"Girl of the Golden West" Given a Rousing Reception

Puccini's Latest Opera Acclaimed by One of the Largest and Most Brilliant Audiences Ever Gathered at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Nothing Distinctively American About the Music, Which Reflects "Madama Butterfly," "Tosca" and "La Boheme."

BY SYLVESTER RAWLING.

"THE play's the thing" that will make most for the success of "La Fanciulla del West" ("The Girl of the Golden West"), Giacomo Puccini's latest opera, sung in Italian, which was presented for the first time upon any stage at the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday night. After all shall have been said in praise of the composer's music, of the masterly conducting of Toscanini and of the splendid singing of the principals, it still will remain true that it is the absorbing plot of David Belasco's famous melodrama that arouses the emotions and holds the observer spellbound.

Mr. Puccini received from a crowded house that has rarely, if ever, been exceeded in numbers or brilliancy, a remarkable tribute. At the fall of each curtain he was recalled too many times to count, and, at the end, there was a demonstration for him, for Mr. Belasco, for Mr. Gatti, for Mr. Toscanini and for each of the principal singers the like of which the writer has never seen. It was justified by the circumstances, for never before had the first performance of an opera been given in America. The composer had crossed the Atlantic for the premier. The playwright, who, for weeks had labored with the singers to imbue them with the proper atmosphere of the drama and give significance to their acting, was also present. All over the civilized world, music lovers were awaiting the verdict. One of the writer's colleagues alone had been asked to cable the result to fifty-seven European newspapers.

No Need for Hysterics.

But there is no need for hysterics. The accomplished American actress who impersonated the heroine in Mr. Belasco's play is quoted over her own signature as saying: "The tribute to America which Puccini has given in the writing of 'La Fanciulla del West' should cause everlasting gratitude in this country."

Why? For some time Mr. Puccini has found America his most profitable mart. He is the foremost of living composers. He is in the prime of life. It is reasonable to expect many more works from his pen which Americans will be glad to hear. He had to find some story upon which to hang his music, and it was a shrewd thing on his part to pick out one that had made a great American success.

Is the Music Pertinent?

The main question is: Does the music illuminate the play and reflect its spirit? Mr. Belasco, in a chat with the writer before the opera was produced, declared with enthusiasm that it does. Let us suppose that Mr. Belasco is as great a musician as he is a playwright and that the score of "La Fanciulla del West" without a text were submitted to him to suggest a play. Is it possible that from it he could have constructed "The Girl of the Golden West," or anything like it? This is too much to expect, it may be said. But under similar conditions from the score of "Cavalleria" scarcely anybody will doubt that Mr. Belasco would evolve a thrilling melodrama that, no matter where cast, would reflect the intent of the music.

The Score Not American.

There is nothing American about the score of "La Fanciulla del West," except a suggestion of ragtime, and the score, mellifluous Italian phrases fall strangely upon the ear from the mouths of the rough and uncouth miners in a camp of Forty-niners in California. Nevertheless, the music, for itself, is both clever and charming and characteristically Puccini's. The difficulties of the text in its short phrases, startling exclamations and abrupt interruptions have driven the composer more than ever to the modern expedient of relying upon the orchestra for much of his delineation. If in this he has taken a hint or two from Richard Strauss and Debussy, what matter? Shakespeare and Wagner were arrant plagiarists and the gospel is for all people. That he is reminiscent of himself is perfectly justifiable, and certainly he has not forgotten his "Tosca," "Madama Butterfly" and "La Boheme," especially "Butterfly."

Only a Brief Prelude.

There is only a brief orchestral prelude, opening with a startling crash and proceeding in the "Tosca" manner before the curtains part on the first act in Minnie's saloon. The action follows practically as in the play and will be referred to as little as possible. The entrance of Jake Wallace, the camp minstrel, is made to a serenade that calls up memories of home. It's a pretty melody, but Mr. Puccini would have been justified in appropriating a straight-out American ballad in its place, which would have been far more effective. This brings out a soft, crooning chorus of homesickness that appeals. A part of the school scene from the third act of the play, the Bible lesson, is introduced here. The arrival of the post-boy gives Puccini a chance for a characteristic bit of his descriptive music. Soon follows a fine solo by Rance and another by Minnie, each telling of another life before that in the camp. Johnson, who is Ramerrez, the outlaw, arrives, and after many incidents he and Minnie lead off to the dance hall with a beautiful waltz melody that recurs and will not soon be forgotten. The act ends with a fine duet between Minnie and Johnson.

The great scene of the opera as of the play is the second act in Minnie's hut on the mountains, where Johnson comes to visit her. There is a song by Wowkle to the sun-god, that is supposed to be Indian. Then there is Minnie's solo telling Johnson of her life in the mountains beginning in the Italian "Oh se Sapesto," and after the exposure of Johnson to her, the outlaw's solo telling of his life, both most melodious. After she has turned Johnson away and he returns wounded and she helps him up the ladder to the loft, the music is all finely descriptive and pertinent in the best Puccini manner. While the famous poker game is played between the Sheriff and Minnie for Johnson, as he lies unconscious between them, there is a continuous muffled monotone of drums and basses from the orchestra ominous and impressive.

The fourth act of Mr. Belasco's play is omitted and the third and last act of the opera is not patterned strictly after his conception. It is laid in the Redwood forest, where Johnson is saved from lynching at the last minute by Minnie's intervention and successful appeal to the miners for mercy. There are effective soliloquies by Rance, a solo of exquisite beauty by Johnson—one of the best things Puccini has ever written—and some fine things for Minnie to sing. The curtain falls upon a pathetic duet by Minnie and Johnson "Goodby to California," as they steal away to a new life.

Caruso a Real Actor.

The cast was admirable, and of the singing too much cannot be said in praise. Caruso as Johnson, Emmy Destinn as Minnie and Amato as the Sheriff were in excellent voice and sang superbly. And such acting! Thanks to Mr. Belasco's tireless coaching, it was a revelation on the operatic stage. To see Caruso, faint from wounds, climb the ladder to the loft, with Emmy Destinn helping him, and later struggle down alone with Amato's pistol covering him, was a remarkable thing. Perhaps something of humor and sprightliness was lacking in Emmy Destinn's Minnie, but in serious moments she was great. Amato's Jack Rance was cool, saturnine and confident. One of the best character sketches was furnished by Dinh Gilly as Sonora, a most effective impersonation in every detail, lifelike and convincing, and admirably sung.

Of the others may be singled out Reiss as Nick, De Segurola as the Minstrel, Didur as Ashby and Bada as Trin, but Marie Mattfeld as Wowkle, and Rossi, Reschilian, Audisio, Glenn Hall, Pini-Corsi, Begue, Bourgeois, Missiano and Bellari all fitted well into the picture.

Three Most Graphic Scenes.

The three scenes were striking in their realism. Minnie's saloon, Mr. Belasco says, is just like places he saw as a boy; the blizzard around Minnie's mountain hut was recalled when the audience after the performance drifted reluctantly out into the snowstorm in Broadway, and the Redwoods of the last act, a beautiful picture in itself, with horses and men racing about in wild excitement and the almost-lynching, was most graphic.

After the performance there was a reception to Puccini, attended by a great gathering of people well known in the worlds of fashion, music, art and literature.

A NEW MEPHISTOPHELES; FARRAR AS MARGUERITE.

"Faust" was presented for the first time this season at the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday afternoon before the usual crowded matinee audience. It served to introduce Rothier, a Russian basso, who made a most favorable impression as Mephistopheles. Geraldine Farrar was a less sophisticated Marguerite than she is wont to show us except in the matter of hats, and she sang well. Jadlowker was Faust and Dinh Gilly was Valentine, both excellent. Rita Fornia was Siebel, and Marie Mattfeld was Martha.

MORENA AND HINSHAW AT METROPOLITAN CONCERT.

An excellent programme, in which the numbers by Mme. Morena and William Hinshaw deserve particular attention, was enjoyed by a fair sized audience at the Metropolitan Opera House last evening. Mme. Morena's selections were from Beethoven's "Fidelio" and from "Tannhauser," while Mr. Hinshaw's delightful rendering of the cavatina from "The Barber of Seville" and the buffo aria "Femmine tutte Femmine" recalls Gianola-Galetti. The other soloists, all of whom won recalls, were Mme. Flahaut, Messrs. Salvatore Sciaretti and Allen Hinckley. There was a long continued attempt to secure an encore for Sciaretti, whose "Donna e Mobile" was excellently sung, but the rule of the house remained unbroken. Pasternack led.

Josef Hoffmann was the soloist in Liszt's first piano concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall on Saturday afternoon, delighting a crowded house by his masterly playing. Mr. Fiedler led the orchestra through a beautiful interpretation of Dvorak's "New World" symphony, Richard Strauss's "Death and Transfiguration," and Beethoven's "Leonora" overture No. 3.

Schubert's lovely unfinished symphony in B minor led the programme of the Symphony Society's concert at the New Theatre yesterday afternoon. Sara Gurowitsch was the soloist in D'Albert's gloomy 'cello concerto, displaying a fair technique, but a rather small tone. Hugo Kann's "Joyous Wanderings" and "Rondo" proved a cheerful relief, and Tschaikowsky's "The Tempest" closed the programme.

Xavier Scharwenka will be the soloist at the Philharmonic Society's concerts to-morrow night and Friday afternoon at Carnegie Hall. To commemorate the birth of Beethoven on Dec. 16, 1770, Mr. Mahler has arranged an all-Beethoven programme. Scharwenka will take part in the piano concerto No. 5 in E flat major. The other numbers will be the eighth symphony and the overtures "Leonora," No. 3, "King Stephen" and "Coriolan."

Walter Damrosch entertained at dinner on Saturday evening Alfred Hertz, Charles M. Loeffler and George W. Chadwick, his colleagues on the jury appointed by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera Company to award the $10,000 prize for the best grand opera composed by a native American. Otto H. Kahn, chairman of the executive committee of the board, who was also a guest, handed to the jury the twenty-five manuscripts which had been submitted in the competition. The jury will begin examining the operas at once. It is thought that about six months will be required for this work.

The Imperial Russian Court Balalaika Orchestra, just returned from a tour, will give another of its delightful concerts at the New Amsterdam Theatre this afternoon, assisted by Ruth St. Denis, the dancer.

Arthur Hammerstein announces that he has engaged the Russian tenor, Samoloff, for his musical drama, "The Maestro's Masterpiece," that he is to present here next month. This will mark the debut of Mr. Samoloff in New York. He is to sing with the Metropolitan Opera Company next season.

ASK FOR PROBE OF PHONE TOLLS ON STATEN ISLAND

Richmond People Say Rates Are Higher Than in Manhattan or Brooklyn.

At the continuation on Wednesday of the Public Service Commission, Second District, hearing into the tolls collected by the New York Telephone Company for interborough communication, civic organizations of Staten Island will request that the commission make the fullest investigation of the rates charged in Richmond Borough.

In a communication forwarded to the commission by the Local Improvement Association of New Dorp it is charged that the price demanded for telephone service between points on Staten Island and Manhattan, considering the equipment, service and facilities afforded by the company in the borough, are excessive. The complaint says:

"We find the rates of toll are a great deal higher than those which obtain in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and as the telephone company is furnishing this service at less expense, pro rata, in Richmond than in other boroughs, on account of its simpler and more primitive methods of equipment, we feel that the toll rates should be reduced to a figure more in keeping with the equipment and service rendered."

The sub-committee of the Brooklyn League, of which Dr. George W. Brush, President of the league, is chairman, will hold a meeting to-night.

STATEN ISLAND NOTES.

Miss Mamie Taylor of Stapleton is visiting friends in New Brunswick, N. J.

The Unique Bowling Club will roll on Ellman's alleys on Bay street, Stapleton, this evening.

An entertainment under the auspices of the Epworth League of Grace M. E. Church of Port Richmond will be given in the lecture room of the church to-morrow evening.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Moravian Church of Great Kills will hold a fair in the lecture room of the church on Thursday afternoon and evening.

After a pleasant visit to relatives in Plainfield Miss Carrie Werner is again at her home in New Dorp.

The annual Charity Ball in aid of St. Vincent's Hospital will be held at the German Club rooms in Stapleton on Jan. 29.

A committee has been appointed by the Staten Island Lodge of Elks to make arrangements for the annual ball of the organization, which will be held at the German Club rooms, Stapleton, during the latter part of next month.

Miss Kate P. Garret of Stapleton is the guest of friends in Virginia.

Invitations have been issued for the annual ball and reception of the Pawnee Club of West Brighton, which will be held at the German Club rooms, Stapleton, on Feb. 3.

Stapleton Council, Royal Arcanum, has elected the following officers for the year: Joseph H. Donaldson, Regent; A. A. McDowell, Past Regent; Edward Wanty, Vice-Regent; Theodore Hanlon, Orator; James McCaffrey, Secretary; J. H. Clark, Collector; Frederick Schelbert, Chaplain; John J. Larkin, Warden; Ernest T. Lindeman, Trustee.

TRACING HERE SLAYER OF PHILADELPHIA POLICEMAN.

Revolver Used by Burglar Stolen From New York "Cop"—Information Got of Jean Mitchell.

Two leads were developed yesterday by the Philadelphia police in and near New York in their efforts to run down a gang of burglars, one of whom killed Special Policeman Barnett in West Philadelphia on Nov. 28 and was himself killed by Barnett before his wound proved mortal.

The revolver with which the policeman was killed was traced to a New York patrolman, Michael Murphy of the Union Market station, it is charged. Murphy told the Philadelphia police the revolver was stolen from his room at First avenue and First street.

The other lead was to Jean Mitchell, companion of Thomas Wandless, who was shot in Passaic. Yesterday Capt. Souder, head of the Philadelphia detectives, visited her in the Paterson jail with photographs of well known criminals. When he left he said he expected to make an arrest within forty-eight hours. The girl has said Wandless knew of the shooting of Barnett but had no part in it.

Daniel Jerman Dead.

Daniel Jerman died yesterday at his residence, No. 123 Wadsworth avenue, after a long illness. Mr. Jerman was widely known in Grand Army and Masonic circles, having been commander for several years of the James C. Rice Post, No. 29. He was Past Master of Cyrus Lodge, No. 208, F. and A. M., and was identified for the past fifteen years with the office of the Commissioner of Jurors of this city. Funeral services will be held at his late residence to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

Five Dollars a Box

The Price Cut No Figure With Him.

"I want to say for the benefit of some poor dyspeptic that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will give comfort and a cure every time. Five dollars

a box would not stop my purchasing them should I ever suffer again as I did for a week before using them.

"The one 50-cent box I bought at my druggist's did the work and my digestion is all right again.

"Many of my neighbors have also tried these tablets and found them to be just as represented, and Mr. Ellms also wants me to use his name in indorsing Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets."

(Signed)
A. Ellms and Chas. F. Bunnell,
Asst. Postmaster,
South Sudbury, Mass.

Mrs. Jas. Barton of Toronto, Canada, writes: "For eighteen months I suffered from what I supposed was bladder and kidney trouble, and took medicine from three different doctors, without any sign of cure. I felt so ill at last I was hardly able to do my work.

"I thought I would try a box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and see if they would make me feel better, never really thinking I had dyspepsia, but after only three or four tablets had been taken all the acid trouble disappeared and then I discovered I had had acid dyspepsia, while the doctors had been treating me for kidney and bladder trouble and one of them treated me for rheumatism.

"My digestion is fine, my complexion clear and I am able to do my work and low spirits are unknown to me.

"I am thankful for finding a cure so good and so pleasant to take as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, I am surprised at the change they have made in me."

All druggists sell and recommend Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, because they contain only the simple, natural digestives and, taken after meals, prevent acidity and cause prompt digestion and assimilation of food.

Physicians everywhere indorse them because they are as safe for the child as for the adult; they are invaluable for sour stomach, nervous dyspepsia, heartburn, gas on stomach and bowels and every form of stomach derangement.

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M. **Wanamaker's** And Closes at 6 P. M.

Important Sale of Women's Fur-Lined Coats

The Best Sale We Have Been Able To Make Thus Far

These are not the usual "bunchy" or baggy sorts of fur-lined coats. Why?

Furriers are successful in the making of fur coats, but when it comes to fur-lined coats they stumble, simply because they are not tailors. And the beauty of a fur-lined coat depends upon the tailoring of the exterior.

Some years ago the leading furriers sought a tailor who is renowned for the making of cloth top coats and they asked him to make the cloth outsides—better known as "shells." He did. Finally he reasoned with himself that if he could make them for others, why not make them for himself. And he did—simply reversing things by getting the furriers to supply him with the linings.

From that time on his fur-lined coats have been the most in demand because they were the best. From April until late autumn he devotes all his time to the making of such coats—then he starts making cloth coats for spring.

Last week he finished his season—and to wind it up completely and quickly, he offered us his remaining collection of more than 100 coats at a fraction of early season prices.

It is impossible to give a detailed description of all of these coats as in some instances there are only one of a kind; of others there are two or three or more—but we name representative styles:

Black broadcloth, marmot lining, dyed opossum collar, $30.

Blue broadcloth, squirrel lining, Persian lamb collar, $40.

Black broadcloth, dyed squirrel lining, muskrat or opossum collar, $25.

Navy blue broadcloth, squirrel lining, Australian opossum collar, $40.

Gray mixed tweed, squirrel lining, caracul collar, $35.

Wine-colored broadcloth, hamster lining, opossum collar, $35.

Black broadcloth, squirrel head lining, opossum collar, $30.

Brown broadcloth, hamster lining, dark muskrat collar, $37.50.

Brown broadcloth, squirrel lining, dyed squirrel collar, $40.

Red broadcloth, squirrel lining, dyed opossum collar, $40.

Gray mixed tweed, squirrel lining, $40.

Black broadcloth, marmot lining, blended squirrel collar, $40.

Black broadcloth, squirrel lining, dyed opossum collar, $40.

Brown broadcloth, squirrel lining, dyed opossum collar, $40.

Black broadcloth, squirrel lining, cat lynx collar, $30.

Gray mixed tweed, light squirrel lining, Australian opossum collar, $40.

Black broadcloth, choice marmot lining, rich Persian collar, $50.

Black broadcloth, squirrel head lining, raccoon collar, $37.50.

Lavender broacloth, squirrel lining, Persian collar, $50.

Black broadcloth, squirrel lining, caracul collar, $40.

Red broadcloth, squirrel lining, cat lynx collar, $37.

All sizes in the collection, but of course not in each style. Our guarantee of dependable quality stands back of every coat

Fur Salon, Second Floor, Old Building.

JOHN WANAMAKER,
Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co.
Broadway, Fourth avenue, Eighth to Tenth street.

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M. **Wanamaker's** And Closes at 6 P. M.

A Little Word of Warning In Connection With Tomorrow's Sale of About

200 Party Dresses of $30 and $35 Quality at $15

People read our advertising and count on finding things here just as we represent them.

On Friday, for instance, we had a sale of women's $1 silk stockings for 50c.

By 4 o'clock in the afternoon we sold 6,192 pairs of these stockings, all that we had and all that we could get; and we could have sold half as many more if we had had them.

Recently we sold 289 little dresses after a few hours. So this accounts for the fact that very many things advertised here are not to be found after one day has elapsed.

This note of warning is merely given to call attention to the fact that the quantity of these dresses at $15 is limited.

We cannot promise that any of them will be here after 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Little credit is due us for this extraordinary offer. The dressmaker simply had to clean house and start on Spring work.

So all these beautiful silk-and-chiffon aristocrats were compelled to climb down to the price-level of very ordinary dresses—providing the nicest kind of Christmas gifts for the fortunate ones who get them.

All sizes for women. Wanamaker Basement, Old Building.

A Few Fine KERMANSHAH RUGS

The Choicest of the Persian Weaves

In the Most Wanted Sizes

About Half the Current Market Value

In its shifting play of light, shade and color harmony, and because of its fine, close, durable weave, one of these lovely Kermanshahs, as a *gift to the home*, will yield "Many Happy Returns," of pleasure, service and investment value for many happy Christmases to come.

All are close to the average, desirable 9 x 12 ft. carpet size, and are marked at the same average price to give our patrons the widest possible choice.

Importers have paid and are paying more than these prices—$216 each.

Also Mosuls and Other Persians

about 3 ft. 6 in. x 6 ft. 6 in., at $11, $15, $16.60, $21 and $27.

Fine Tekke Prayer Rugs

About 4 ft. x 6 ft., at average price, $35.

A few left of that last import of Kermanshah hearth size rugs at $35.

Christmas exhibits of many categories of Persian rugs for holiday presents, including Royal Kashans and a number of fine antique Iranian Carpets—some that were woven for Persian Potentates. Fourth Gallery, New Building.

JOHN WANAMAKER
Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co., Broadway, Fourth avenue, Eighth to Tenth street

DIAMONDS

½ CARAT $29

Positively All Day To-Morrow

NO ONE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. We shall sell Ladies' one-half carat solitaire diamond rings at $29. They look to be three-quarter carat diamonds, as we cut them spready and showy at our own cutting works. We guarantee that no jeweller can duplicate them for less than $50.00. Our agreement to refund your money within one year guarantees the value of all of our diamonds. Only one to a purchaser, no dealers supplied or mail orders filled.

Observe the weights and prices of a few of our special diamond rings on sale to-morrow equally as cheap, quality considered.

½ Carat		¾ Carat		1 Carat		1½ Carats		2 Carats	
1 and 7-16 carats	$140	1 and 9-64 carats	$ 55	1 and ½ carats	$100	1 and ½ carats	$100		
1 and 3-16 carats	88	1 carat	39	1 and ¾ carats	67	1 and ¾ carats	67		
5 and ½ carats	57	1 and 3-16 carats	75	1 and ⅞ carats	105	1 and ⅞ carats	105		
1 and ¼ carats	55	1 and ⅜ carats	43	1 and 1-32 carats	79				
¾ of a carat	45	1 and ½ carats	85	¾ and ⅞ carats	235				
1 and ¼ carats	100	1 and 1-16 carats	58	of a carat	30				
⅝ of a carat	40	1 and 1-64 carats	75	2 carats	150				
4 and ⅝ carats	350	1 and ¼ carats	59	7 and ½ carats	1000				
1 and 3-16 carats	75	1 and 1-32 carats	34	1 and 3-64 carats	69				
2 and ⅝ carats	225	1 and ¼ carats	52	1 and 3-16 carats	59				

CHARLES A. KEENE Importer and Cutter of Diamonds 180 Broadway New York

LONDON, 56 Holborn Viaduct. AMSTERDAM, Barphatistraat, 32. PARIS, 44 Rue Lafayette. ANTWERP, 90 Rue du Pelican.

OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

WOOD WATERS & Co

Open Monday & Saturday Until 10 P.M.

FREE—THE HANDSOME GOLD PARLOR CHAIR with every purchase of $50

Write for Our New Catalog. Mailed Free.

3 Rooms Furnished Complete with		$75
4 We pay Freight		$165
5 R. R. Fare		$225
10% Allowed on All Cash Sales.		

Grand Rapids Furniture at EVERYTHING FOR HOUSEKEEPING ON

Our Easy Payment Plan

$100 Worth	$10 Down	$2.00 Weekly		
150 "	$15 "	$2.25	Our Terms	
200 "	$20 "	$2.50	Apply	
300 "	$30 "	$3.50	Within	
400 "	$40 "	$5.00	500	
500 "	$50 "	$6.00	Miles of N. Y.	

120 West 23d St., Near 6th Ave. NEW YORK CITY.

"When the Band Plays at Night."

If you are at all musically inclined you should keep in touch with the late song "hits" as they come out and mark the success of New York shows.

"When the Band Plays at Night."

The Vocal Gem Now Being Sung in Vaudeville by Clarice Mayne.

is without doubt the song of the day.

Words and Music in Every Copy of

Next Sunday's World.