



THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST

LIBRETTIST BIOGRAPHIES

GUELFO CIVININI, *Librettist*



Guelfo Civinini (Librettist) (August 1, 1873 - April 10, 1954) was a writer and one of the most respected journalists of his era. Civinini was born in Livorno, Italy. After the early death of his father, his mother remarried and moved the family to Rome. In 1895 he began to work as a writer of news articles and literary criticism for various newspapers. His early work as an author included two collections of poetry *An urn* and *paths and clouds*, as well as several plays. In 1908, at the suggestion of Guilo Ricordi, he was enlisted to work on Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* based on David Belasco's 1905 play, *The Girl of the Golden West*.

CARLO ZANGARINI, *Librettist*

Carlo Zangarini (Librettist) (December 9, 1874 – July 19, 1943) was an Italian librettist and professor of poetic and dramatic literature at the Liceo Musicale, Bologna. Zangarini was born in Bologna, Italy. Zangarini wrote the librettos for several operas including *Medea* by Luigi Cherubini (1909), *I gioielli della Madonna* (*The jewels of the Madonna*) by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari (1911), Riccardo Zandonai's *Conchita* (1911), and Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* (*The Girl of the Golden West*). In 1907, *La fanciulla del West* was commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera to become the company's the first world premiere opera. Zangarini was selected by Puccini to be the librettist to adapt David Belasco's 1905 play, *The Girl of the Golden West*. Puccini was frustrated by Zangarini's slow progress work on the libretto, and Guelfo Civinini was also brought on to assist the composer. The opera premiered after three years of work at the Met in 1910.

Sources: it.wikipedia.org