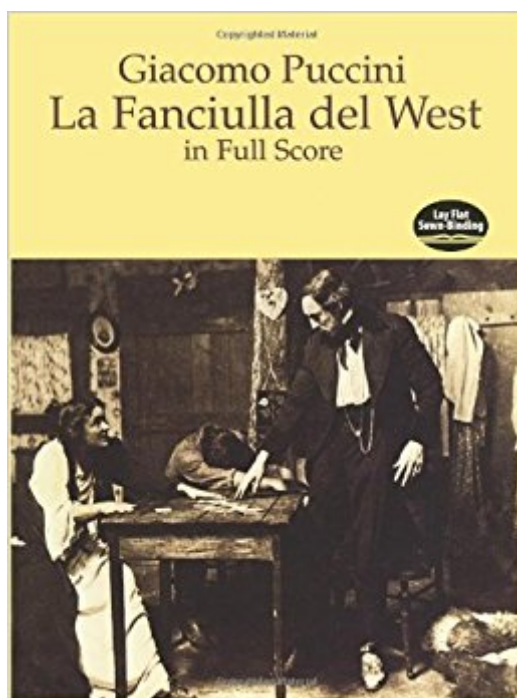


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La Fanciulla Del West In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

La Fanciulla del West (The Girl of the Golden West) was first performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1910, with Caruso as Johnson and Emmy Destinn as Minnie. An immediate success with the public, this Puccini opera has been a favorite with audiences ever since. Set in California in the days of the Gold Rush, the work is filled with dramatic touches, much lyric beauty, and brilliant orchestration. The opera represents a distinct departure from Puccini's earlier works. Determined to turn away from the sentimental tragedies he had written in the past, the composer sought to write a work of "harder, more masculine fibre." The result was an opera distinctly different from such Puccini standards as *Madame Butterfly* and *La Bohème*. With a harmonic language reflecting Debussy's innovations, and an orchestral palette along the lines modelled by Richard Strauss, *La Fanciulla*'s dramatic scale foreshadowed the remarkable originality and audacity of his last great opera, *Turandot*. Now music students, performers, and the legions of ardent Puccini lovers can study and enjoy this unique part of the composer's canon, reproduced from an authoritative edition.

Book Information

Series: Dover Music Scores

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; First Dover Edition edition (May 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486297128

ISBN-13: 978-0486297125

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.9 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,129,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Puccini](#) #366 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Ballet & Dance](#) #670 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Late Romantic](#)

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Italian composer Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) created *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, *Tosca*, and other beloved operas. He was the most popular opera composer in the world at the time of his death, and his works remain standards of the repertoire.

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