

Playing
Time
2:19:26

Giacomo
PUCCINI
(1858 – 1924)

Madama Butterfly

Madama Butterfly Maria Callas
B. F. Pinkerton Nicolai Gedda
Suzuki Lucia Danieli
Sharpless Mario Borriello
Goro Renato Ercolani
Kate Pinkerton Luisa Villa
Prince Yamadori Mario Carlin
The Bonze Plinio Clabassi
Imperial Commissioner Enrico Campi

Chorus and Orchestra of Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Norberto Mola, Chorus Master

Herbert von Karajan

Recorded 1st – 6th August, 1955

at Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Twenty years after the death of Maria Callas, *The Gramophone* critic J. B. Steane wrote of this 1955 recording of *Madama Butterfly*: "Callas' Butterfly! That I would keep till last in the dreaded shipwreck, earthquake, house on fire, or whatever... she is the best of all recorded Madama Butterflies". The recording is further distinguished by beautifully idiomatic performances from the Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan, conducted by Herbert von Karajan who, already at the peak of his powers, had been approached by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra to become their Chief Conductor.

CD 1	76:32	CD 2	62:54
1-13 Act I	51:41	1-8 Act II, Part I (concluded)	28:17
14-18 Act II, Part I	24:51	9-16 Act II, Part 2	34:37

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
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Cover photo: Maria Callas posing as Cio-Cio-San at home, Milan, Summer 1955
(Gina Guandalini Collection, used with kind permission)

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