



DDD

8.660078-79

Playing Time
139:36

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One of the most popular operas in the repertoire, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* exists in several versions. This recording of the 1904 La Scala Milan version affords a rare opportunity to hear the composer's very first thoughts. Listeners familiar with the frequently recorded "Paris" version of 1906 will discover first of all that its Acts II and III were originally a continuous Act II. The earlier version contains some 130 bars of music that were subsequently deleted including, in Act II, a longer *Intermezzo* and a more extended version of Butterfly's lullaby. There are also many smaller additions or differences in scoring.



Giacomo
PUCCINI
(1858-1924)



Madama Butterfly

Opera in Two Acts
(1904 First Performance Version)

Butterfly (Cio-Cio-San) Svetlana Katchour
F.B. Pinkerton (Naval Lieutenant of the USA) Bruce Rankin
Suzuki, servant (Butterfly's maid) Fredrika Brillemburg
Sharpless (Consul of the USA in Nagasaki) Heikki Kilpeläinen
Goro (A marriage broker) Uwe Eikötter
Kate Pinkerton (F.B. Pinkerton's wife) Kristen Strejc
Prince Yamadori Loren Christopher Lang
Bonzo (Cio-Cio-San's uncle) Andreas Haller
Yakusidé (Cio-Cio-San's uncle) Armin Kolarczyk

Bremen Theatre Chorus • Theo Wiedebusch, Chorus-Master
Bremen Philharmonic State Orchestra • Günter Neuhold

CD 1

CD 2

[1]-22 Act I & II (Part 1)

67:34 [1]-24 Act II (Part 2)

72:02

A complete artist and track list can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet

Recorded at Bremen Theatre, Stuh, Germany, from 15th to 19th December, 1997

Engineer: Klaus Schumann • Recording Assistant: Ingeborg Schmidt • Recording Technician: Hans-Peter Knetsch

Production Assistants: Charly Plinke and Ulrike Franz-Heintzeler • Italian Language Coach: Massimo Zanetti

Recording Supervisor, Editing and Mastering: Andreas Heintzeler • Producer: Peter Schilbach • Booklet Notes: Jürgen

Maehder, Arthur Groos and Michele Girardi • Cover Picture: Stage Design for Act II, Teatro alla Scala, 1904, by Carlo Songa

A co-production with Radio Bremen and Bremer Theater • With grateful thanks to the Verein der Theaterfreunde Bremen