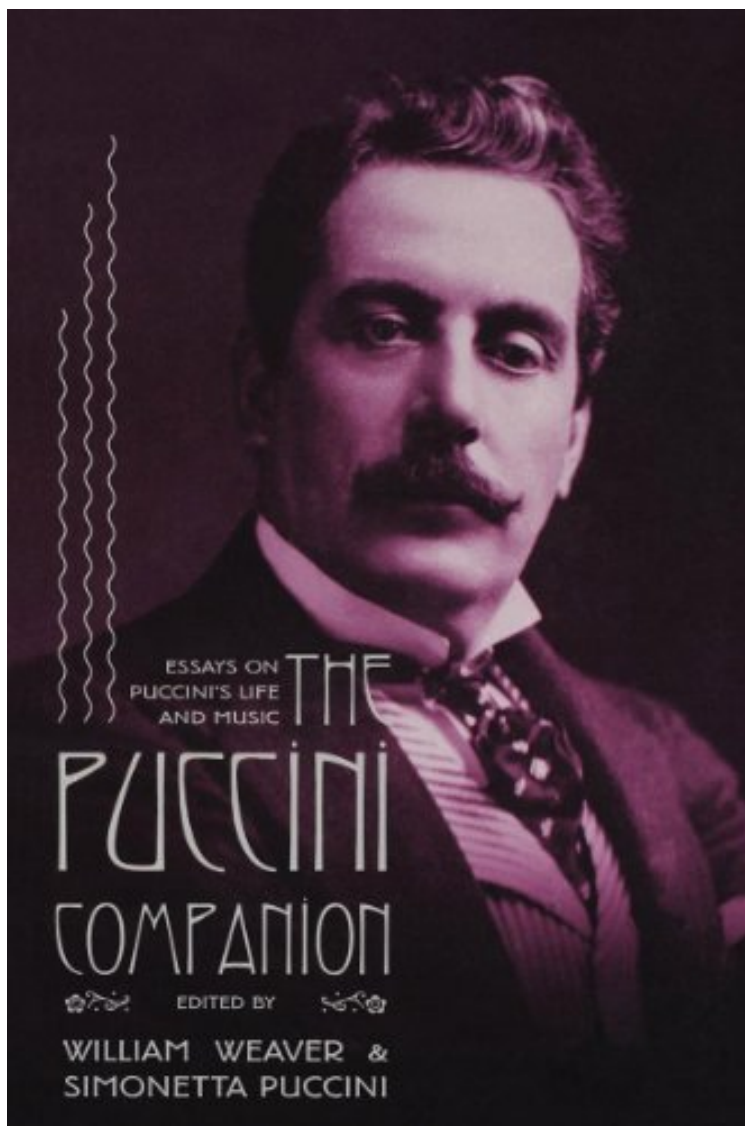


(Read ebook) The Puccini Companion

The Puccini Companion

From William Weaver

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3129254 in Books William Weaver 2000-08-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.20 x 1.20 x 6.10l, 1.37
#File Name: 0393320529352 pages ISBN13: 9780393320527 Condition: New Notes: BRAND NEW FROM
PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence!
Millions of books sold! | File size: 79.Mb

From William Weaver : The Puccini Companion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Puccini Companion:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Digging below the surface of a complex genius's life work By William Fregosi The Companion is a collection of generally fascinating and tremendously informative essays about various aspects of the development of each of Puccini's operas by scholars who write in an accessible manner. The

composer's granddaughter is one of the editors. No effort is spared to shed clear light on the often confusing genesis of a beloved body of work often subjected by its composer to endless revisions. Puccini was a complex, sometimes deeply conflicted man and this book helps unravel the confusing but always interesting story of how his operas came to be. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Puccini Companion By Eliane Reinhold Excellent and informative. I am interested in Toscanini's relationship with Puccini. I found this book most revealing and helpful. I was fascinated by their character opposites.

This informative volume offers 27 photographs and drawings, select bibliographies, a chronology of Puccini's life and works, a dramatis personae of the countless individuals who played a role in Puccini's career, a list of first performances, and plot summaries of all the operas. What forces helped shape the output of this high-living, often arrogant, but immensely talented composer? This fascinating collection includes Simonetta Puccini's essay full of intimate details about her family, as well as writings by experts on the racist politics behind the creation of *Madama Butterfly*; Puccini's fascination with American culture as exemplified in *Fanciulla del West*; his grappling with twentieth-century musical practices in *Trittico* and *Turandot*; and the changes that early recording technology sparked in turn-of-the-century operatic performance style.

From Publishers Weekly Weaver, noted translator and music writer, and Puccini, granddaughter of Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) and editor of two volumes of his letters, here present a wide-ranging collection of essays by music historians, critics and scholars who delve into various aspects of the composer's life and work. The high level of scholarship and readability of these pieces distinguish this volume, replete with insights into Puccini's musical development, his working methods, the evolution of his operatic characters and his relationships with his collaborators. Among the contributors are Harvey Sachs, who describes the composer's long friendship with the conductor Arturo Toscanini; Arthur Groos, who examines the genesis of *Madame Butterfly* and shows how Puccini and his librettists differed over the complex character of Pinkerton; and Mary Jane Phillips-Matz, who explores Puccini's representation of American frontier life in *La fanciulla del West*. Annotated bibliographies, a chronology of Puccini's life, a dramatis personae of the people who were important throughout his career, and an appendix with plot summaries enhance the book. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Puccini's operas are staples of the repertoire, regularly performed to an addicted public that, even after nearly 100 years, still clamors for *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, and *Madama Butterfly*. To that audience, this companion will be most welcome. It's a lively collection of articles by an assortment of top musicologists, music critics, and opera lovers whose coverage ranges from Puccini's early efforts at a symphonic style to the modernist implications of his final opus, the aforementioned *Turandot*. All the essays are thoroughgoing yet unpedantic, and together they manage to cover some aspect of each of his operas as well as several other topics, including his family background and general biography, his musical education, and the early manners of performing of his works. The editors conclude the volume with useful bibliographies, chronologies, plot summaries of individual works, and a directory of people involved with Puccini. Since many first come to classical music through a performance of a Puccini opera, this book might be of value to almost any library. John Shreffler From Kirkus sPuccini wins the prize for most-maligned great composer. In a fit of depressive self-deprecation, Puccini himself called his own music "sugary," and the persistent popularity of his mature operas at box-offices around the world for nearly a century has too often provoked critical condescension, as if art so well-loved could not possibly be worth much. But that situation, thankfully, is changing, and this much-needed essay collection on Puccini by leading scholars of 19th- and 20th-century Italian opera is worth a good deal more than several new biographies. The volume ranges from a lengthy piece on Puccini's family by his granddaughter (one of the editors) to chapters devoted to Puccini's "musical world" and each of his operas by luminaries such as William Weaver, Harvey Sachs, Fedele D'Amico, Verdi heavyweights Mary Jane Phillips-Matz and Julian Budden, and William Ashbrook. A favorite: David Hamilton's expert investigation of the early *Tosca* recordings, especially the legendary "Mapelson cylinders" of live Metropolitan Opera performances from 1902-03, to see what light they shed on Puccini's original interpreters. The editors, perhaps hoping to attract non-musicologist admirers of the Luccan master, issue the disclaimer that "this is not a work of scholarship" (even though two of the chapters make a start on an accessible Puccini bibliography). They needn't have worried. Lovers of Puccini and Italian opera at every level of interest and knowledge will want this book. (Photographs--not seen) -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.