



MANITOBA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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MADAMA BUTTERFLY **ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR OPERAS OPENS** **MANITOBA OPERA'S 45th SEASON**

November 18, 21, and 24, 2017

Madama Butterfly, one of the world's enduring and most beloved operas, opens Manitoba Opera's 45th season with three performances **Saturday, November 18 (7:30 pm)**, **Tuesday, November 21 (7 pm)**, and **Friday, November 24 (7:30 pm)** at the Centennial Concert Hall. This is the haunting and intensely moving story of a devoted young Japanese woman, an ill-fated marriage, and her betrayal by an American naval officer.

Puccini's sumptuously lyrical score for *Madama Butterfly* embodies all the passion and heartbreak of this timeless story. Set in Japan at the dawn of the 20th century, East meets West in this clash of values and tradition. The power of the delicate Butterfly's devotion and her unshakeable belief in love make her an utterly captivating character. As she sings her famous aria "Un bel di," it is impossible not to ache for her.

Madama Butterfly will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

TICKETS

Call 204-944-8824, go online at manitobaopera.mb.ca, or in person at the MO Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday). Seniors, student, and youth discounts available.

THE STORY

The young Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*) marries American naval officer, B.F. Pinkerton, to free herself from a life of poverty. Pinkerton views the marriage as temporary, but she believes it is forever. The officer soon departs and returns three years later with an American wife. He is there to claim the one thing Cio-Cio-San loves more than life itself. Denied honour in life, she chooses honour in death.

THE ARTISTS

Madama Butterfly will star the Japanese soprano **Hiromi Omura** in the title role and in her Manitoba Opera debut. Since 2004, she has performed this role to great acclaim from critics and audiences in numerous theatres around the world, including the New National Theatre Tokyo, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, The Israeli Opera, and Montreal Opera. Ms. Omura will be joined by renowned Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy** as Pinkerton (last seen with MO as Florestan in *Fidelio*, 2014). American mezzo-soprano **Nina Yoshida Nelsen**, in her Manitoba Opera debut, will sing the role of Suzuki, Cio-Cio-San's devoted maid.

Baritone **Gregory Dahl** returns to his hometown in the role as Sharpless (last seen as Ford in *Falstaff*, 2016). Winnipeggers tenor **James McLennan** as Goro, baritones **Mel Braun** as Commissioner/Prince Yamadori, and **David Watson** as The Bonze, as well as mezzo-soprano **Laurelle Jade Froese** (in her company debut) as Kate Pinkerton will round out the cast. **Quinn Ledlow** and **Ava Kilfoyle** will share the role of Cio-Cio San's child, Sorrow. Winnipeg director **Robert Herriot** will direct, with **Tyrone Paterson** in the pit conducting the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**.

Lighting is by **Bill Williams**. Sets are from **Pacific Opera Victoria**; costumes from **Malabar**.

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