

## Puccini – MADAMA BUTTERFLY

### PUCCINI'S MADAMA BUTTEFLY DELIGHTS (Saint Louis, MO) - TOUHILL AUDIENCE

"Puccini's **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** was performed in front of a sold-out audience at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, St. Louis, MO on Saturday night by Teatro Lirico D'Europa, a European opera touring company formed in 1988 by Giorgio Lalov. The company is scheduled to make 80 performances of opera this season in the U.S. The backdrop of the piece was contemporary Japan. The songs, lighting, characters, plot and musical accompaniment intermingle to keep the audience on the edge of their seats waiting to know what will happen to poor Cio-cio-san. After the first act is finished, Cio-cio-san has officially been married for many years and is living with her child Sorrow, played by Christian Lalov. Pinkerton has been away and everyone is awaiting his return. This is where Cio-cio-san (soprano, Victoria Litherland) commands the stage and reveals the many emotions of a woman who is torn between truth and lies, reality and fantasy, love and death. She sings about living in disgrace or ending the pain with death. She also sings in hopes of Pinkerton's return and how she cannot wait to see her husband. Her deliveries of these dichotomy-like emotions are extreme, yet accurate. They truly conveyed the feelings of a person torn between optimism and pessimism. She eventually commits suicide upon the return of her husband, who has married back in the Americas. Mrs. Pinkerton, played by Vesselina Ponorska, accompanies Pinkerton back to his home in Japan. All of Cio-cio-san's fears come to the surface and she kills herself after running everyone off so she can be alone. The opera ended to standing ovations as the audience was moved by this stellar performance."

*Myron McNeill – THE CURRENT, St. Louis, MO*

## **BUTTERFLY - (Saint George, Utah)**

"MADAMA BUTTERFLY opened our season this year and what an opening! We had a full house both nights and the audience couldn't seem to get enough. I've gotten so many compliments on their terrific performance! I'm still floating. Victoria Litherland was outstanding! Not only is she a superb soprano and a good actress, she is also kind and accommodating. Both she and Giorgio attended the luncheon yesterday and those in attendance loved them! It was because of Victoria that our little three – year old was able to do so well on stage. The child's mother said that she was not afraid of going on stage because of the loving way Victoria treated her. And, speaking of Giorgio, he is fantastic. Over the 21 years I've been doing this, there are some managers who are difficult and disagreeable and it creates a situation where I won't book an artist on a return engagement (no matter how good) because of the manager or tour director. BUT you couldn't get better than Giorgio. He is very professional and seems to work without a stressful ruffle. He does an outstanding job. There weren't any problems. It seemed to go off without a hitch. After the concert last night, I didn't get back stage to thank them. Would you please convey my deepest gratitude to all of them and especially Victoria and Giorgio? Thank you too, Jenny, for all you do to make this a success. We all profit from it. I look forward to next season." *Gail Bunker - Celebrity Concert Series*

*Cox Performing Arts Center, St. George, Utah*

## **Teatro Lirico Singer Flutters through MADAMA BUTTERFLY! (Cerritos Center for the Perf. Arts, Cerritos, CA)**

"A heartbreaking Cio-Cio-San. That's exactly what Teatro Lirico D'Europa offered in Qilian Chen who sang the title role. With her radiant smile and demeanor, Chen easily evoked the idealistic, trusting 15-year-old geisha who marries the cad Pinkerton. Chen was up to revealing the levels of tragedy. She went the marathon

distance with strength and dignity and with subtle and affecting phrasing. She carried the opera to its triumphant conclusion."

*LOS ANGELES TIMES – Chris Pasles*

### **(San Luis Obispo, CA) - BUTTERFLY**

"Teatro Lirico tours with a 50-piece orchestra and 40-voice chorus plus all the sets and costumes necessary to present grand opera in a stylish, very European way. The success of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** rises and falls with the title role. Soprano, Su-Jin Lee did not disappoint, offering as dramatic a rendering of Cio-cio-san as might be imagined with her seamless, powerful voice and suavely elegant acting style. Roumen Doikov's sharply focused tenor voice allowed his singing to project above the orchestra's commanding presence. Nicolai Dobrev's Sharpless was a musical triumph. Elena Marinova portrayed the role of Suzuki with grace and beauty, blending magnificently with Su-Jin Lee. The solid performances of the orchestra along with compelling performances in all the supporting roles gave this production a musical polish that would grace any stage in the world." *THE TRIBUNE (San Luis Obispo, CA) - Alan Boehmer*

### **A Magnificent BUTTERFLY - (University Park, IL)**

"Su-Jin Lee was most convincing as Cio-cio-san. It's rare to see such fine acting ability, combined with magnificent vocal cords. Act II, perhaps had the finest singing, notably "Un bel di vedremo" and the flower duet with Elena Marinova as Suzuki, who captured the emotions of every moment before her mistress experienced them. Lee rose above the pack. The suicide scene was heart-rending. The opera was well produced, as indicated by the attention and extraordinary quiet of the audience. Sets were simple yet effective, lighting was extremely well done; costumes were attractive and reflected the period Puccini intended. The orchestra deserves high praise for its sound and conductor

Krassimir Topolov did a superb job. Roumen Doikov as Pinkerton and Nicolai Dobrev as Sharpless sang very well. The chorus sounded great. This is a first class organization. Let's hope for a return." *THE STAR (Chicago Heights) – D. J. Luksetich*

### **Heroine Gives Wings to Touring MADAMA BUTTERFLY! (Kravis Center, Palm Beach, FL)**

"Korean soprano Su-Jin Lee was the compelling focus of the action Saturday night as Teatro Lirico D'Europa brought its **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** to the Kravis Center. Lee was a persuasive Cio-cio-san, gifted with a strong, rather dark voice, that held up well throughout the evening and that ably covered the gamut from awakening passion to bleak despair. Just as comprehensive was her acting range. She inhabits the part completely. Italian tenor, Maurizio Graziani, was a good Pinkerton with a pleasing, soft edged lyric tenor that blended suavely with Lee in the big love duet that closes Act I. There was fine singing also from the American baritone Theodore Lambrinos as Sharpless, and Elena Marinova, as Suzuki, who was at her best in the Act II flower Duet. Teatro Lirico's orchestra acquitted itself well and conductor Krassimir Topolov proved to be a sensitive accompanist. A 'Butterfly' well worth seeing, especially for its lead soprano, whose Cio-cio-san came through much as Puccini would have liked, as a real flesh and blood person with whom the audience can deeply empathize."

*PALM BEACH POST – Greg Stepanich*

### **Lirico's MADAMA BUTTERFLY: All Things Bright and Beautiful! (BOSTON)**

"It's not often that Boston – or any town – hears a **BUTTERFLY** on the order of Korean soprano – Su-Jin Lee: her voice was almost too big for Jordan Hall, but it remained full and rich at the top, the aural equivalent of a room full of cherry blossoms. She

also has the most radiant smile. Her characterization was superb. Mexican tenor, Gabrielle Gonzales, brought a rich voice and sensitive characterization to Pinkerton. Ted Lambrinos was nuanced as Sharpless, his face registered increasing shades of dismay as Pinkerton contemplated the joys of "Japanese marriage." The chorus sang sumptuously and the orchestra gave Puccini's score both physical and emotional weight."

*BOSTON PHOENIX – Jeffrey Gantz*

### **In search of the perfect Butterfly, we found her! (Boston)**

"This **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** wows Boston audience with a stunning performance that is the essence of pure vocal and visual artistry. It gives me chills when done right, and I got that chill Sunday afternoon – still do as I write this review. It's the romantic in me. Puccini's opera **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** wowed its Boston audience with a stunning performance by soprano Olga Chernisheva in the title role of Cio-cio-san when it played to a packed house at the Cutler Majestic on March 4, 2007. Too bad there was only one performance. Ms. Chernisheva gave a performance that was simply spectacular. Her romantic "Vogliatemi bene" with amazing tenor Orlin Goranov, who also sang the part of Rodolfo in Friday's "Boheme," is all the more reason to be amazed. This is what brings people to the opera, and if the buzz at intermission is any indication of whether the sentiments expressed herein are representative of the vast majority of the audience in attendance on Sunday, this performance would have to be rated one of the best in quite a while. Ms. Chernisheva is a fit, youthful looking and very attractive Butterfly – not 15, but as one member of the audience remarked, "It's nice not to have to see an overweight sixty year old trying to sing the role." Well said. Another member of the audience who plays with the Boston Symphony remarked how impressed he was with the stamina of the orchestra and singers

who, he too, saw on the same stage Friday evening. As for Mr. Goranov's performance, we can only add, Bravo! His performance as B.F. Pinkerton was crisp, his voice clear and strong throughout, and his stage presence was commanding, as was the vocal and physical performance of baritone Gary Simpson, who sang the role of U.S. Consul in Nagasaki. Singing the role of Suzuki, the maid to Butterfly, was Bulgarian mezzo-soprano Viara Zhelezova, another Teatro cast regular and entirely dependable vocal talent in this remarkable and busy traveling ensemble of talents. A "tip-of-the hat" also must go to the chorus. In Butterfly, I always await the procession song, "Ecco, Son giunte al sommo del pendio," which has to be one of the most beautiful procession songs in all of opera. Here it was done to perfection, with a wonderful display of color and superb vocal beauty. In this production, the scenery was colorful and realistic and the lighting was effective and imaginative. Nicely done on both counts. I was moved by this production as was the audience and fully involved in the life of this remarkable Butterfly, which says a lot. Brava Ms. Chernisheva." *OPERAONLINE.US – Paul Walkowski*

**Boston opera festival with BUTTERFLY, CARMEN, BOHEME and Gala Concert:** "We really had a very positive response from patrons to all 3 operas! One man came up to the window and said that Saturday night was the most expressive version of CARMEN he'd ever seen. People leaving last night were commenting on what a wonderful evening the concert provided. I had a couple of patrons tell me they were planning to drop their other opera subscription and subscribe to Teatro Lirico because the other company did **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** as well and thought yours was better in every aspect. Congratulations!"

*Christina Harrington, Majestic Theatre, Boston*

## **HANKIES WERE OUT FOR FINE MADAMA BUTTERFLY - (Portland, ME)**

“Teatro Lirico D'Europa production of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** at Merrill Auditorium Wednesday night successfully emphasized the emotional aspects of what is already a tear-jerker of an opera, to the extent that Orlin Goranov, who played Lieutenant Pinkerton, got a few boos (for the role, not his excellent performance) during the standing ovation that followed. The large audience was absorbed in the tragic story, as well as Puccini's lovely and sometimes authentically Japanese music. Actually, baritone Gary Simpson, who plays the sympathetic U.S. Consul Sharpless, half in love with Cio-cio-san (Madame Butterfly) himself, seemed to receive even louder applause than the rotten Pinkerton. Artistic and stage director, Giorgio Lalov makes Sharpless even more lovable than he usually is, implying, for example, that the consul is paying Cio-cio-san's rent after her desertion by Pinkerton. In the opening scene, Pinkerton is all in white, while Sharpless, who tries to warn him about trifling with Madame Butterfly's affections, is in black. By the end of the opera, Pinkerton is in his dress blues, darker than Sharpless' suit. The opera was well sung and acted throughout, especially by Olga Chernisheva in the demanding role of Cio- cio-san, in which she hardly ever leaves the stage after her first appearance with the wedding party. As staged, the running together of the second and third acts, without intermission, made the opera seem a bit too long, especially at the heightened state of emotion it generates. The audience needs at least a slight break to get dry handkerchiefs. There is some comic relief, in the antics of the marriage broker Goro (Giorgio Dinef) and the hapless suitor Prince Yamadori (Hristo Sarafov), who manages to convey moral deformity by the physical curling up of his fingers. The live Sofia Symphony Orchestra, under Krassimir Topolov, played the score sensitively and with understanding. The sets and costumes were

also well done, especially for a road show. The paper house and garden overlooking the bay are settings where one can actually imagine living happily ever after. And the super-titles were both well written and understated.”

*Christopher Hyde – PORTLAND PRESS HERALD*

### **MADAMA BUTTERFLY – (Boston)**

“Teatro Lirico D'Europa brought **BUTTERFLY** to Boston’s Majestic Theatre on Friday in a traditional production that combined its wonderful, big-voiced singers who made the most of Puccini's soaring melodies and shrewd sense of dramatic pacing. The big moments never failed to hit their mark. I heard the first sniffles, as I usually do, when Cio-Cio-San rushes offstage and brings out, for the first time, her half-American child. In the title role, Russian-born soprano Olga Chernisheva looked beautiful, and moved gracefully. She had plenty of volume, and topped her entrance with a soft, easy C-sharp. She was dignified and strong in her final moments. As Pinkerton, Bulgarian tenor Orlin Goranov was vocally splendid. He cleaved the house with his high notes, and yet was capable of beautiful soft singing, too. The smaller roles were well sung, especially Viara Zhelezova's warm-voiced Suzuki.” *David Perkins – BOSTON GLOBE*

### **Newberry, SC - Opera House - MADAMA BUTTERFLY**

“It was wonderful, thank you so much. Your folks were fantastic and the crew very easy to work with and very professional. Butterfly herself was just gorgeous, a lovely voice – nothing but great comments from the audience! Please come back next year!”

*Deborah Smith, GM Newberry Opera House*

### **MADAMA BUTTERFLY- (Ruth Eckerd Hall - Clearwater, FL)**

“What a night!!!!!! Thank you and Giorgio so much. The performance was wonderful. Orchestra. Singers. Set design. We sold 1460 tix! Thanks again. Talk to you soon!”

*Bobby Rossi – Director of Entertainment Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater, FL*

### **MADAMA BUTTERFLY, a review - (Coral Springs, FL)**

“In recent seasons Gold Coast Opera has formed a working relationship with Teatro Lirico D’Europa. On February 19 Cavendish led Puccini's **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts. A strongly cast, intelligently conceived production offered a compelling evening of Music Theater. Teatro Lirico founder Giorgio Lalov's direction was straightforward, moving the drama toward its final inevitable tragedy with a minimum of artifice. The set emphasized simple, clean lines that suggested a garden and hilly path next to the heroine's house. His multi- hued costumes filled the stage with color, an eye catching wedding gown rich in blends of white and yellow pastels. Elena Razgylaeva embodied the heroine Cio-Cio-San Her gleaming lyrico-spinto soprano is effortlessly produced. Cio-Cio-San's treacherously difficult entrance aria was capped by a fearless high C. A consummate singing actress, Razgylaeva turned Un bel di into a dramatic declaration of faith rather than mere vocal display. Her agitated death scene proved a final musico-dramatic tour de force. Razgylaeva encompassed the heroine's emotional spectrum in a radiant vocal palette that could ring out in fury and rhapsodize in romantic ecstasy. “

*Lawrence Budmen - SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL*

### **TEATRO'S BUTTERFLY HAS WINGS - (Naples, FL)**

"The Teatro Lirico d’Europa performance at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts Monday night earned my highest praise.

**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** ranks on Opera America's list as the all-time most performed operas here. The dew points in **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** are as plentiful as its musical zeniths. Teatro's artistic director, Giorgio Lalov, has wisely cast it with acting as well as vocal strength. Foremost is Olga Chernisheva, a Cio-Cio-San of vast range. Chernisheva develops Butterfly skillfully from blushing 15- year-old – a coy bride in denial that she is rented – to a resolute matriarch, determined to keep her loyalty, and in the end, her honor. There are few moments when Chernisheva isn't on stage and singing, yet she is the heroine to the end. She refuses to showboat (Brava, Butterfly!) on the famous "Un bel di (One fine day)." She harmonizes as beautifully with Suzuki in their "Flower Duet" as she does on her wedding night with Pinkerton in a thrilling "Viene la sera (Evening is falling)." Orlin Goranov is her vocal match as the shallow Lt. B.F. Pinkerton, who rents his wife as facilely as he rents their wedding home. Goranov's tenor is astoundingly melodic, powerful and emotional. Plamen Dimitrov made his debut as Sharpless, the emasculated American consul, and he has a good feel for his role and a warm baritone voice. The background star of the production is Viara Zhelezova – a strong, supportive mezzo who played the loyal Suzuki with blend of ferocity and wisdom. Vladimir Hristov worked a trio of supporting roles, including that of the oily marriage broker, with relish. The Naples Philharmonic is developing a potential second career as opera orchestra, sparkling in its performance under Joe Mechavic who has complete command of the synergy between orchestra and singer." *NAPLES DAILY NEWS - Harriet Heithaus*

### **MADAMA BUTTERFLY - (Queensboro, NY)**

**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** was FABULOUS! The cast was sweet and wonderful and Hilda was brilliant! The little boy we chose was terrific and we heard AMAZING feedback from the

audience. BRAVO!!!! This was an excellent company and very kind and considerate too. It's so wonderful to work with nice people. Not everyone is as nice or as accommodating as you are. Once again, we had a great time on Sunday and the cast (and orchestra) was outstanding."

*Susan Agin - Managing/Artistic Director  
Queensborough Performing Arts Center*

### **OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE MADAMA BUTTERFLY**

"BRAVO! Wonderful production of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY!** The set was well done and the lighting dramatized the changing seasons, transcending the audience of Butterfly's small house in Japan. In general, the principals were tremendous and I had a few opera aficionados seek me out to mention that they enjoyed the main characters immensely...and the applause was loud! The orchestra played well. There are some wonderful melodies throughout the performance and they really did a good job. The one that comes to mind is the music between the transition in Act 2, during the vigil. Your group did a wonderful job with our second grader that was playing Sorrow. He was very nervous but a cute addition to the evening."

*Christine Parent, President, Board of Directors  
OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE*

### **Clemson, SC - BUTTERFLY**

"The audience (for **MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) was very enthusiastic. It was a wonderful performance, and everyone loved it. Hilda was brilliant, and she was so sweet with my little grandson. Hilda was flawless and Pinkerton stole my heart. Thank you for sending us such a great production."

*Lillian Harder - Brooks Center for the Performing Arts  
Clemson University*

### **Wilmington, NC - BUTTERFLY**

"We are thrilled by last night! (**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) The soprano was so strong and beautiful. Pinkerton's voice was beautiful. The audience loved the opera and we are competing with the MET simulcasts at the same university..."

*June Davis, Marketing Wilmington Concert Series  
Keenan Auditorium, Wilmington, NC*

"The Opera (**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) was passionate, charming and wonderful! Standing ovation lasted five minutes at least. Job well done!" *Risa Kell, GM -Wilmington Concert Series*

### **Panama City, FL - BUTTERFLY**

"The opera (**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) was wonderful – your Butterfly (who John and I love) gave me chills the minute she started singing. I think that it was the longest standing ovation I have ever witnessed at one of our operas! Can't wait to see one of my top 3 favorites – TURANDOT!"

*Richard Bojko President BOD – Opera New Hampshire*

### **Teatro Lirico MADAMA BUTTERFLY - New London, CT**

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa's **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** received a deserved standing ovation at the Garde Arts Center, New London, CT last night. Artistic Director Giorgio Lalov scored another triumph with smooth stage direction showing character and motivation very well, excellent costume design with beautiful, colorful kimonos, and set design with a an effective screened house – all credited to Lalov. The vocal star, appropriately, was Elena Razgylaeva a TLE soloist since 2006, in the title role. Her pure, beautiful voice, a bit more lirico than spinto, handled every note perfectly, with excellent phrasing. She movingly portrayed Butterfly's hope in a lovely and exciting "Un

bel di'," her relations with Sharpless and Yamadori in Act II, and her tragic determination at the end. She was so physically gorgeous that one faulted Pinkerton for choosing Veselina Ponorska's rather hefty Kate as well as for his abandonment. She almost looked 15 years old in the first act, and for that but especially for voice and acting, Razgylaeva was just about the best Butterfly I've heard and seen. Viara Zhelezova also sang Suzuki with a clear, strong voice and gave a fine sense of Suzuki's combination of strong support and vulnerability. Orlin Goranov sang well enough as Pinkerton, with some fine high notes. TLE regular Hristo Sarafov sang Yamadori strongly and looked aptly older. Plamen Dimitrov was a rich-voiced, well-acted Sharpless. The local girl En- Hua C. Holtz, of Chinese descent, looked perfect as Dolore, smiled appealingly throughout, and related to the other characters very well. This was her first public performance TLE's conductor Krassimir Topolov led a well-coordinated performance with good sound from the TLE orchestra. I recommend this BUTTERFLY, which will travel to other cities." *John Deredita - OPERAMUSICBROADCAST.COM*

### **EDGERTON, WI - BUTTERFLY**

"All I can say is "BRAVO!" Thank you! Thank you! Our audience loved **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** - played to a near sell out crowd on Saturday night. The professional touring group of singers, musicians and crew from all over the world brought our audience to their feet!" *Paul M. Tropp, EPAC Coordinator*  
*Edgerton Performing Arts Center, Edgerton, WI*

### **HELENA, AK BUTTERFLY**

"There are no words to truly describe the incredible performance of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** last night. When the curtain went up on that beautiful set and costumes, you just knew you were about to experience something truly special, and we did. The voices

came from God above, what blessed people we are to have such talent in our midst. What is so special about your company is not only the talent of your performers and creative staff, but the friendliness and caring of everyone, this was so evident in the treatment of our little "Sorrow" Pearson Hafer, whose Daddy is stationed in Afghanistan, but because of the kindness and patience of your performers we able to send many photo's that were shown around the soldiers posted with him. Thank you so much to everyone involved."

*Maureen Jones, Warfiled Concerts, Helena. AR*

### **DAYTONA BUTTERFLY**

"**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** closed our 59th season and we couldn't have wished for a better finale. The cast was superb. Hilda Ramos as Cio-Cio San and Orlin Goranov as Pinkerton were spectacular. In addition to their exceptional vocal skills, they were excellent actors. Ms. Ramos was the perfect Butterfly and many in the audience were weeping at the end of the tragic love story. Teatro Lirico D'Europa has delivered yet another remarkable opera and we can't wait until next year's DON GIOVANNI. Thank you for bringing such wonderful opera to Daytona Beach."

*Carol Anderson, GM, Daytona Beach Symphony Society*

### **PALMETTO OPERA BUTTERFLY - May 2011**

"Bravo! Bravo to Teatro Lirico D'Europa for your wonderful **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** Your international cast sang their hearts out and truly represented the best in international opera talent. Hilda Ramos was thrilling in her portrayal of Butterfly and her voice was exquisite. Sets and costumes were beautiful! Your worldwide cast brought opera lovers to their feet in in Columbia, South Carolina! It was truly a magical night and we heard nothing but rave reviews. A sampling: "Fabulous!...the best

Butterfly I've seen in 30 years, and I've seen Butterfly all over the world!" "Hilda Ramos' voice soared...exquisite!" "...sets and costumes were beautiful!!" "The music...everything...was wonderful!" "All the soloists were outstanding! Thank you, Giorgio and Jenny."

*Kathy Newman, Chair The Palmetto Opera (PRESENTER)*

"Both opera fans and newcomers alike were enchanted by Teatro Lirico's breathtaking performance of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY!** The cast won over the entire audience with their totally entertaining presentation of Puccini's opera, as evidenced by standing ovations at both performances. Special kudos to the beautiful and gifted Hilda Ramos, who displayed not only an amazing vocal virtuosity but also exceptional acting skills in her sensitive and utterly believable portrayal of Butterfly."

*Tish Lowe Palmetto Opera Board of Directors, Columbia, SC*

"I know "rave reviews" will burst forth from all around our board room table when we meet. Meanwhile, from my viewpoint... the **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** I saw on Friday night and Sunday afternoon was THE ABSOLUTE BEST operatic performance I've ever seen in Columbia, and can compare favorably to operas seen in London, Paris, Trieste, New York. The setting of Drayton Hall was perfectly geared to the sets, voices and drama on stage. All facets of the production were first rate, and Butterfly herself was captivating and enchanting in every way. The whole experience takes local opera to a whole new level."

*Lee Minghi – Board Member - The Palmetto Opera*

"The Board know and understand the tremendous effort it took to pull this **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** off. There is no doubt that this has been a monumental undertaking for our opera company or that it has been a monumental success. We have not only had

nothing but rave reviews for the performance, we have had long-time opera aficionados tell us that they have seen **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** all over the world and this was without a doubt the best. We have also had significant contributions to Palmetto Opera SINCE the performance. Everyone wants more."

*Kathy Newman – The Palmetto Opera – May 2011*

"I've attended well over a hundred operas in such venues as New York, London, Chicago, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Seattle, Charlotte and even Flagstaff and many others, but I've never encountered a performance surpassing that (**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) in Columbia Sunday afternoon. The staging, orchestra, and singers were all superb, and the presentation benefited greatly from the intimate auditorium. All involved are to be highly commended."

*Bob Robison - Board Member - Palmetto Opera*

"Jenny and Giorgio, our marketing (for **MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) resulted in drawing people statewide and even from North Carolina to the performance. There are quite a lot of opera lovers in Hilton Head, for example, and as a result of Madama Butterfly we have the opportunity to establish strong ties with them. I expect that at our next performance many seats will be held by residents throughout SC and other states- including Hilton Head. Our marketing strategy calls for increased statewide advertising. In case I haven't said it enough, thank you for what you are doing to make opera a true cultural option in SC."

*Kathy Newman – The Palmetto Opera*

### **CEDAR CITY, UTAH - BUTTERFLY**

"**MADAMA BUTTERFLY** was fabulous and a big hit with our audience. Butterfly (Hilda Ramos) was outstanding and what a

voice! Thanks for such a great show!"

*David Nyden – Heritage Theatre – Cedar City, UT*

### **VILAR CENTER (Beaver Creek, CO) BUTTERFLY**

"Both of the shows **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** and **GREAT MOMENTS IN OPERA** were wonderful and very well received. We so appreciate being able to bring Teatro Lirico to our community. And because we've been doing it consistently for so many years we have a family of fans and donors who feel a real connection to the company!"

*Kris Sabel, Executive Director – Vilar Performing Arts Center*

### **Wilkes-Barre, PA - BUTTERFLY**

"BRAVO! It was a beautiful production of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** that moved me to tears. Every performer was magnificent. Personally, I have worked here for many years and have never gone backstage during a production. Meeting your Butterfly and then seeing her on stage! I will remember always! Here are 3 other attendees feedback:

1. The local child's family had never seen an opera. They loved it, and Kendalyn, the child, had a wonderful experience.
2. Our director of development's wife came with friends and raved about the quality.
3. We even had a woman reach out to us on FaceBook to praise the show. "I LOVED **MADAMA BUTTERFLY!** My hubby brought me for my Birthday! Best experience ever...thank you for a wonderful performance."

Thanks!"

*Anne E. Rodella, Director of Sales and Marketing and  
Chairperson - F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA –  
January 29, 2016*

## **MADAMA BUTTERFLY was a WOW!**

### **Palmetto Opera - Koger Center - winter 2017**

“Teatro Lirico's amazing soloists, chorus and cast were all superb and together with the exquisite costumes and beautiful sets of Giorgio Lalov, brought us long standing ovations! Local youth included as extras and local young child, Selina Gomez as SORROW was a wonderful addition. We have received nothing but rave reviews and "thank you"s for this magical evening! Acting is so important in opera and Soprano Melliangee Perez's performance as (Cio-Cio-San) was as amazing as her beautiful, mesmerizing voice. In the first act she was the epitome of a young, trusting girl in the throes of a great love. In the second act, three years after her abandonment by Pinkerton, she visibly aged to a weary, heartbroken woman who alone must deal with the tragic loss of love and son. It is easy to understand why tenor Benjamin Sloman (Pinkerton) is considered one of the most exciting young Australian tenors of his generation. His performance was outstanding. His brilliant tenor voice convincingly transformed him from a pleasure-seeking, boastful young cad to a mature man who must now deal with a lifetime of loss and regret...Giorgio Lalov's brilliant creativity, sets and costumes and directing completed the picture. We had another hit! Thank you all!”

*Kathy Newman, Chair The Palmetto Opera*

### **Puccini MADAMA BUTTERFLY - (Winter 2018 USA - Marina Civic Center, Panama City, FL)**

“Dear Jenny, Our audience was delighted and moved by Teatro Lirico D'Europa's rapturous performance of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY**. The opera was beautifully sung by Melliangee Perez, Benjamin Sloman, Nathan Matticks, Emily Geller, Jordan Weatherston Pitts, Daniel Megli and Vladimir Hristov in the principal roles. Giorgio's staging of the opera's most treasured

scenes: the love duet, the entrance of Butterfly, "Un bel di," the Humming Chorus and the moving conclusion - were all splendidly delivered. Based on my conversations with audience members--those new to opera were astonished by the beauty and power of the musical story, and the others were thoroughly satisfied and fulfilled by the performance. And - many thanks to Giorgio and the six cast members who so enthusiastically engaged our patrons in the post opera reception. One patron said to me "They must like coming here." Indeed, we like having you come here each year!"

*Bob Borich - Program Chairman Panama City Music Association*

**Comments from staff members at The Daytona Beach  
Symphony Society - MADAMA BUTTERFLY - Winter 2018  
Peabody Auditorium:**

"Hello Jenny, The performance of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** was wonderful!! Everyone I spoke to just loved it. Rave reviews on the new cast and everyone wants them back next year! We had about 1,800 people in attendance...FANTASTIC! Thank you for all that you do for us!" *Christine Gerhardt Director, Operations  
Daytona Beach Symphony Society*

"Jenny,  
I have gotten a lot of great feedback from Saturday. In person and in Facebook and email. The performance of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** was a big hit! Comments like the best opera ever and the best singers they've ever seen from you so far. Bravo! Thank you!" *Tracy Marino Director, Marketing &  
Development/Daytona Beach Symphony Society*

"Hi Jenny, It is nearly 11:00PM and I am dead on my feet, having just gotten home, so I will write to you again in the morning. But for now, your **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** at Peabody Auditorium

tonight was FABULOUS! The singers, the set, the costumes, the conductor, all were so impressive and gave us an absolutely wonderful evening. You and Giorgio get SO much credit for developing your company to this point!!!! So for now, must feed the kitty and get my tootsies into bed, but more tomorrow...."

*Dallas Weekly - booking agent  
Daytona Beach Symphony Society*

"Dear Jenny and Giorgio,  
Your **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** production was an absolute joy and we are deeply grateful for your work. The audience was so excited, and I am sure they will be eager to hear/see you next year, as they have been for the many years prior. The sets, costumes, soloists and conductor were all wonderful. You get better every year. The orchestra played really well. It was a great evening; we can only imagine the hard work involved in the preparations and travel. Love you both! Nancy and Dallas Weekly *Dallas Weekly  
Booking agent/Daytona Beach Symphony Society*

**(Ft. Myers, FL) BUTTERFLY - BARBARA MANN PERF. ARTS HALL**

"Jenny We had a very good, almost full house for **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** Friday night! Several of the cast commented on how great it was to look out and see so many in the audience, both in the orchestra section and the mezzanine and balcony sections. And the audience gave them a standing ovation! A great production. We loved it! And at the reception, Giorgio was very attentive to our donor who sponsored the opera. The super titles worked perfectly! Looking forward to next year (TOSCA)."  
*Mary Lee Mann - GM - Barbara Mann Performing Arts Hall  
Ft. Myers, Florida - winter 2018*

## **BUTTERFLY - OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE - winter 2020**

“Hi Jenny,

Just wanted to drop you a quick note to say thank you to everyone! Last night (**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**) was amazing and so well done! I have heard from many guests that they really enjoyed every second of it. Beautiful work!”

Kaleena Guzman, Executive Director

OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE

Performance at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, NH

## **OPERA NEW HAMPHIRE POST - winter 2020 BUTTERFLY**

“Our production of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** this past Sunday was truly incredible! We wanted to take a moment to thank all of our supporters who came out and enjoyed it alongside us! We have loved receiving emails and comments raving about the experience. It is because of supporters like you that we are able to continue to bring such talent and art to you locally.”

Kaleena Guzman, Executive Director

OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE

Presenter of Teatro Lirico’s **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, NH - winter 2020