

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

An Introduction to... PUCCINI *Madama Butterfly*

written by **Thomson Smillie**
narrated by **David Timson**

Madama Butterfly really does run the gamut of operatic emotion. The title heroine has a fragility wonderfully expressed in her entry music, deep sexual instincts as shown in the love duet, and immense tragic stature in her last hours. The fate of *Madama Butterfly* – married to an American sailor and then abandoned – engages our emotions, as it obviously did Puccini's, to a degree equalled by few other opera heroines. The oriental setting and the exquisite orchestral and choral writings are treasured bonuses.

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