

Puccini - La Fanciulla del West (Papano) [2008]

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 27 April 2011 18:46 - Last Updated Monday, 24 March 2014 12:05

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1. Act I 57 min 2. Act II 44 min 3. Act III 26 min Minnie Eva-Maria Westbroek (soprano) Dick Johnson Jose Cura (tenor) Jack Rance Silvano Carroli (baritone) Nick Bonaventura Bottone (tenor) Ashby Eric Halfvarson (bass) Jake Wallace Vuyani Mline (bass) Sonora Daniel Sutin (baritone) Trin Hubert Francis (tenor) Bello Kostas Smoriginas (bass-baritone) Happy Quentin Hayes (bass) Joe Harry Nicoll (tenor) Larkens Andrew Foster-Williams (baritone) Harry Robert Murray (tenor) Sid Adrian Clarke (baritone) Billy Jackrabbit Graeme Danby (bass) Wowkle Clare Shearer (soprano) Jose Castro Jeremy White (bass) Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Antonio Pappano – director

The cloudy mountains of Wild West California at the height of the Gold Rush form the setting for La Fanciulla del West, the most vividly cinematic of Puccini's operas. Its characters come from the ends of the earth to the Polka Saloon, where they gather to drink, gamble, gossip and fight. The mining camp is full of men, with just one woman, the owner of the saloon, Minnie. She is a scripture-reading innocent, admired and respected by everybody. Into this environment comes Dick Johnson, in reality Ramirez, a bandit on the run. Despite her better instincts, Minnie falls for him, much to the annoyance of Jack Rance the sheriff, who fancies Minnie himself. Rance hunts Johnson down and is about to have him lynched, when Minnie finds a way to save him. ---bbc.co.uk

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