



GIACOMO PUCCINI RESOURCES

Books

The Complete Operas of Puccini

Author: Charles Osborn. Notes: Analyzes questions: What is the explanation for Puccini's enormous success? How do his operas work as music and drama? What was he like to contemporaries such as Verdi, Toscanini, and Caruso? Etc. English. 288 pages. Da Capo Press. 1983.

Giacomo Puccini: A Guide to Research

Author: Linda Fairtile. Notes: Surveys and evaluates close to 700 books and articles about the composer. English. 400 pages. Routledge. 1998.

Puccini: A Biography

Author: Mary Jane Phillips-Matz, William Weaver. Notes: Synthesizes Puccini's musical endeavors with his life, using a chronological approach (giving exact dates when possible). Each opera is treated in a separate chapter, devoting much space to character and plot. Cites contemporary reviews and subsequent reception. Illustrated edition. English. 384 pages. Northeastern. 2002.

The Puccini Companion

Author: William Weaver, Simonetta Puccini (granddaughter of Puccini). Notes: Wide-ranging collection of essays by music historians, critics and scholars who delve into various aspects of the composer's life and work. English. 352 pages. Norton and Company, Inc. 2000.

Puccini's Ghosts

Author: Morag Joss. Notes: The story of Puccini's Turnadot frames the novel, reinforcing a sense of the tragedy that Joss lays out for her own characters. English. 384 pages. Delta. 2007.

The Puccini Problem: Opera, Nationalism, and Modernity

Author: Alexandra Wilson. Notes: An investigation of the reception and cultural contexts of Puccini's music. Explores the ways in which Puccini's music and persona were held up as both the antidote to and the embodiment of the decadence widely felt to be affecting late nineteenth and early twentieth century Italy. English. 336 pages. Cambridge University Press. 2009.



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA EDUCATION

CDs

Puccini: The Complete Operas

By: Giacomo Puccini. Notes: In anticipation of the 150th anniversary (December 12, 2008) of the birth of Puccini, Sony created a collection of his operas in a 20-disc set. All twelve operas are presented in complete recordings. Sony. 2008.

Puccini Gold

Performers: Andrea Bocelli, Luciano Pavarotti, Renée Fleming, Anna Netrebko, Plácido Domingo. Notes: Collection of popular arias and duets from Puccini's greatest operas. Contains extra tracks. Decca. 2008.

Puccini: Great Opera Arias

Performers: Plácido Domingo, Kiri Te Kanawa, José Carreras, Renata Scotto, et al. Conductor: Giandrea Gavazzeni, Giuseppe Patane, et al. Notes: A collection of Puccini's famous arias performed by various opera stars. Sony. 2002.

Puccini Without Words

Conductor: André Kostekabetz. Notes: Highlights from *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Tosca*. Sony. 1991.

The Ultimate Puccini Collection

By: Giacomo Puccini. Notes: A collection of Puccini arias. Decca. 1998.



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA EDUCATION

Film/DVDs

Famous Composers – Giacomo Puccini

Notes: DVD from “The Famous Composer Series” with biography and musical overview. English. 35 minutes. Kultur Video. 1996.

Forum Network: Interview with Simonetta Puccini

<http://forum-network.org/lecture/interview-simonetta-puccini>

Host: Ron Della Chiesa, WGBH radio host. Notes: Interview with Simonetta Puccini, the only living heir of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), gives an informal interview with WGBH's Ron Della Chiesa about the life and works of her grandfather on the eve of the New England Conservatory's concert celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth. This piece includes early recordings of some of his most famous operas, including *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*, *La Boheme*, and *Turandot*.

Forum Network: Giacomo Puccini at the Columbia Phonograph Company

<http://forum-network.org/lecture/giacomo-puccini-columbia-phonograph-company>

WGBH Classical Profiles Series. On February 21, 1907, shortly before Puccini's departure from New York City, where he was supervising productions of some of his operas at the Metropolitan Opera, his voice was preserved in a single-sided 78rpm recording entitled "La voce di Puccini" made by the Columbia Phonograph Company.

Great Composers – Giacomo Puccini

Director: Chris Hunt. Notes: DVD from the BBC TV series “Great Composer Series.” Interviewees include Puccini’s grand-daughter Simonetta Puccini, opera producer and actor Simon Callow, experts Julian Budden, William Ashbrook, Leonardo Pinzauti, Alan Sievwright and conductor Sir Charles Mackerras. The programme contains extracts from his operas, sung by José Cura, Leontina Vaduva and Julia Migenes, with conductor Richard Buckley and the BBC Philharmonic.. English, French, German, Spanish. 59 minutes. Kultur Video. 2006.



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Websites

Stanford University's Opera Glass: Puccini
<http://opera.stanford.edu/Puccini/>

Last.fm – Puccini
<http://www.last.fm/music/Giacomo+Puccini>
(Play music, check out events, join groups, etc.)

Naxos.com
http://www.naxos.com/composerinfo/Giacomo_Puccini/20991.htm
(Extensive list of albums featuring Puccini)

Puccini.com
<http://www.puccini.com/>

About.com (Music Education)
<http://musiced.about.com/od/romanticperiod/p/puccini.htm>

Sources: amazon.com, googlebooks.com