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PUCCINI'S *MADAMA BUTTERFLY* TAKES FLIGHT AT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY THIS WINTER

Toronto – One of the most beloved operas ever composed arrives at the **Canadian Opera Company** this winter, starring an internationally acclaimed cast led by renowned conductor **Keri-Lynn Wilson**. In this new-to-Toronto production from Tony Award-winning director **Michael Grandage**, revived at the COC by **Jordan Lee Braun**, a simple but stylized setting draws focus toward the characters' intense emotional journey as unexpected love turns to heartbreaking tragedy. *Madama Butterfly* by **Giacomo Puccini** runs for eight performances at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** on **January 24, 26, February 1, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 16, 2025**.

ONE OF PUCCINI'S MOST POPULAR WORKS

Madama Butterfly has moved generations of audiences with its evocative score; Puccini himself once described the work as “the most felt and most expressive opera that I have conceived.” With standout pieces that include the soaring Act 1 duet, “Vogliatemi bene,” and the famously longing soprano aria “Un bel di vedremo” in Act 2, music from the opera has permeated all facets of popular culture, inspiring the Broadway musical *Miss Saigon* and recently featuring in scenes from television's *House of Cards* and *The White Lotus*.

Leading the **COC Orchestra** through one of Puccini's most beautiful scores is renowned Canadian conductor **Keri-Lynn Wilson**. **Wilson** was at the podium for the COC's 2021 digital concert recording of *Madama Butterfly* and, previously, debuted during the company's 2017 production of *Tosca*; she says, “On the occasion of the Puccini Centennial in 2025, I can't wait to reconnect with the COC's outstanding orchestra and chorus, not to mention Toronto's opera-loving audience.” **Price Family Chorus Master Sandra Horst** will guide the award-winning **COC Chorus**; **Horst** was recently honoured with an *Opera Canada* Ruby Award for her outstanding career contributions to Canadian opera.

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED CAST

Stepping into the title role is **Eri Nakamura**, the rising Japanese soprano “who has become a go-to interpreter of Cio-Cio San around the world” (*OperaWire*). **Nakamura** first performed as Butterfly as part of the COC's 2021/2022 digital season and returns to the mainstage opposite Australian-Chinese tenor **Kang Wang** as Pinkerton. **Wang** first made his COC debut in 2023 as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and brings his “stunning voice” (*Limelight Magazine*) to the role of the feckless U.S. naval officer whose passionate courtship does not translate into commitment.

Hyona Kim, lauded by *The New York Times* as a “vibrant and dark-toned mezzo-soprano,” will make her COC debut in the role of Suzuki alongside American bass-baritone **Michael Sumuel** who makes his COC debut as Sharpless, the U.S. Consul. Also joining the cast is Korean-American tenor **Julius Ahn** as the marriage broker Goro; Canadian baritone and **Ensemble Studio** alumnus **Samuel Chan** as both the Commissioner and Yamadori, the wealthy prince who wishes to marry Butterfly himself; Canadian baritone and **COC Chorus** member **Gene Wu** takes on the role of the Bonze, Butterfly's uncle and a priest; and current **Ensemble Studio** soprano **Karoline Podolak** sings the part of Kate Pinkerton.

Madama Butterfly is sung in Italian and presented by the COC with English SURTITLES™.

Madama Butterfly is a co-production of **Houston Grand Opera**, **Grand Théâtre de Genève**, and **Lyric Opera of Chicago**.

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR WINTER OPERA TICKET-BUYERS

In a special partnership with **Uber Canada**, guests of our winter season operas are eligible to redeem a **50% off discount on a Premium Uber ride, to a maximum of \$20, to and from the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts**, making it easier than ever to experience the unique thrill of live opera. Details, along with a discount code, will be emailed to winter ticket-buyers in reminder notifications for their performance.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Cio-Cio San (Butterfly)

Pinkerton

Suzuki

Sharpless

Goro

Yamadori

The Commissioner

The Bonze

Kate Pinkerton

Official Registrar

Yakuside

Cio-Cio San's Mother

Aunt

Cousin

Eri Nakamura

Kang Wang

Hyona Kim

Michael Sumuel

Julius Ahn

Samuel Chan

Samuel Chan

Gene Wu

Karoline Podolak

Keith Lam

Taras Chmil

Lindsay Barrett

Erica Iris Huang

Nathania-Rose Chan

Conductor

Assistant Conductor

Price Family Chorus Master

Original Director

Revival Director

Assistant Director

Set & Costume Designer

Original Lighting Designer

Revival Lighting Designer

Movement Director

Resident Fight & Intimacy Coordinator

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Apprentice Stage Manager

Repetiteur

Ensemble Studio Coach

Keri-Lynn Wilson

Simone Luti

Sandra Horst

Michael Grandage

Jordan Lee Braun

Maer Gronsdal

Christopher Oram

Neil Austin

Mikael Kangas

Nao Kusuzaki

Siobhan Richardson

Kate Porter

Al Gadowsky

Meghan Speakman

Conner Bustamente

Timothy Cheung

Mattia Senesi

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus

TICKET INFORMATION

Regularly priced tickets for *Madama Butterfly* start at **\$45 for adults**, with **\$28 tickets available for guests between the ages of 16 and 29** through the COC's **Opera Under 30** program. Tickets can be purchased online at coc.ca or by calling the Four Seasons Centre Box Office at **416-363-8231**. For more information on booking **student groups, standing room, and rush tickets**, as well as other specially priced tickets available to **young people under the age of 15**, please visit coc.ca.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Sandra Horst and the **COC Chorus** are generously underwritten by **Tim & Frances Price**.

The **COC Orchestra** is generously sponsored by **The Schulich Foundation** and **W. Bruce C. Bailey**.

Thank you to the entire COC community, including our [COC Board of Directors](#), our [Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Supporters](#), [generous public funders](#), [union partners](#), and — most critically — [our audience](#). Your inspiring support ensures that opera flourishes, uniting global audiences and paving the way for a vibrant future.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY

Based in Toronto, the Canadian Opera Company is the largest producer of opera in Canada and one of the largest in North America. General Director David C. Ferguson joined the company in 2024, forming a leadership team with Music Director Johannes Debus and Deputy General Director Christie Darville. The COC enjoys a loyal audience, including a dedicated base of subscribers, and has an international reputation for artistic excellence and creative innovation. Its diverse repertoire includes new commissions and productions, local and international collaborations with leading opera companies and festivals, and attracts the world's foremost Canadian and international artists. The company is an incubator for the future of the art form, nurturing Canada's new wave of opera performers and creators with customized training and support. The COC's purpose-built opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, is hailed internationally as one of the finest in the world. For more information, visit coc.ca.

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