

THE ATLANTA OPERA

The Atlanta Opera to Open 2014-15 Season with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the Cobb Energy Centre

Directed by General & Artistic Director Tomer Zvulun

ATLANTA, (September 19, 2014) - [The Atlanta Opera](#) opens its mainstage 2014-15 season at the Cobb Energy Centre with a new production of Giacomo Puccini's haunting story of passion, honor and sacrifice, *Madama Butterfly*. *Madama Butterfly* will be presented on November 8, 11, 14 and 16 at the [Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre](#), and will be **directed by General & Artistic Director Tomer Zvulun**. Single tickets, ranging from \$26-\$137 plus convenience and venue fees, are on sale now, and can be purchased online at [atlantaopera.org](#), or by calling 404-881-8885. Season tickets are still available as well, offering patrons the best seats at the best prices.

Utilizing much of the same creative team as the Atlanta Opera's *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2011, *Madama Butterfly* will feature visually stunning multimedia and lighting effects that will transform the canvas-like set into multiple, magical locations. General and Artistic Director Tomer Zvulun will direct a cast of international singers including soprano Dina Kuznetsova who will make her North American role debut as Cio-Cio San, the titular *Butterfly*. Additional cast members will include tenor Adam Diegel as Pinkerton, mezzo-soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen as Suzuki, and baritone Corey McKern as Sharpless. Atlanta Opera Music Director Arthur Fagen will conduct The Atlanta Opera Orchestra. *Madama Butterfly* was last seen by Atlanta audiences during the Opera's 2008-2009 season.

"This production is extremely poignant for me," Zvulun said. "I created this new production of *Madama Butterfly* in the summer of 2014 for Maestro Lorin Maazel's [Castleton Festival](#). He was wonderfully supportive of me personally and absolutely loved the production. It was the very last production he attended before he passed away and his last words to me on opening night were that this was the best production of *Butterfly* he had ever seen. The Atlanta Opera's production is both our salute to him for his impact on the world of music and my personal expression of gratitude for the opportunity he gave me."

Russian-American soprano [Dina Kuznetsova](#) will sing the title role. Ms. Kuznetsova has attracted the attention of the world's major opera companies for her outstanding musicianship and compelling stage presence. She has performed in many of the world's greatest opera houses, from the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Berlin's Staatsoper unter den Linden, Wiener Staatsoper and Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper to the San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Last season, Ms. Kuznetsova's debuted as Cio-Cio San in Anthony Minghella's production of *Madama Butterfly* at [English National Opera](#) under Gianluca Marciano.

Tenor [Adam Diegel](#) will be making his Atlanta debut in the role of Pinkerton. Also debuting is mezzo soprano [Nina Yoshida Nelsen](#) as *Butterfly*'s faithful servant Suzuki. Baritone [Corey McKern](#) performs the role of Sharpless, the American Consul.

Directing the production is Atlanta Opera General and Artistic Director [Tomer Zvulun](#). This Atlanta Opera season marks the first season planned by Zvulun. Zvulun directed regularly in Atlanta prior to his appointment as General & Artistic Director. Some of those shows include *The Flying Dutchman*, *Magic Flute*, *Lucia* and *Tosca*. He returns to Atlanta straight from directing the European premiere of Kevin Puts' *Silent Night* for the prestigious Wexford Festival in Ireland. The conductor of *Madama Butterfly* is the Atlanta Opera's Carl and Sally Gable Music Director [Arthur Fagen](#). *Madama Butterfly* also will feature The Atlanta Opera Orchestra, evocative sets and projections designed by [Erhard Rom](#) and lighting by [Robert Wierzel](#).

An opera in three acts (originally two acts) created by Giacomo Puccini, *Madama Butterfly* is a haunting story of passion, honor and sacrifice. Its Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa is based in part on the short story *Madame Butterfly* (1898) by John Luther Long, and in part on the 1887 French novel *Madame Chrysanthème* by Pierre Loti.

Madama Butterfly will be performed in Italian with projected English subtitles. Ticketholders may also attend a free pre-opera talk about *Madama Butterfly*. Pre-Opera Talks are held one hour prior to each performance inside the John A. Williams Theatre at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and provide opera attendees insights and background into the opera they are about to see.

This production of The Atlanta Opera is sponsored by a generous gift from Nancy & Jim Bland.

Madama Butterfly

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Previous Atlanta Opera Productions: 5

Creative Team

Conductor	Arthur Fagen
Stage Director	Tomer Zvulun
Set & Projection Designer	Erhard Rom
Associate Projection Designer	Greg Emetaz
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel
Original Costume Design	Jonathan Knipscher & Lauren Gaston
Costume Coordinator	Joanna Schmink
Wig & Makeup Designer	Richard Jarvie

Cast

<i>Cio-Cio San</i>	Dina Kuznetsova*
<i>Pinkerton</i>	Adam Diegel*
<i>Suzuki</i>	Nina Yoshida Nelsen*
<i>Sharpless</i>	Corey McKern*
<i>Goro</i>	Jason Ferrante*
<i>Kate</i>	Ashley Curling
<i>Sorrow</i>	TBD
<i>Imperial Commissioner</i>	Alan Higgs*

The Bonze Kyle Albertson*
Prince Yamadori Joseph Lattanzi*

*Denotes Atlanta Opera debut.

About The Atlanta Opera

Founded in 1979, The Atlanta Opera is one of the finest regional opera companies in the nation. By producing live, mainstage performances of the highest quality and impactful community engagement experiences, The Atlanta Opera enriches lives through the power of opera. The Opera strives to attract the finest international, national, and regional singers, conductors, stage directors, and designers. Each season, The Atlanta Opera presents three productions at the Cobb Energy Centre, drawing audiences from the entire metropolitan Atlanta area as well as from the Southeast region.

Sponsors

The Atlanta Opera is proud to recognize The Coca-Cola Company as the Opening Night Sponsor of the Opera.

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Media Contacts:

David M. Paule

dpaule@atlantaopera.org

404-881-9194