



Ben Kress '93

15th Season — April 30 and May 2, 1993

INTERMOUNTAIN



A S S O C I A T I O N

in its
15th season

presents

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Opera in three acts
Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by L. Illica and G. Giacosa

Sung in Italian, with English supertitles

Producer and Director: Roberto Stivanello

Conductor: Giampaolo Bracali

Sets and Costumes: Stivanello Costume Company

Friday, April 30, 1993
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 2, 1993
6:00 p.m.

Willson Auditorium
404 West Main Street
Bozeman, Montana

Come meet the stars!
You are invited and encouraged to attend a no host reception
for the performers following each performance,
Riverside Country Club, Springhill Road.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

B.F. PINKERTON, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy Joseph Wolverton
 GORO, a marriage broker Mark Conley
 SHARPLESS, U.S. Consul at Nagasaki Dominic Cossa
 MADAMA BUTTERFLY Elizabeth Hynes
 THE BONZE, Butterfly's uncle Jim Fleetwood
 SUZUKI, her servant Claudia Catania
 THE IMPERIAL COMMISSIONER Deac Guidi
 PRINCE YAMADORI Anthony Bentley
 TROUBLE, Butterfly's child Eben Wragge-Keller
 KATE PINKERTON Cynthia Hill

Place: A garden in Japan

Time: 1900

Synopsis

by Nick Davis

ACT I: The curtain rises on an elegant oriental garden overlooking Nagasaki. A handsome U.S. Naval officer, **Pinkerton**, visits his new lodging with U.S. Consul **Sharpless**. He rejoices in the house, the view, the garden, and the 15-year-old girl (**Cio-Cio-San—Butterfly**) he has arranged to marry this very day. His marriage contract is for 999 years but may be canceled at his whim. "How splendid," he sings in the aria *Amore o grillo*.

The young bride arrives in the company of her friends and relatives. **Sharpless** is struck by the fact that she is so trusting, vulnerable, and ready to renounce family and religion to be a good wife to the American officer.

The marriage celebration is festive but cut short by the arrival of **The Bonze**, **Butterfly's** uncle, who is also a Buddhist monk. He curses her for renouncing her Japanese culture and family. She is bitterly hurt. **Pinkerton** consoles her in the love duet, *Viene la sera*, as night falls.

ACT TWO: Three years have passed. **Butterfly** has borne a son to her absent Naval husband. He promised to return when the robins come. Will it be this year? She sings *Un bel di*, the beautiful day when he will return to his house and son. **Suzuki**, her servant, tells her that they are nearly out of the money **Pinkerton** left to keep her. What will she do?

Sharpless arrives with a letter telling that Pinkerton will never return to her. He can't bear to deliver it—she is too happy.

Goro, the marriage broker, arrives with a new suitor, **Prince Yamadori**. She brusquely rejects him. Sharpless reads part of the letter to try to persuade her to reconsider. She begs him to tell Pinkerton of their son.

A cannon announces the arrival of Pinkerton's ship in Nagasaki harbor. Butterfly and Suzuki prepare the house with flower petals for his return. They keep a vigil for Pinkerton.

ACT THREE: Dawn comes over Nagasaki as **Butterfly** still waits with Suzuki and her child for Pinkerton's return. She carries her son to his room and is no sooner gone than **Pinkerton** and his wife, **Kate**, arrive with **Sharpless** to collect the child. Pinkerton, overwhelmed with remorse, leaves the house.

Butterfly returns joyfully but instantly realizes the situation. She says she will need a half hour to prepare, and then she will only give the boy up to his father.

She is left alone. She finds her family dagger with the motto, "he who cannot live honorably shall die with honor." When her son runs in, she embraces him and passionately says her farewell. She commits *hara-kiri* as Pinkerton returns outside, calling "Butterfly, Butterfly."



Refreshments are available in the lobby during intermission.

Production Staff

Producer and Director	Roberto Stivanello
Conductor	Giampaolo Bracali
Artistic Director	Pablo Elvira
Assistant to the Directors	Marilyn Hathaway
Choral Director	Mark Conley
Orchestral Coordinator	Karl Overby
Accompanist	Kenneth Christensen
Stage Manager	Morris Jaffe
Lighting	Dale Lawson
Costumes	Susan Brewer, Nancy White
Makeup & Hair	Barb Axtell
Props	Margaret Cone, Lynda Turck
Production Coordinator	Lynda Turck
Supertitles Coordinator	Kenneth Christensen, Carole Oeschger

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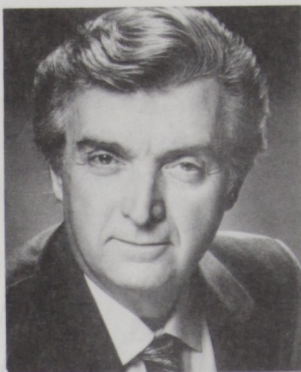
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The Artists



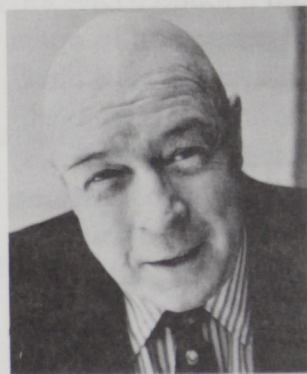
Elizabeth Hynes (*Madama Butterfly*) comes to Bozeman fresh from her triumph as *Butterfly* with the Florentine Opera in Milwaukee. She has captivated audiences in leading roles with the New York City Opera and in Dallas, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Santa Fe, and elsewhere. During the past year she sang in the PBS "Live from Lincoln Center" production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She performed *La Boheme* for the New York City Opera in 1992. The exquisite Ms. Hynes performed her European debut as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with the English National Opera in 1989.



Dominic Cossa (*Sharpless*) has been featured in more than 20 productions of major operas since his debut with the New York City Opera. He has held leading roles with productions of *Traviata*, *Pearl Fishers*, *Boheme*, *Butterfly*, and *Barber of Seville*. This virile baritone has been called a "rhythmic delight" who performs with "lyrical splendor." He has recently completed a 10-nation concert tour of the Far East and performances of *Die Fledermaus* at the Teatro Bellini in Italy. He is a longtime friend and colleague of Bozeman operatic star Pablo Elvira.



Joseph Wolverton (*Pinkerton*) was engaged by the Metropolitan Opera for *Così fan tutte* and performed as Pinkerton in *Butterfly* at the Chautauqua Opera during the 1991-92 season. This year he will sing Rodolfo in *La Boheme* at the Syracuse Opera and Alfredo in *La Traviata* at Toledo. The charismatic young tenor has performed in Seattle, Palm Beach, Portland, Winnipeg, and has sung in concert with symphony orchestras in Akron, Caracas, Detroit, Phoenix, and Taipei. He is increasingly recognized as one of America's gifted young voices.



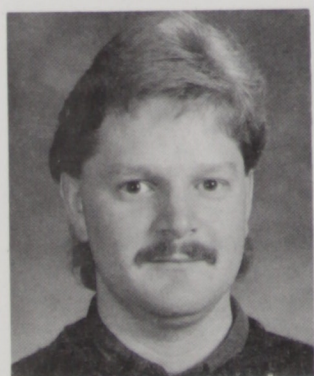
Jim Fleetwood (*The Bonze*) returns to the Intermountain Opera for his seventh season. He sang the Sacristan in *Tosca* in 1990. He initially appeared as Dr. Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*, in a dual role in *La Bohème*, Dr. Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*, and as Frank in *Die Fledermaus*. Mr. Fleetwood's career has included appearances with many of the world's leading opera companies in Europe, North and South America. Mr. Fleetwood has appeared on Broadway, in movies, on TV, and in stock productions. He now resides in California and works in television and movies in the Los Angeles area.



Claudia Catania (*Suzuki*) recently completed the Broadway run of *The Most Happy Fella*, in which she portrayed Marie as she did in the original Goodspeed and Los Angeles productions. She has toured the United States and Japan in *The King and I* opposite Stacy Keach. Ms. Catania spent 10 seasons as a principal artist with the Metropolitan Opera. She received two National Institute of Musical Theater grants and has also performed in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Zero Mostel; *Fahrenheit 451* at the O'Neill Theater Festival; operas in Philadelphia, Washington, and Santa Fe; and oratorios with the New York Philharmonic. She can be seen on videocassettes of the Met's *Les Troyens* and *Francesca da Rimini*.



Tony Bentley (*Prince Yamadori*), a native of St. Louis, spends the winters in New Orleans, where he has performed with the New Orleans Opera Association for seven years. Tony spends his afternoons in New Orleans at the racetrack, where he has been the announcer at the New Orleans Fair Grounds since 1974. Most recently, summers have been spent at the track in Minneapolis, and Tony's race calls have been heard over NBC and ESPN. Tony is looking forward to becoming a part-time Montanan, though, as he'll be spending this summer working with his brother, Jay, at the Continental Divide restaurant in Ennis.



Mark Conley (*Goro*, Chorus Master) is Assistant Professor of voice and choir at Montana State University. Mr. Conley has performed in opera, oratorio and recital in the Midwest and at the Aspen Music Festival. He has served as director of choral activities at the Residential College of the University of Michigan. As a composer, his choral works are published by Earthsongs. Mr. Conley is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan.



Deac Guidi (the Imperial Commissioner) is a Montana native, born and raised in Livingston. He has been involved with the Intermountain Opera for the past three years, singing in the choruses of *Tosca*, *Don Pasquale*, and *Faust*. Earlier this year he was soloist in John Rutter's song cycle, "When Icicles Hang," and also placed second in the upper division NATS competition. He has studied voice privately with Nancy Curtis-Brungardt and Elizabeth Croy.

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