

FOR RELEASE

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**NEW FANCIULLA100.ORG WEBSITE TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL
PERFORMANCES OF *LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST*
AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA**

NEW YORK – A new e-conference website, www.fanciulla100.org, will be launched to celebrate the centennial performances of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera this December. The site features historical information in the form of video interviews with celebrated performers, archival images and films, and scholarly essays about the opera, which had its world premiere at the Met on December 10, 1910 conducted by Arturo Toscanini with Emmy Destinn, Enrico Caruso, and Pasquale Amato in leading roles.

The site will be launched at a press event at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York City on December 3rd. A symposium entitled *Fanciulla 100: celebrating Puccini* will be held at Boston University in collaboration with the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center on December 6, and papers will be delivered to assembled scholars and guests. The symposium will feature an exhibition of original archival material entitled *The Girl of the Golden West: Chronicling Puccini's Fanciulla*, showcasing material from the Toscanini family, and from collections held at the Center and including the papers of Sarah Caldwell, Tito Gobbi, Dorothy Kirsten, Rise Stevens, Deborah Voigt and others.

Deemed the most spectacular event in the history of the Metropolitan Opera at the time, Puccini's *Fanciulla* takes place during the California Gold Rush and was based on the hit Broadway play by American dramatist David Belasco, *The Girl of the Golden West*.

“After the successes of *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*, Puccini found in Belasco's *Girl of the Golden West* just the ‘modern’ melodrama he was seeking,” said Deborah Burton, assistant professor at Boston University and organizer of the fanciulla100.org e-conference. “The free educational e-conference will provide a treasure trove of vintage and contemporary materials.”

The Metropolitan Opera will present *La Fanciulla del West* conducted by Nicola Luisotti and starring Deborah Voigt, Marcello Giordani, and Lucio Gallo, beginning December 6 and running through January 8, including a performance on December 10 one hundred years to the day of the premiere. Simonetta Puccini, the composer's granddaughter, and Walfredo Toscanini, the maestro's grandson, are expected to attend. The final performance on January 8 will be seen in more than 1,500 movie theaters around the world as part of the Met's *Live in HD* series and broadcast live over the Toll Brothers-Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network.

For more information, visit www.fanciulla100.org or, for the Gotlieb Center, www.bu.edu/archives.

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