GIACOMO PUCCINI

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

CONDUCTOR
Alexander Soddy

PRODUCTION
Anthony Minghella

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER
Carolyn Choa

SET DESIGNER
Michael Levine

COSTUME DESIGNER
Han Feng

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Peter Mumford

PUPPETRY
Blind Summit Theatre

REVIVAL STAGE DIRECTOR
Sara Erde

Opera in three acts

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, based on the play by David Belasco

Saturday, April 30, 2022
1:00–4:00PM

The production of Madama Butterfly was made possible by a generous gift from Mercedes and Sid Bass

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

GENERAL MANAGER
Peter Gelb

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Yannick Nézet-Séguin

With this performance and its entire spring season, the Met honors Ukraine, its citizens, and the many lives lost.
This performance is being broadcast live over The Toll Brothers–Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network, sponsored by Toll Brothers, America’s luxury homebuilder®, with generous long-term support from the Annenberg Foundation and GROW @ Annenberg, the Neubauer Family Foundation, the Vincent A. Stabile Endowment for Broadcast Media, and contributions from listeners worldwide.

There is no Toll Brothers–Metropolitan Opera Quiz in List Hall today.

This performance is also being broadcast live on Metropolitan Opera Radio on SiriusXM channel 355.

The 900th Metropolitan Opera performance of
GIACOMO PUCCINI’S

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Conductor
Alexander Soddy

In order of vocal appearance

Lt. B.F. Pinkerton
Brian Jagde

Goro
Scott Scully

Suzuki
Elizabeth DeShong

U.S. Consul Sharpless
David Bizic

Cio-Cio-San
Eleonora Buratto

Cio-Cio-San’s Relatives
Cousin
Elizabeth Sciblo
Mother
Marie Te Hapuku
Uncle Yukuside
Craig Montgomery
Aunt
Anne Nonnemacher

Cio-Cio-San’s Child
Kevin Augustine
Tom Lee
Jonothan Lyons

Ballet Soloists
Hsin-Ping Chang
Amir Levy

Imperial Commissioner
Bradley Garvin

Registrar
Juhwan Lee

The Bonze
Raymond Aceto*

Prince Yamadori
Jeongcheol Cha

Kate Pinkerton
Edyta Kuczac

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 1:00–4:00PM
Eleonora Buratto as Cio-Cio-San and Brian Jadge as Pinkerton in Puccini’s Madama Butterfly

Chorus Master Donald Palumbo
Assistant Choreographer Anita Griffin
Musical Preparation Gareth Morrell, Howard Watkins*, Carol Isaac, and Jonathan C. Kelly
Assistant Stage Director Daniel Rigazzi
Met Titles Christopher Bergen
Italian Coach Hemdi Kfir
Prompter Carol Isaac
Puppets made by Blind Summit Theatre
Scenery, properties, and electrical props constructed and painted in Metropolitan Opera Shops
Costumes constructed by Metropolitan Opera
Costume Department
Wigs and Makeup constructed and executed by Metropolitan Opera Wig and Makeup Department

This performance is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Before the performance begins, please switch off cell phones and other electronic devices.

Please remember that face masks are required at all times inside the Met.

Met Titles
To activate, press the red button to the right of the screen in front of your seat and follow the instructions provided. To turn off the display, press the red button once again. If you have questions, please ask an usher at intermission.

* Graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program
Yamaha is the Official Piano of the Metropolitan Opera.

Visit metopera.org.
The Metropolitan Opera is pleased to salute Bloomberg Philanthropies in recognition of its generous support during the 2021–22 season.
Synopsis

Act I

*Japan, at the turn of the 20th century.* Lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton of the U.S. Navy inspects a house overlooking Nagasaki 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 lease runs for 999 years, subject to monthly renewal. The American consul Sharpless arrives breathless from climbing the hill. Pinkerton describes his philosophy of the fearless Yankee roaming the world in search of experience and pleasure. He is not sure whether his feelings for the young girl are love or a whim, but he intends to go through with the wedding ceremony. Sharpless warns him that the girl may view the marriage differently, but Pinkerton brushes off such concerns and says that someday he will take a real, American wife. He offers the consul whiskey and proposes a toast. Butterfly arrives with her friends for the ceremony. 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. Butterfly shows Pinkerton her few possessions and quietly tells him that 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 mission and rejecting her ancestral religion. Pinkerton orders them to leave, and as they go, the Bonze and the shocked relatives denounce Butterfly. Pinkerton tries to console Butterfly with sweet words. Suzuki helps her into her wedding kimono before the couple meets in the garden, where they make love.

**Intermission** *(AT APPROXIMATELY 1:55PM)*

Act II

Three years have passed, and Butterfly awaits her husband’s return at her home. 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. Sharpless appears with a letter from Pinkerton, but before he can read it to Butterfly, Goro arrives with the latest suitor, the wealthy Prince Yamadori. Butterfly politely serves the guests tea but insists that 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. In response, she presents the consul with the young son that she has had by Pinkerton. She says that his name is “Sorrow,” but when
his father returns, he will be called “Joy.” 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 in the harbor announces the arrival of a ship. Butterfly and Suzuki take a telescope to the terrace and read the name of the vessel—it is Pinkerton’s. Overjoyed, Butterfly joins Suzuki in decorating the house with flowers from the garden. Night falls, and Butterfly, Suzuki, and the child settle into a vigil watching over the harbor.

**Act III**
Dawn breaks, and Suzuki insists that Butterfly get some sleep. Butterfly carries the child into the house. 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. Butterfly rushes in hoping to find Pinkerton but sees Kate instead. Grasping the situation, she agrees to give up her son but insists that 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 and blindfolds him. She stabs herself as Pinkerton arrives, calling out for her.

---

**Madama Butterfly at the Met: Past, Present, Progress**
As part of the Met’s observation of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month this May, the company will present a panel discussion about *Madama Butterfly* at the Japan Society on Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30PM. Met radio host Debra Lew Harder, in conversation with musicologist Kunio Hara and others, explores the legacy and evolution of the opera during its 115-year history on the Met stage, with a special performance by soprano Eleonora Buratto. Learn more at japansoc.org/MadamaButterfly.
In Focus

Giacomo Puccini

Madama Butterfly

Premiere: Teatro alla Scala, Milan, February 1904 (original version); Teatro Grande, Brescia, May 1904 (revised version)

The title character of Madama Butterfly—a young Japanese geisha who clings to the belief that her arrangement with a visiting American naval officer is a loving and permanent marriage—is one of the defining roles in opera, as convincing and tragic as any figure in drama. Part of the reason for the opera’s enduring hold on the popular imagination may have to do with the fact that the mere mention of Madama Butterfly triggers ideas about cultural and sexual imperialism for people far removed from the opera house. Film, theater, and popular culture in general have riffed endlessly on the story and have made the lead role iconic. But the opera itself, while neither emphasizing nor avoiding these aspects of the story, focuses more on the characters as real people than on complicated issues of power. The opera survived a disastrous Milan opening night, and Puccini reworked it immediately. In its revised version, the opera enjoyed great success in nearby Brescia a few months later, then in Paris, and soon all over the world. It has remained at the core of the opera repertory ever since, and the lyric beauty of the music for the thoroughly believable lead role has made Butterfly timeless.

The Creators

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) was immensely popular in his own lifetime. Audiences and critics alike celebrate his operas for their mastery of detail, their sensitivity to everyday subjects, their copious melody, and their economy of expression. Puccini’s librettists for Madama Butterfly, Giuseppe Giacosa (1847–1906) and Luigi Illica (1857–1919), also collaborated with the composer on his previous two operas, Tosca and La Bohème (both of which, along with Butterfly, are among his most enduringly successful). The opera is based on the play Madame Butterfly by playwright and producer David Belasco (1853–1931), a giant of the American theater and a fascinating, if controversial, character whose daring innovations brought a new level of realism and vitality to the stage.

The Setting

The story takes place in the Japanese port city of Nagasaki at the turn of the 20th century, during a time of expanding American international presence. Japan was hesitantly defining its global role, and Nagasaki was one of the country’s few ports open to foreign ships. Temporary marriages for foreign sailors were
not unusual. While other time periods have been used in various productions, the issues of East/West cultural conflict as they existed in 1900 cannot be easily ignored in this opera, regardless of when it’s set.

**The Music**

Puccini achieved a new level of sophistication with his use of the orchestra in this opera, with subtle colorings and sonorities throughout the score. The chorus is similarly effective and imaginative, though used very sparingly, notably in the entrance of the relatives in Act I and the unforgettable and enigmatic Humming Chorus in Act II. The opera, however, rests squarely on the performer singing the title role as in few other works: She is onstage most of the time and is the only character that experiences true (and tragic) development. The soprano who sings this role, among the most difficult in the repertory, must convey an astounding array of emotions and characteristics, from ethereal (her entrance) to sensual (the Act I love duet) to intelligent and stinging (her Act II dealings with other Japanese characters) to dreamy-bordering-on-insane (the famous aria “Un bel di”) to resigned (the final scene). The vocal abilities needed to animate this complex character are virtually unique in opera.

**Met History**

*Madama Butterfly* had its Met premiere in 1907 in grand fashion, with the composer in the audience and Geraldine Farrar and Enrico Caruso in the lead roles. Puccini always maintained that Farrar’s voice was too small for the part, yet she sang it with the company to great audience approval 139 times over the next 15 years. In 1922, Joseph Urban designed a production that lasted for 36 years. Temporarily off the boards during World War II, *Madama Butterfly* returned to the Met stage in 1946 and was served well by Licia Albanese (72 performances) and Dorothy Kirsten (68 performances) for the following decade and a half. In a 1958 production (with Antonietta Stella in the title role), director Yoshio Aoyama and designer Motohiro Nagasaka famously dispensed with the holes in the rice-paper walls that were specified in the libretto for Act II, calling that touch “wholly un-Japanese.” This production showcased such stars as Renata Tebaldi, Renata Scotto (debut, 1965), Teresa Stratas, Pilar Lorengar, Martina Arroyo, Raina Kabaivanska, Leontyne Price, and Diana Soviero. A new staging by Giancarlo del Monaco opened in 1994, featuring Catherine Malfitano as the title heroine. The current production, by Anthony Minghella, opened the Met’s 2006–07 season with Cristina Gallardo-Domâs and Marcello Giordani in the leading roles, conducted by James Levine.
As soon as Puccini recovered from the stressful world premiere of *Tosca* in 1900 (the worries included a bomb scare at the Rome Opera), he began thinking about a new opera. He looked to works by Zola and Dostoyevsky, considering the latter’s *From the House of the Dead*, which was later set by Janáček. Though sometimes linked with the verismo, or realist, composers Mascagni, Leoncavallo, and Giordano, Puccini was more interested in an “extended” realism: stories steeped in the details of ordinary life but with a strong guiding theme and an accumulating dramatic thrust. It’s a long way from Dostoyevsky to David Belasco, but it was the latter who provided Puccini with the source for his next opera.

In the summer of 1900, in London, Puccini saw the American playwright and director’s *Madame Butterfly*. He went backstage and begged for the rights. “I agreed at once,” Belasco wrote, “[though] it is not possible to discuss business arrangements with an impulsive Italian who has tears in his eyes and both arms around your neck.”

Belasco was born in San Francisco to a Jewish-Portuguese family. As a child, he ran away to join the circus, ended up on Broadway, and became the Steven Spielberg of his time. He used a remarkable facility with stage effects to dress up his plays—most of them derivative, some of them plagiarized. Belasco invented a remarkable series of lighting and scrim effects, which later would be called “montage” and become basic to the way stories are told in films. Puccini instinctively grasped the emotional power of the story of Butterfly and its suitability to his musical gifts. The themes of the one-act *Madame Butterfly*—cultural conflict, impossible love, the connection between forbidden love and death, the inevitable dislocation as modern internationalism sweeps away “traditional values”—remain remarkably potent and contemporary. Such prescience was perhaps as much a part of Puccini’s genius as anything else.

Belasco (who would inspire Puccini again with *The Girl of the Golden West*) based his play on a short story by John Luther Long, a lawyer from Philadelphia, who had gotten the idea from his sister, who married a missionary and lived in Japan. Her husband converted a geisha to Christianity. Later, the geisha contemplated committing hara-kiri when her American husband deserted her, but she was dissuaded.

In the story, the young girl called Butterfly does indeed kill herself, by inserting a knife between the nerves in the back of her neck—evidently painless and not very bloody; Belasco changed this to the gruesome self-disembowelment one usually sees. (In the Met’s current production, director Anthony Minghella chose to use the original method, for which he has staged a simple but striking image.) Criticized by the genteel for its poor taste, the scene gave Puccini what he always needed: an overwhelming final image.

The challenge of developing *Butterfly* into an effective full-length opera was building to that final scene with details that accumulate rather than distract.
Wrestling with this were librettists Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, who looked to the novel *Madame Chrysanthème* by French writer Pierre Loti for additional material. To portray Japanese culture, Illica and Giacosa raided Loti for a range of characters, including a drunken uncle (who got his own theme) and the monstrous little son of Butterfly’s cousin.

This approach raised questions among Puccini’s associates. Was the incident-filled first act too long? More crucially, where would they find an Italian tenor who wanted to play a part as unsympathetic as Pinkerton? In the opera’s first version, he didn’t even have an aria.

Work was delayed when Puccini had a serious car accident. His broken leg failed to heal, and the composer was diagnosed with diabetes. He never entirely recovered, walking with a limp for the rest of his life.

*Madama Butterfly* was given its world premiere at La Scala on February 17, 1904. It was one of the greatest scandals in the history of opera. Ricordi, Puccini’s publisher, described how the opera was greeted by “roars, laughter, howls, bellowing, and guffaws.” The noise began immediately and virtually none of the music was heard, not unlike the debacle suffered in 1913 in Paris by Igor Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*.

Puccini was the victim of intrigue and also of a crowd that fell into a lynch-mob dynamic. Rosina Storchio, the first Butterfly, had trouble managing her kimono, which billowed up at one point. “She’s pregnant again!” someone shouted from the audience. “By Toscanini!” someone answered, eager to show he was in on the backstage gossip (true, in fact) about the soprano and the famous conductor. When she said her child’s name was “Dolore” (“Sorrow”), the battle was truly lost. One of the headlines following this premiere sums it up: “Butterfly, Diabetic Opera, Result of an Accident.” The opera was taken off the boards after one performance. A shattered Puccini covered La Scala’s costs.

With Ricordi’s encouragement, Puccini and his collaborators set about revising the score. They softened Pinkerton’s character, making him slightly less offensive and, most importantly (for tenors), giving him an aria (“Addio, fiorito asil”). Kate was reduced to little more than a walk-on. Much of the “local color” that had bogged down Act I was cut.

The opera’s second premiere, at Brescia on May 28, 1904, was a triumph. It was also a runaway success in Buenos Aires that same year, with Storchio singing and Toscanini conducting. Puccini made further changes for Covent Garden in 1905, when Caruso sang his first Pinkerton. There were even more changes for the Paris premiere in 1906. It is this version that is most widely performed.

In *Butterfly*, Puccini’s musical dramaturgy centers on contrasting “Eastern” and “Western” sounds. His method was to utilize native Japanese music, including the Japanese national anthem, as well as Asian orchestral sounds like bells, gongs, and high woodwinds. The combination immediately creates an utterly concrete and convincing ambience. With the utmost delicacy and
imagination, Puccini invented melodies in “Japanese” style so that the lyrical expansion essential in opera can occur without contradicting that precise color. Butterfly’s famous entrance in Act I is the first of many examples. Puccini moves effortlessly and with seeming inevitability from Eastern to Western styles (including a use of the “Star-Spangled Banner”). Butterfly, thinking herself an American in Act II, uses some Western gestures in her famous aria, “Un bel di.” But a striking whole-tone phrase on the words “I’ll see him climb up the hill,” which sounds consistent with a Western melos, is hurled back at us at the very end of the opera. As Butterfly lies dying, Pinkerton does indeed climb the hill one final time—to take their child. The phrase, now sounding distinctly “Asian,” is thundered out rapidly in unison by harsh brass.

Puccini uses many harmonic devices that were cutting-edge at the time, at least in the commercial medium of opera. One of the most effective is the ostinato—the obsessive repeating of a note or rhythm. As Butterfly answers Sharpless’s question in Act II—“What will you do if Pinkerton doesn’t return?”—the insistence of two clarinets in ostinato is like a beating heart. When Sharpless encourages her to forget Pinkerton, a pedal point D in the harp turns the heartbeat into a death knell. The crushing terror that the 18-year-old Butterfly feels at this dreaded eventuality is heart-stoppingly dramatized and leads in turn to the staggering eruption as she reveals her son by Pinkerton.

There is nothing doctrinaire in Puccini’s advanced harmony (unmatched by any of his Italian contemporaries); perhaps that’s why he has gotten so little credit for it. But in the theater, what matters is the use made of these techniques, and there have been very few opera composers as skillful as Puccini. There are two remarkable uses of the added sixth in Butterfly. The first is the quiet final chord of Act I—the lack of a clear harmonic resolution sinks into our consciousness like a dangerous hint. The thunderous final chord, which adds the note G to a B-minor chord, not only is shocking as a conclusion to the drama but brilliantly suggests that the tragedy will continue, as Butterfly’s young son faces likely ostracism and bigotry in turn-of-the-century America.

Butterfly has all the earmarks of what critics hated in Puccini. It is full of instantly memorable melodies, its writing unabashedly and continually goes for the jugular, and, worst of all, it is overwhelmingly effective. There are few other stage works of any description that are as sure-fire.

—Albert Innaurato

Albert Innaurato was a prominent American playwright and director whose works appeared both on and off Broadway. He also contributed to the Met’s Talking About Opera lecture series in the late 1990s.
What is Bunraku puppetry?

Western audiences are accustomed to seeing puppets used in the spirit of provocative comedy (à la Charlie McCarthy or Punch and Judy) or as homespun, educational entertainment for children (Pinocchio, the Muppets). The puppets featured in the Met’s Madama Butterfly, on the other hand, have been inspired by Japanese Bunraku puppetry, a serious and sophisticated theatrical art form born in 17th-century Osaka. Most traditional Bunraku plays feature historical storylines and address the common Japanese theme of conflict between social obligation and human emotion. Puppeteers go through lengthy apprenticeships to master the form, which could account for the gradual waning of its popularity. There are still a number of practitioners today in Japan, however, and in the West, Mark Down and Nick Barnes, the founders of Blind Summit Theatre, also take inspiration from this tradition for their puppet-theater presentations. For Anthony Minghella’s staging of Butterfly, they created Bunraku-style puppets to represent Cio-Cio-San’s child and, in a dream sequence, Butterfly herself. Generally one-half to two-thirds life size, a Bunraku puppet has no strings and is operated by three highly trained puppeteers, each responsible for a different body part and discreetly visible to the audience. —Charles Sheek
The Cast

**Alexander Soddy**

**CONDUCTOR (OXFORD, ENGLAND)**

**THIS SEASON**  
*Madama Butterfly* at the Met; *Madama Butterfly, Albert Herring, Tristan und Isolde, Der Fliegende Holländer,* and the *Ring* cycle in Mannheim; *Fidelio* at Staatsoper Berlin; *Warten auf Heute* in Frankfurt; and concert appearances with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Bern Symphony Orchestra, and at Tokyo’s Spring Festival.

**MET APPEARANCES**  
*La Bohème* (debut, 2017).

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**  
He is in his final season as music director of Mannheim’s National Theatre, a post that he has held since 2016. Between 2013 and 2016, he was music director of the State Theater in Klagenfurt, Austria, and he served as Kapellmeister of Staatsoper Hamburg between 2010 and 2012. He has also conducted performances at the Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Royal Swedish Opera, English National Opera, London’s National Opera Studio; in Dresden and Cologne; and with the Staatsphilharmonie Nürnberg, Niedersächsische Staatsorchester Hannover, Munich Radio Orchestra, Royal Swedish Orchestra, Norwegian National Opera Orchestra, Valencia Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

**Eleonora Buratto**

**SOPRANO (MANTUA, ITALY)**

**THIS SEASON**  
Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* and Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Met, Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at the Vienna State Opera, Mimi in Madrid, Verdi’s *Requiem* at Paris’s Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Desdemona in Rossini’s *Otello* at Pesaro’s Rossini Opera Festival, and concerts in Mantua and Rome.

**MET APPEARANCES**  
Liù in *Turandot* and Norina in *Don Pasquale* (debut, 2015).

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**  
Recent performances include Anaï in *Moïse et Pharaon* at the Rossini Opera Festival; the title role of *Aida* in Verona; Desdemona in Verdi’s *Otello* at the Bavarian State Opera; Elvira in *Ernani* in Palermo and in concert in Parma; Fiordiligi in *Cosi fan tutte* in Turin and at La Scala; Mimi at Covent Garden, Staatsoper Berlin, and in Cologne; the title role of *Luisa Miller* in Barcelona; Elettra in *Idomeneo* in Palermo and Madrid; and Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Vienna State Opera. She has also sung Micaëla in *Carmen* at Covent Garden and in Madrid; Liù, Micaëla, and the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Verona; Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* in Lyon; Mimi in Naples, Zurich, Barcelona, and at Dutch National Opera; and the Countess at La Scala.
GAETANO DONIZETTI

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

NEW PRODUCTION

Soprano Nadine Sierra stars as the young heroine driven to madness in a bold new production by Simon Stone that finds contemporary relevance in Donizetti’s bel canto tragedy. The extraordinary cast also features tenor Javier Camarena, baritone Artur Ruciríski, and bass Matthew Rose, conducted by Riccardo Frizza.

APR 23, 26, 29  MAY 2, 6, 10, 14 mat, 17, 21 mat

Tickets from $25 | metopera.org
**The Cast CONTINUED**

**Elizabeth DeShong**  
MEZZO-SOPRANO (SELINSGROVE, PENNSYLVANIA)

**This Season**  
Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* at the Met, Bradamante in Handel’s *Alcina* with the English Concert at LA Opera, and Calbo in Rossini’s *Maometto II* with Washington Concert Opera.

**Met Appearances**  

**Career Highlights**  
Recent performances Pauline in *The Queen of Spades* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, the title role of Handel’s *Rinaldo* and Suzuki at the Glyndebourne Festival, Ino/Juno in Handel’s *Semele* with the English Concert at Paris’s Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, and Sesto in *La Clemenza di Tito* at LA Opera. She has also sung Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel* in concert with the Royal Scottish National Opera; Ruggiero in *Alcina* at Washington National Opera; Adalgisa in *Norma* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Suzuki at the Bavarian State Opera, Canadian Opera Company, San Francisco Opera, and Santa Fe Opera; Hermia in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Glyndebourne Festival and in Aix-en-Provence; and Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at LA Opera.

---

**David Bizic**  
BARITONE (BELGRADE, SERBIA)

**This Season**  
Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* at the Met, Don Alfonso in *Cosi fan tutte* in Dijon, and Amonasro in *Aida* at the Israeli Opera.

**Met Appearances**  

**Career Highlights**  
Recent performances include Germont in *La Traviata* in Toulon; Marcello at Irish National Opera; Escamillo in *Carmen* in Macerata, Dijon, and at the Israeli Opera; Zurga in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* in concert in Dortmund; Sgt. Belcore in *L’Elisir d’Amore* and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* in Toulon; Procolo in Donizetti’s *Le Convenienze ed Inconvenienze Teatrali* in Geneva; Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut* in Barcelona; and the title role of *Eugene Onegin* in Reims and Metz. He has also sung Zurga and Marcello in Bordeaux; Figaro in Toulon, Geneva, and at the Flemish Opera; Albert at Covent Garden; Eugene Onegin in Limoges; the title role of *Don Giovanni* in Rouen; Publio in *La Clemenza di Tito* in Strasbourg and Montpellier; the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Saint-Etienne; and Leporello in *Don Giovanni* at the Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Ravinia Festival, LA Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and in Moscow and Valencia.

Visit metopera.org.  
45
The Cast CONTINUED

Brian Jagde
TENOR (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

This Season Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly and Cavaradossi in Tosca at the Met, Chevalier des Grieux in Manon Lescaut in concert in Hamburg, Calâf in Turandot at the Bavarian State Opera, and Maurizio in Adriana Lecouvreur and Chevalier des Grieux at the Vienna State Opera.

Met Appearances Elemer in Arabella (debut, 2014).

Career Highlights He has sung Cavaradossi at the Vienna State Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin; in Naples, Zurich, and Stuttgart; and as part of Opera Philadelphia’s The Drama of Tosca. Recent performances include Don José in Carmen at Covent Garden, in Verona, and in concert in Naples; Florestan in Fidelio and the Stranger in Korngold’s Das Wunder der Heliane at Deutsche Oper Berlin; Turiddu in Cavalleria Rusticana at Dutch National Opera and in concert at Michigan Opera Theatre; Pinkerton at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Chevalier des Grieux at Deutsche Oper Berlin and San Francisco Opera; Don Alvaro in La Forza del Destino at the Paris Opera; Enzo in La Gioconda in Barcelona; Calâf in Palermo and at San Francisco Opera; Radamès in Aida at Seattle Opera; and Macduff in Macbeth in Madrid.