

KENTUCKY OPERA

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For immediate release

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Brand-new Production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* Opens Kentucky Opera's 2024-25 Season

Kentucky Opera's 2024-25 Season opens in November with a spectacular new production of ***Madama Butterfly*** that reframes the tragic story in a new era. *Madama Butterfly* has been an audience favorite throughout the world for over a century, hailed for its luscious music and compelling story of love and betrayal.



There are many elements of *Madama Butterfly* that are influenced by Japanese-American relations through history. This brand-new production, conceived by **Mo Zhou**, reconciles many complexities of this opera. For years Zhou pondered how she might engage with *Butterfly* in a way that speaks to the present moment. "After years of reflection, I discovered my

path forward: to recontextualize the opera in the aftermath of World War II, specifically after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki," Zhou said.

"While this production is fundamentally Puccini's traditional score, setting *Madama Butterfly* in this period reframes the Japanese characters' motivations in this story," said Barbara Lynne Jamison, Kentucky Opera's General Director & CEO. Between 1946 and 1952, during the Allied Occupation, thousands of Japanese women married American soldiers. Some married for love, but many were driven by fear of another atomic bomb or a bleak future in a shattered country. These "war brides," often branded as traitors or enemies, were rejected by both societies. "Kentucky was a key resettlement location for many of these women, making this setting particularly appropriate for our company," Jamison explained.

Season ticket packages are still available and start at only \$138 for a 4-show package. Payment plans are available.

Madama Butterfly

Music by Giacomo Puccini; libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

November 15 & 17, 2024

The Brown Theatre, Louisville KY

Performed in Italian with English captions

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including one 20-minute intermission.

Tickets on sale at KYOpera.org

Tag-Along

Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 1 pm

Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

708 Magazine Street, Louisville KY

Tickets on sale at KYOpera.org

Awakenings: Understanding Butterfly

Kentucky Opera's Awakenings series invites audiences to delve into the history and social relevance of individual operas with artists, scholars, and community members. Understanding Butterfly will explore the relationship between Japan and the U.S. and how this relationship shaped the original work and our production of *Madama Butterfly*.

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 | 6 pm

Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

708 Magazine Street, Louisville KY

RSVP at KYOpera.org/awakenings

Opening Night Dinner

Friday, November 15, 2024 | 5:30 pm

Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant, Louisville KY

Tickets on sale at KYOpera.org

All proceeds benefit Kentucky Opera's programs and community initiatives

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About Kentucky Opera For more than 70 years Kentucky Opera has enriched the cultural and artistic landscape of the region. Designated the State Opera in 1982, Kentucky Opera is a producing company dedicated to sparking discovery, joy, and connection through the shared experience of music and theatre. We believe the power of the arts encourages a more empathetic, compassionate, and just community.

In 2022, the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health opened in downtown Louisville as the company's hub for cultural enrichment events, after school youth programs, and civic engagement opportunities. It also joins the iconic Brown Theatre as a performance venue for Kentucky opera productions.