

Footlight Players, Inc.  
presents

# *Madama Butterfly*

by  
Giacomo Puccini



*Directed by Nathaniel Green*

*Musical preparation by Tamara Cashour*

Performances

**May 10 & 11, 7:30 PM**  
**May 17 & 18, 7:30 PM**

The Church of The Ascension  
71 North Village Avenue  
Rockville Centre, New York 11570  
\*2013\*

## *Madama Butterfly* Synopsis

The action takes place in Nagasaki, Japan, 1900

### Act I.

B. F. Pinkerton, a lieutenant in the United States Navy, is going to marry Butterfly, a girl of 15, who was a geisha. He doesn't regard the marriage as legitimate and intends to marry a "real American girl" when he goes home. He is warned by Sharpless, the Consul, that Butterfly regards the marriage as serious and really loves him. After the marriage, Bonzo, Butterfly's uncle, denounces her as an outcast, because she dropped her religion and adopted Christianity and is marrying a foreigner. Butterfly and Pinkerton sing of their love.

### Act II.

Butterfly begins by hoping that Pinkerton will return with his love. She pictures his ship in the harbor – she hasn't seen him for 3 years. Only her servant Suzuki sees the situation for what it is: Pinkerton will never come back. Sharpless arrives with a letter from Pinkerton, which is interrupted by a visit from the rich Prince Yamadori, who wants to marry Butterfly. Butterfly rejects him, saying that she is married to an American. Sharpless asks Butterfly – what if Pinkerton rejects Butterfly forever? Beside herself with grief, she brings in her child – saying that Pinkerton knew nothing of the child. Sharpless, heartbroken, leaves. Suddenly her servant Suzuki announces that Pinkerton's ship, the *Abraham Lincoln*, is in the Harbor. Butterfly, filled with emotion says that the ground must be decorated with flowers.

### Act III.

Pinkerton, together with his American wife, and Sharpless arrive early in the morning and ask Suzuki to tell Butterfly that they must take the child back to America. When Pinkerton learns that Butterfly is still in love with him, he doesn't know how he could have been so blind. He leaves. When Butterfly appears, only to learn that the woman in the garden is Pinkerton's wife and that Pinkerton is only there to take the child, she is stunned. Her only solution is to take her life with the Japanese sword. As she is dying, Pinkerton is heard in the distance crying, "Butterfly..." He perhaps realizes what he has done.

*Madama Butterfly*  
an opera in 3 Acts  
by Giacomo Puccini

Cast of Characters

Madama Butterfly	Alexandra Woodruff
Suzuki her servant	Linda C. Byrne
B. F. Pinkerton Lieutenant in the United States Navy	Johnny Lee Green
Sharpless United States Consul at Nagasaki	Nathaniel Green
Goro a marriage broker	Maurio Hines
Prince Yamadori	Michael Plant
The Bonze Cho-Cho-San's uncle	Michael Plant
The Imperial Commissioner	Michael Plant
Kate Pinkerton	Susan Panzarella
Trouble Cho-Cho-San's child	Sera Allen
Ensemble (friends and relatives of Butterfly)	Susan Panzarella Lydia Paulsen William Cooper Sera Allen Daniel Carley
Artistic director, director, set	Nathaniel Green
Musical director, accompaniment	Tamara Cashour
Lighting	Joe Carley
Help with Set	Joe Carley
Publicity	William Cooper
Costumes	Michael Allen Gray

## Meet the Cast and Staff

Sera Allen                                  Trouble, ensemble

Is an awesome student at South Side Middle School in Rockville Centre and attends The Church of The Ascension. Sera is a dancer and all-round performer having played in many variety shows. Sera is delighted to be making her second operatic appearance.

Linda C. Byrne                              Suzuki

Is happy to be back with the Footlight Players, previously performing in its productions of *Tosca* and *Rigoletto*. She currently studies with Deborah Berruete-Fuhrman here on Long Island. Linda sends big hugs and love to Eddie, Debbie and Laura, who deserves it most of all.

Daniel Carley                                Ensemble

Is an outstanding student at St. Agnes Middle School and also attends The Church of The Ascension. Last year he had a principal role (Mr. Worthington) and solo in a school production of *Christmas on Angel Street*. Daniel studies percussion in the St. Agnes School band. He too is delighted to take part in his second opera.

Joe Carley                                    Lights/Sets

Is back for yet another Footlight Players production, delighted to be lighting again. A craftsman and master of things electrical, Joe is proud to be backstage in a show in which his son is on stage.

Tamara Cashour                              Musical Director

Maintains her primary career as a collaborative pianist-music career. However, she favors an interdisciplinarian-Renaissancean approach to the interlocking fields of music and theatre, and has held or continues to hold careers as: composer, soprano, organist, academician, as well as costume designer and stage director. Of special note, Ms. Cashour has the particular distinction of debuting at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in New York City as both a soprano and as an accompanist (debuting 2001 and 2002 respectively). She is delighted to return for the fourth time as Musical Director of The Footlight Players, Inc. having music-directed productions of *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *Tosca*.

In US regional opera, Ms. Cashour has been a musical director and/or coach/accompanist for: Piccolo Spoleto Festival 2005 (Charleston, SC) Lake George Opera, Indianapolis

Opera, Natchez Opera Festival. Also: recitalist, coach and German diction instructor for: Opera Festival di Roma, New Opera Festival di Roma. Ms. Cashour has given/prepared over 200 Arts Center classical recitals with singers and instrumentalists in the US and Europe and was critically acclaimed: "Tamara Cashour, the musical director, conducted a highly creditable musical performance". Ms. Cashour is also an active music director for regional music theatre productions (South Orange Performing Arts Center/George Street Playhouse, located in South Orange and Livingston, NJ, respectively) and in 2006 was in the top-ten finalists for the national position of Music Theatre Keyboardist at Washington, DC's Kennedy Center. Ms. Cashour is currently the Artistic Director of OperAvant.

Sound clips and photo can be found at Tamara's current professional site: [www.tamaracashour.com](http://www.tamaracashour.com).

William Cooper                      Ensemble

Is a parishioner at Ascension and has performed in numerous Footlight Players productions. He sings in the tenor section of the Ascension Choir. When not performing, and often when he is, he maintains a law practice in the Village.

Johnny Lee Green                      B.F. Pinkerton

Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Mr. Green earned a degree in Vocal Performance from Loyola University (New Orleans) in 1997. He received further training in the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland and has subsequently performed throughout the country on the operatic and concert stages. In addition to singing with the Virginia Opera, the Augusta Opera, FBN Productions (Opera for Kids) and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour of *Porgy and Bess*. Mr. Green was most recently a two-year Resident Artist with Dicapo Opera in Manhattan. There he sang "Don Ramiro" in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and "The Beast" in Gazzaniga's *Beauty and the Beast*. Mr. Green made his Footlight Players debut in the recent production of *Tosca*.

Nathaniel Green                      Sharpless, the Consul

Is the Footlight Players founder (1984) and artistic director. This ensemble has brought a large variety of fully staged theatrical productions to the community including: *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *She Loves Me*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Price*, *Henry IV*, *Hamlet*, and *Othello* just to name a few. He has also staged original works of his own such as *This Train of Life*, *The Enchanted Spring*, *Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?*, *Grampa Says Goodbye*, *The Dancing Monk*, and most recently, the successful Off-Off Broadway productions of *Searching for Hamlet* and *Faust Meets Macbeth*. He has also performed in opera, musical theatre and cabaret. *Butterfly* is the tenth production by Nate that The Church of The Ascension has hosted. Other performances have been: *Hamlet*, *Our Town*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Bliethe Spirit*,

and *The Tempest*. Nate counts among his favorite Shakespearean roles: Iago, Falstaff, Hamlet, and Prospero. He considers himself fortunate to have sufficient interests (art, literature, foreign languages, and travel) to ward off the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune".

Maurio Hines

Goro

Has worked with Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Carolina, Long Leaf Opera. A native of Durham, North Carolina, Maurio received his Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance at Greensboro College. During his career there, he participated in the opera workshop doing roles such as Alfred and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Mr. Angel in *The Impresario* and Enoch Snow in *Carousel*. Maurio received his Master's of Music at East Carolina where he had the lead tenor roles in *Le Nozze de Figaro*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Maria Stuarda*. As participant in the Glimmerglass Young Artist Program, Maurio made his debut as Matthew Kumalo in *Lost in the Stars*. Maurio currently lives in New York, New York and will be returning to Glimmerglass for their 2013 season.

Susan Panzarella

Kate Pinkerton, Ensemble

Has become a regular in the Footlight Players, having played leading roles in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Blythe Spirit*. Susan has a wide musical repertoire and has entertained local audiences at many a Cabaret night. She is a long-time member of The Church of The Ascension Choir, and is happy to be singing here on her home stage.

Lydia Paulsen

Ensemble

This is Lydia's third appearance in a Footlight Player's opera. She appeared in the ensembles of *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *Tosca*. Lydia has also graced this stage in *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*. A fine artist, craftsman and teacher, Lydia is well known to the local community and especially to The Church of The Ascension, where she sings soprano in the choir, makes extraordinary quilts, and all manner of various and sundry crafts.

Michael Plant

Imperial Commissioner, Bonzo, Prince Yamadori

Makes his operatic stage debut in this production, having previously been confined to the orchestra pit as a trombonist and conductor. He studied at the Oberlin Conservatory, and has served several churches as a chorister and choir director, in addition to conducting appearances with the Richmond Philharmonic and the Victorian Lyric Opera Company of Washington DC. More recently, he has been heard locally with the Long Island Choral Society, the Stewart Consort, and the Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble. He currently lives

and works in Suffolk County, and serves as Bass Soloist at The Church of The Ascension.

Alexandra Woodruff                      Madama Butterfly

Concluded her second year as a Resident Artist with Dicapo Opera Theatre this past spring. While with Dicapo, Ms. Woodruff was offered various covers such as Marie in *The Most Happy Fella*, and the Stepsister in Giannini's *Beauty and the Beast*. She made her debut of the title role in Puccini's *Tosca* with the Footlight Players. Last season Ms. Woodruff also performed with various opera companies throughout the tri-state area. Her more notable work includes the roles of Giulietta and The Voice of the Mother in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Hudson Lyric Opera, and Maddalena in *Rigoletto* with the Footlight Players. In addition she has also performed in Amici Opera's *L'Orfeo* as La Musica, *Il Re* as Il Prete, and *Rigoletto* as Maddalena. Ms. Woodruff is currently a student of internationally acclaimed tenor Arturo Spinetti.

Costumes by MAGS (Michael Allen Gray)

MAGS & Showtuner Ministries are thrilled to return to Long Island Theatre as Costume Designer for The Church of The Ascension and Footlight Players. Previously, MAGS designed costumes for Broadhollow Theatres creating Costumes for productions of "Mame", "Girl Crazy", "After the Fair" by the Magnificent Composer Matthew Martin Ward and many others. MAGS, through Showtuner Ministries, was also the Resident Artist and Production Designer for USO Entertainment for 7 years. As a Vocalist, Michael Allen Gray Toured Internationally as Don Quixote in "Man of La Mancha" and has performed for such Dignitaries as Barbara Bush, Dick Cheney, Helen Gurley Brown and Honeymooner Joyce "Trixie Norton" Randolph. He served as Cantor at Church of the Blessed Sacrament for 17 years and continues to use his musical gift in support of his personal ministries. MAGS is currently launching an online Voice Building Studio at Sheridan Voice Studios in Manhattan's Upper West Side and as a proud Vietnam Veteran, is working the Soldier's, Sailor's Marines', Coast Guard & Airmen's Club (SSMAC) works to create the new SSMAC Patriotic Music Corps which will debut as SSMAC ([www.ssmclub.org](http://www.ssmclub.org)) on May 15<sup>th</sup> at a Bell Ceremony. Please visit Showtuner Ministries on Facebook or [www.showtuner.com](http://www.showtuner.com).

Special Acknowledgements

Dr. Michael E. Lapa  
Stephanie Kollar  
Patricia Sheridan  
Sheridan Voice Studios  
Capital Concert Opera

Footlight Players, Inc.

*Madama Butterfly*

