

Giacomo Puccini
**MADAMA
 BUTTERFLY**

Saturday, March 7

<p>Conductor Patrick Summers</p> <p>Production Anthony Minghella</p> <p>Director and Choreographer Carolyn Choa</p> <p>Set Designer Michael Levine</p> <p>Costume Designer Han Feng</p> <p>Lighting Designer Peter Mumford</p> <p>Puppetry Blind Summit Theatre</p> <p>The Met: Live in HD series is made possible by a generous grant from the Neubauer Family Foundation.</p> <p>In association with PBS, the HD broadcasts are supported by Toll Brothers, America's luxury home builder.®</p>	<p>CIO-CIO-SAN Patricia Racette</p> <p>SUZUKI Maria Zifchak</p> <p>PINKERTON Marcello Giordani</p> <p>SHARPLESS Dwayne Croft</p> <p>GORO Greg Federly</p> <p>THE BONZE Dean Peterson</p> <p>KATE PINKERTON Edyta Kulczak</p> <p>YAMADORI David Won</p> <p>IMPERIAL COMMISSIONER Keith Miller</p> <p>COMING SOON!</p> <p>March 21 La Sonnambula</p> <p>April 19 The Audition</p> <p>May 9 La Cenerentola</p> <p><i>The Audition</i> a documentary featuring the finalists of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, with a panel discussion hosted by Renée Fleming</p> <p>Visit www.metopera.org/HDLive or call your local theater for more information and a complete schedule.</p>
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ACT I Nagasaki, Japan, early 20th century. Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton of the U.S. Navy inspects a house overlooking the harbor that he is leasing from Goro, a marriage broker. The house comes with three servants and a geisha wife named Cio-Cio-San, known as Madam Butterfly. The American consul Sharpless arrives, and Pinkerton describes his philosophy of the fearless Yankee roaming the world in search of experience and pleasure (“Downque al mondo”). Sharpless warns him that the girl may take the marriage very seriously, but Pinkerton brushes off such concerns and says someday he will take a real, American wife. He offers the consul whiskey and proposes a toast. Butterfly is heard climbing the hill with her friends for the ceremony (Ensemble: “Spira sul mare”). In casual conversation after the formal introduction, Butterfly admits her age, 15, and explains that her family was once prominent but lost its position, and she has had to earn her living as a geisha. Her relatives arrive and chatter about the marriage. Cio-Cio-San shows Pinkerton her very few possessions, and quietly tells him she has been to the Christian mission and will embrace her husband’s religion. The Imperial Commissioner reads the marriage agreement, and the relatives congratulate the couple. Suddenly, a threatening voice is heard from afar—it is the Bonze, Butterfly’s uncle, a priest. He curses the girl for going to the Christian mission and rejecting her ancestral religion. Pinkerton orders everybody to leave, and as they go the Bonze and the shocked relatives denounce Cio-Cio-San. Pinkerton tries to console her. Butterfly is helped into her wedding kimono by her maid Suzuki, and joins Pinkerton in the garden, where they sink into each other’s arms (Duet: “Viene la sera”).

ACT II *Part I* Three years have passed, and Cio-Cio-San awaits her husband’s return. Suzuki prays to the gods for help, but Butterfly berates her for believing in lazy Japanese gods rather than in Pinkerton’s promise to return one day (“Un bel dì”). Sharpless appears with a letter from Pinkerton, but before he can read it to Butterfly, Goro arrives with the latest potential husband for Butterfly, the wealthy Prince Yamadori. Butterfly politely welcomes the guests but insists she is not available for marriage—her American husband has not deserted her. She dismisses Goro and Yamadori. Sharpless attempts to read Pinkerton’s letter and suggests that perhaps Butterfly should reconsider Yamadori’s offer. “And this?” (“E questo?”) asks the outraged Butterfly, showing the consul her small son. Sharpless is too upset to tell her more of the letter’s contents. He leaves, promising to tell Pinkerton of the child. A cannon shot is heard in the harbor announcing the arrival of a ship. Butterfly and Suzuki take a telescope to the terrace and read the name of Pinkerton’s ship. Overjoyed, Butterfly joins Suzuki in strewing the house with flower petals from the garden (Duet: “Scuoti quella fronda”). Night falls, and Butterfly, Suzuki, and the child settle into a vigil watching over the harbor (Humming Chorus).

ACT II *Part 2* Dawn breaks, and Suzuki insists that Butterfly get some sleep. Butterfly carries the child into another room. Sharpless appears with Pinkerton and Kate, Pinkerton’s new wife. Suzuki realizes who the American woman is, and agrees to help break the news to Butterfly. Pinkerton is overcome with guilt and runs from the scene, pausing to remember his days in the little house (“Addio, forio asil”). Cio-Cio-San rushes in hoping to find Pinkerton, but sees Kate instead. Grasping the situation, she agrees to give up the child but insists Pinkerton return for him. Dismissing everyone, Butterfly takes out the dagger with which her father committed suicide, choosing to die with honor rather than live in shame. She is interrupted momentarily when the child comes in, but Butterfly says goodbye to him and blindfolds him (“Tu, piccolo Iddio”). She stabs herself as Pinkerton calls her name.

