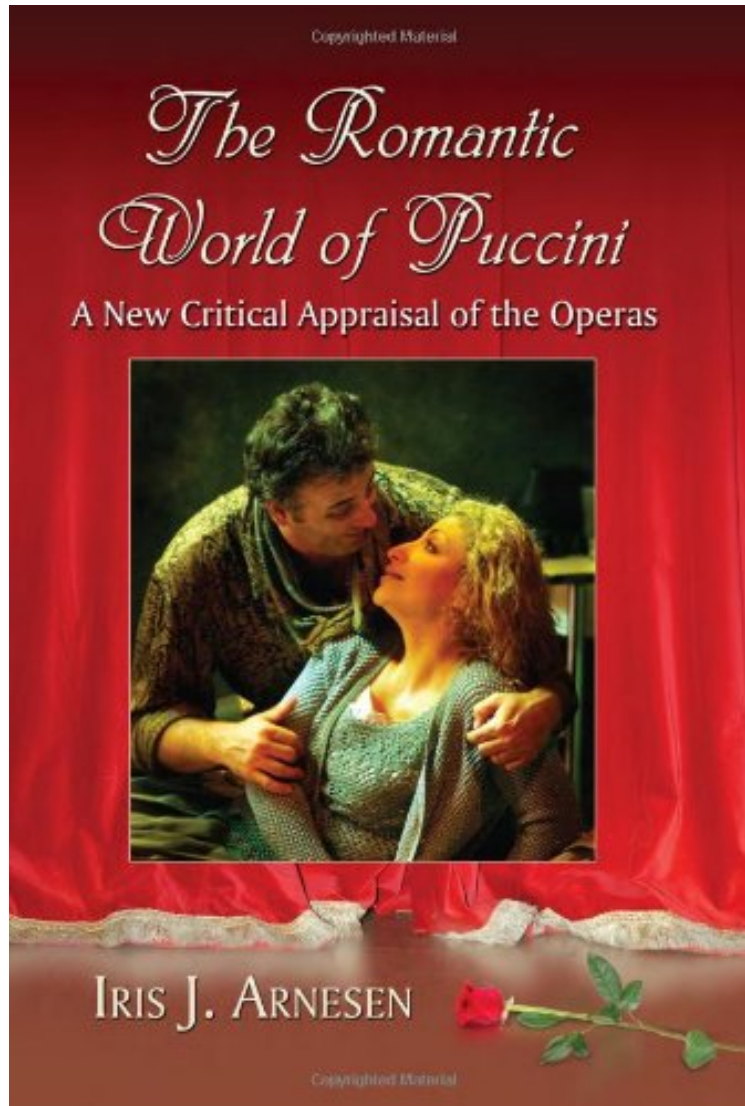


(Download free pdf) The Romantic World of Puccini: A New Critical Appraisal of the Operas

# The Romantic World of Puccini: A New Critical Appraisal of the Operas

*Iris J. Arnesen*

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#4493657 in Books McFarland 2009-07-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.88 x .81 x 7.06l, 1.23 #File Name: 0786444827308 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Iris J. Arnesen : The Romantic World of Puccini: A New Critical Appraisal of the Operas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Romantic World of Puccini: A New Critical Appraisal of the Operas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Puccini's Romantic WorldBy Sombras AzulesThis is an in-depth look at Puccini's main operas, from a completely new perspective: that these operas actually comprise a story arc,

following the evolution of his heroines into ever more dominant women, as his heroes become ever weaker and less in control. The author delves deeply into literary history to find the roots of Puccini's inspiration and creativity in medieval Romance concepts, such as the Beautiful Unattainable Lady and her Suffering Devoted Lover. An impressive work, full of fascinating detail, by an author who obviously loves her subject and has done very thorough research. This book has something for everyone with an interest in opera -- whether a beginning opera fan, or a professional who has worked in the world of opera for years, I'm sure you will find something here to interest you. I found the concept of the Rose Cycle to be very appealing and, indeed, romantic. As my background is literary rather than musical, I found this book very satisfying - wonderful to find someone who looks at the background sources for the operas, the plays and books on which they were based, who tells us the stories behind everything. The author is also very knowledgeable about the music, and the whole overview was quite an education for me. Highly recommended!

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. unsure about this one  
By Larry A. Verdugo  
The writer finds *La Rondine* akin or linked to *Parsifal*. With all due respect, are we kidding here? Other such insights provided. A fascinating look into a scholarly mind running amok.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mind Opening Book - The Works of Puccini Will Never Be The Same  
By Steven Fucile  
Ms. Arnesen provides a very nuanced and exhaustively researched thesis on how the various literary and musical influences went on to shape the works of Puccini. The amazing thing about this book is that it isn't some old turgid academic musical history tome meant to create a nice looking place holder on your bookshelf. Instead, Arnesen's lively and witty prose pops out of each page as she breaks-down almost every Puccini opera from *Le Villi* to *Turandot* and creates a compelling narrative of the inner thoughts and philosophies of the maestro. And Ms. Arnesen's revelations about Puccini are absolutely breathtaking. I don't want to give out any spoilers, but if you're willing to actually read what Ms. Arnesen proposes (and not just convulse with an uniformed knee-jerk reaction) you will find an incredibly new and diverse world in the music of Puccini. You will never look at a Puccini heroine again in the same way! Ms. Arnesen's impeccable research shows the vast influence the music and philosophies of (for example) Richard Wagner had over Maestro Puccini. I might suggest, if you purchase this book, that you load up your iPod with the operas of Puccini and follow along with Ms. Arnesen's line-by-line dissection of the libretto and score. So revealing are Ms. Arnesen's observations, I was tempted to title this review "The DaVinci Code of Puccini" - but I realized I'd be doing a great disservice to Ms. Arnesen's effervescent wit, humor, and serious scholarship.

Giacomo Puccini, composer of some of the world's most popular operas, including *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*, was also a highly literary person who based his librettos on existing works of literature. This work explores that literary inheritance in an effort to enhance the listener's appreciation of the operatic experience. The author argues that the majority of Puccini's operas compose a grand cycle that finds its roots in the romance genre of 12th century France, serving to celebrate the strong, independent heroine. Via a close examination of the source works, the librettos, and the scores, this book offers fresh perspective on Puccini's legacy.

About the Author  
Iris J. Arnesen is a former CPA and currently an accounting manager for a multi-state firm. She is a lecturer on opera and the editor of *The Opera Glass*, a performing arts periodical covering opera, theatre, dance, and concert music.