

PUCCINI

# MADAMA BUTTERFLY

WED, JUN 20 ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED APRIL 2, 2016

CONDUCTOR

Karel Mark Chichon

PRODUCTION

Anthony Minghella

DIRECTOR AND  
CHOREOGRAPHER

Carolyn Choa

SET DESIGNER

Michael Levine

COSTUME DESIGNER

Han Feng

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Peter Mumford

PUPPETRY

Blind Summit Theatre

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Deborah Voigt

CIO-CIO-SAN

Kristine Opolais

SUZUKI

Maria Zifchak

PINKERTON

Roberto Alagna

SHARPLESS

Dwayne Croft

**ACT I** *Japan, at the turn of the 20th century.* The 15-year-old geisha Cio-Cio-San, called Butterfly, enters into an arranged marriage with U.S. Navy Lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton. He just wants to enjoy himself, but she takes the union seriously, even converting to Christianity. On her wedding day, she endures the scorn of her entire family, who denounces her for betraying their traditional faith.

## INTERMISSION

**ACT II** Three years later, Butterfly is still waiting for Pinkerton, who returned to America shortly after the marriage. A rich Japanese prince asks her to marry him, but she rejects his proposal, claiming that her husband has not deserted her. The American consul Sharpless visits, but before he can break the news that Pinkerton will soon arrive with his new American wife, Butterfly shows him her young son. Sharpless can't bring himself to tell her the truth. Pinkerton's ship arrives in the harbor, and Butterfly, her maid Suzuki, and the child settle into an all-night vigil.

## INTERMISSION

**ACT III** Dawn breaks, and Butterfly is still waiting. When she is confronted with the truth in the person of Kate Pinkerton, she agrees to give up her son if Pinkerton will come for him. Knowing she cannot continue to live without honor, she says goodbye to her child, blindfolds him, and kills herself as Pinkerton arrives.

*Co-production of the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and Lithuanian National Opera*

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NICO MUHLY / LIBRETTO BY  
NICHOLAS WRIGHT

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NOV 10, 2018

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