

CAST AND CHARACTERS

MINNIE (SOPRANO DEBORAH VOIGT) - THE OWNER OF *THE POLKA*, AN INN FOR THE MINERS.

JACK RANCE (BARITONE LUCIO GALLO) - THE SHERIFF.

DICK JOHNSON (TENOR MARCELLO GIORDANI) - AKA RAMERREZ, THE BANDIT.

NICK (TENOR) - BAR-TENDER AT *THE POLKA*.

ASHBY (BASS) - AGENT OF THE WELLS FARGO TRANSPORT COMPANY.

CONDUCTOR: NICOLA LUISOTTI

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

TEXT IN ITALIAN BY G. CIVININI AND C. ZANGARINI,
FROM THE PLAY BY DAVID BELASCO.

WORLD PREMIERE: NEW YORK, METROPOLITAN OPERA,
DECEMBER 10, 1910

RUNNING TIME 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST

BORN IN LUCCA, ITALY, PUCCINI WAS DESCENDED FROM SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS. AT FIRST HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN CARRYING ON THE FAMILY TRADITION, BUT HIS MOTHER COMPELLED HIM TO STUDY MUSIC. AS A TEENAGER HE HELD DOWN TWO JOBS AS CHURCH ORGANIST. DRAWN TO GADGETS AND MACHINERY, HE WAS INTRIGUED BY THE ORGAN AND BY THE MECHANICS OF MUSIC, DOODLING AND IMPROVISING DURING SERVICES. SEVERAL FACTORS COMBINED TO PUSH HIM INTO A CAREER AS A COMPOSER: SOME CHURCH PIECES AND A CANTATA HE WROTE ENJOYED A FAVORABLE RECEPTION; HE HEARD *AIDA*, THE LATEST VERDI OPERA; AND FINALLY, SCHOLARSHIPS FROM A GREAT-UNCLE AND QUEEN MARGHERITA OF SAVOY ENABLED HIM TO STUDY AT THE MILAN CONSERVATORY FROM 1880-83.

GIACOMO PUCCINI



(1858 - 1924)