

Macbeth

The Marriage of Figaro

Madama Butterfly

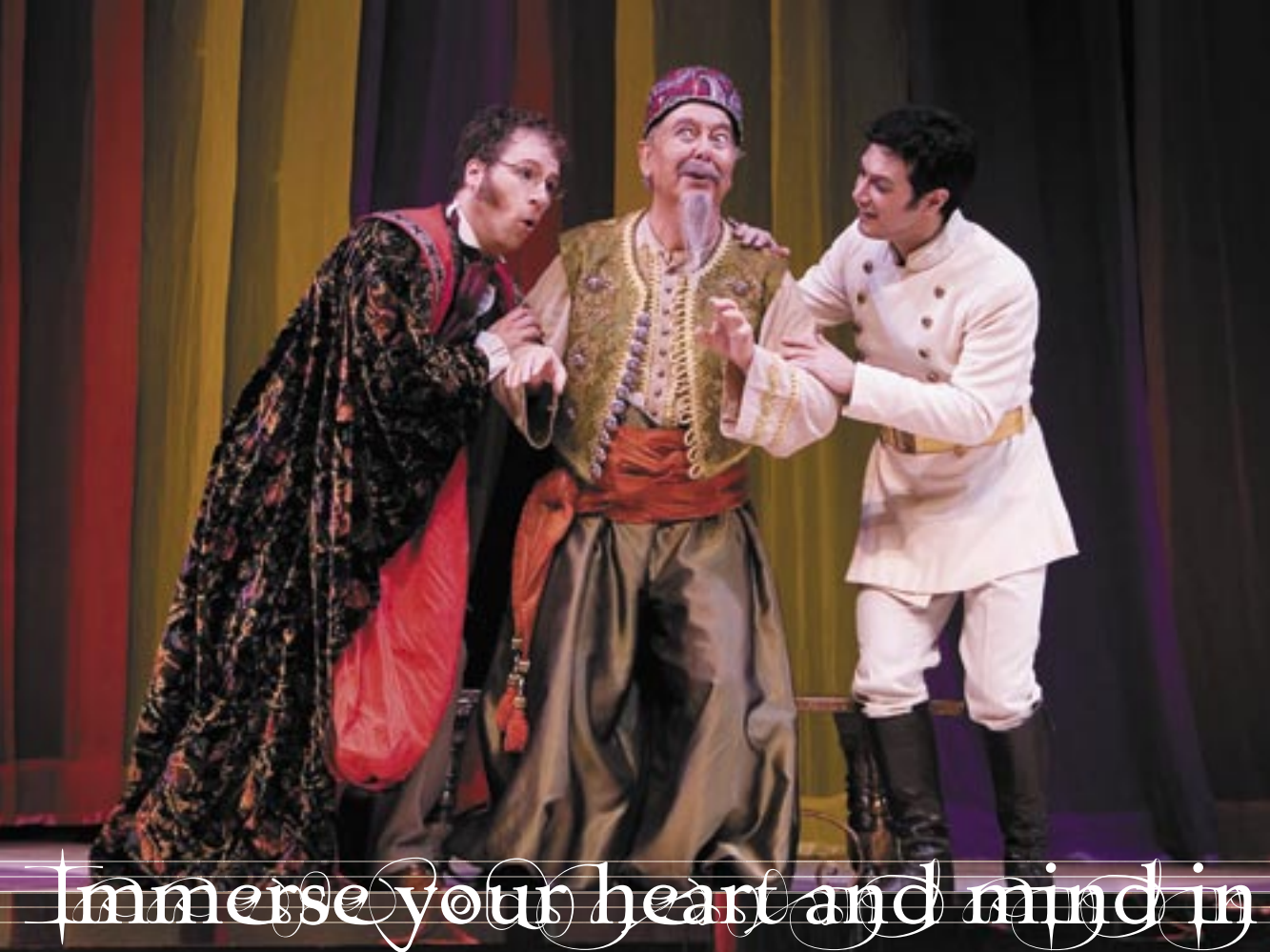


ARIZONA OPERA 2006 > 07 SEASON

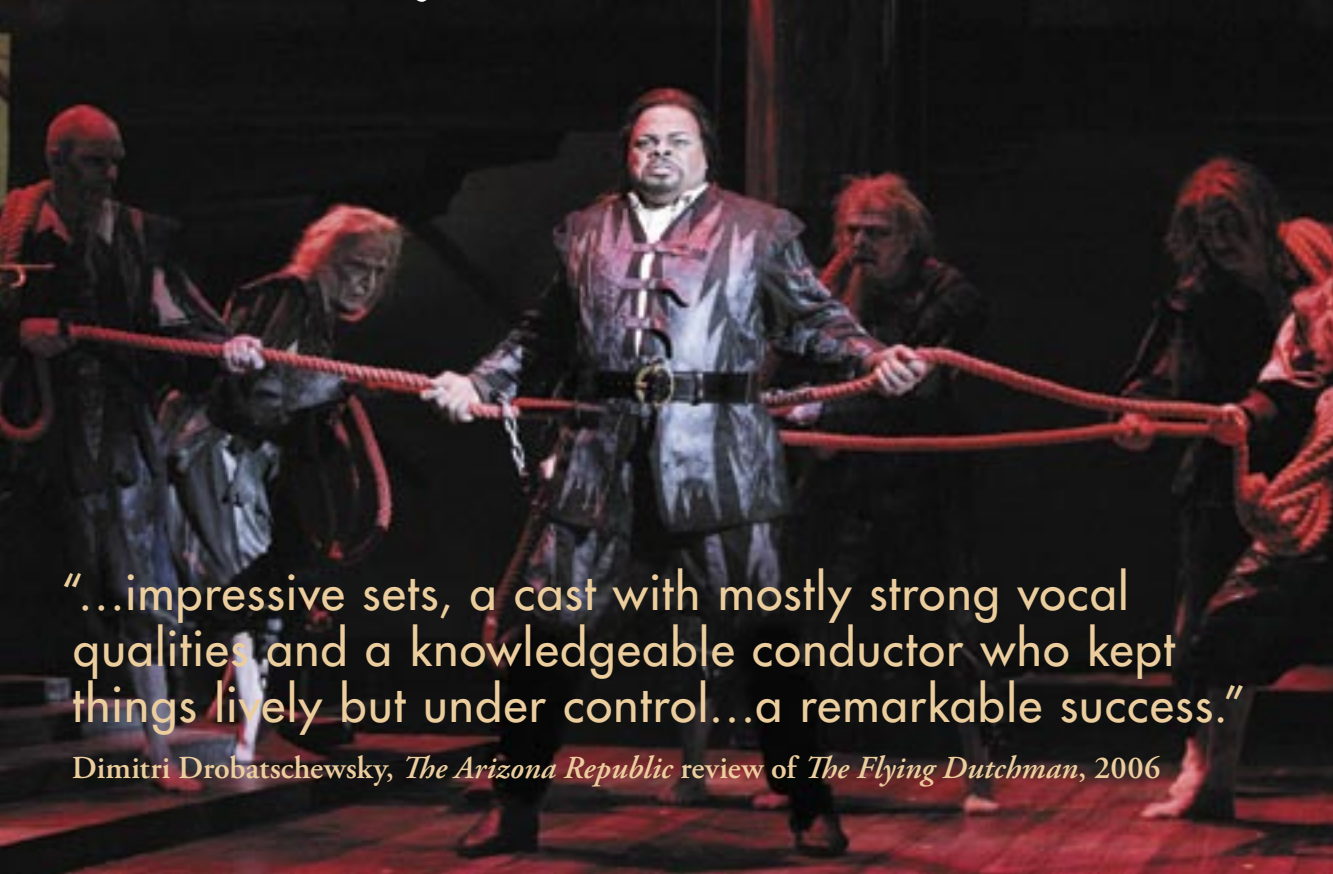
Beauty & the Beast

Susannah

JOEL REVZEN, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Immerse your heart and mind in Opera]



"...impressive sets, a cast with mostly strong vocal qualities and a knowledgeable conductor who kept things lively but under control...a remarkable success."

Dimitri Drobatschewsky, *The Arizona Republic* review of *The Flying Dutchman*, 2006

Carimen photo courtesy of Scott Humbert Photography.

The simple utterance, "I'm going to the opera" has magical meaning. You are immediately transformed from a life of predictability to one of tantalizing promise. A promise that the experience will engulf you. A promise that before you, on a glittering stage, raw, unbridled emotions of love lost and regained, honor challenged, and betrayals exposed will flow as the performers find you. They feel your energy and you're compelled to respond. Sometimes silently to yourself, other times with a rousing cheer. There is no such thing as a passive observer at the opera. From the moment you enter the theater, the lights dim and the lavish setting unfolds before you, you're swept up in the rich, personal experience and enter another realm. Intense. Inspiring. There is no other place quite like the opera, and you're part of it.



Macbeth

TUC OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2006
PHX OCTOBER 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2006



Photo courtesy of Seattle Opera © Rozarii Lynch photo.

Turbulent 19th century Italy is the stage for Shakespeare's tortured tale of one man's self-destruction in his mad quest for power.

Macbeth, the last of William Shakespeare's four great tragedies (Hamlet, King Lear and Othello were the other three) finds new vibrancy in Giuseppe Verdi's stirring opera set during the Italian Risorgimento period that culminated in the unification of Italy. This is an intense, masterful piece of musical drama that unlike many operas, does not center around a love story. Instead, you are taken on a dark, ominous journey and follow Macbeth in his bloody and crazed rise to power. Emboldened by the prophecies of a trio of witches, and encouraged by his wife, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth sets upon claiming his destiny by murder and deceit. Violent and often gruesome, with blood flowing from the castle ramparts, Macbeth is only for the strong-of-heart. But view and hear Macbeth in all of its expressive grandeur, and you will be treated to one of the greatest dramas and psychological stories ever set to opera. You will leave understanding that, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." This breathtaking new production will be unveiled in May when the Seattle Opera presents the premiere. Our performance is also co-produced with the Seattle Opera. Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

featuring

"radiant high notes, blazing coloratura facility, subtle dynamic shadings, & grand musical style"

OPERA MAGAZINE



Brenda Harris
LADY MACBETH

"...tall, dark & handsome; his posture is arrogant & his manner quite dazzling."

THE MELBOURNE TIMES



Louis Otey
MACBETH

"an outstanding performance."

OPERA NEWS



Lori Phillips
LADY MACBETH

Opening Night
Sponsored by
Snell & Wilmer
L.L.P.
LAW OFFICES

Macbeth

by Giuseppe Verdi



In this romantic 18th century romp, Figaro and Susanna are to be wed but other hearts must first find contentment in the intrigue-filled royal castle.

Stirred by the majestic music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and considered one of his greatest achievements, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*) follows the escapades of Figaro, the servant of the Count Almaviva and Susanna, the maid of the Countess. The two lovers anxiously plan their wedding day as other romantic mayhem unfolds within the palace walls involving the Count, his wife and page, and Figaro's former landlady. But by the end of the crazy day, Figaro weds his devoted Susanna as the parade of other colorful characters scheme and stumble their way to finding their hearts' desire, too. When this opera first premiered in 1786 in Vienna, it was banned because of its strong political undertones and very-apparent mockery of the aristocracy. Amid Mozart's beautiful score, you will also take delight in the stunningly ornate sets that captures the time period of classical music, from the richly-painted walls and gilded opera right down to the lavish costumes and powdered wigs. A memorable experience not to be missed! Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

The Marriage of Figaro

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

featuring



Christian Van Horn
FIGARO

"Christian Van Horn makes a vigorous Figaro..."

CHICAGO MAGAZINE



Lisa Saffer
SUSANNA

"Her feats of singing deserve special praise."

THE GLOBE



Sir Thomas Allen
DIRECTOR

"Thomas Allen [is] a Music Master of supreme vocal and dramatic authority."

NEWSDAY

Production Sponsored by

David & Mary Jo Christensen



deception seduction

TUC NOVEMBER 11 & 12, 2006
PHX NOVEMBER 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2006



sorrow love shame

PHX JANUARY 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2007
TUC FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2007

featuring

“Substantial voice...”

LONDON SUNDAY TIMES



Indra Mahajan
CIO-CIO SAN

“...whose well-sung arias had a youthful, genuine quality...”

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER



Kip Wilborn
PINKERTON

“Barbara Divis’ soprano has blossomed...”

NEW YORK TIMES



Barbara Divis
CIO-CIO SAN

Production Sponsored by
KAIZEN INSTITUTE

Underwritten by the generosity of an anonymous donor



Photo courtesy Minnesota Opera.

Cultures clash and passions collide in the tragic story of the geisha girl who patiently waits for the return of the man she loves.

Said to be the most beloved opera ever written, *Madame Butterfly* is the heartbreaking story of the young Japanese girl Cio-Cio-San (Butterfly) who marries the dashing American naval officer, Benjamin Pinkerton. A child is born and when Pinkerton sails off, Cio-Cio-San still patiently and dutifully awaits his return, even after three years with no correspondence. When Pinkerton does return, it is with his new American bride. Realizing the horrible truth, Cio-Cio-San tragically takes her own life after agreeing to her son’s adoption by Pinkerton and his wife. First performed as an opera in Milan, Italy in 1907 with an emotionally-charged musical composition by Giacomo Puccini, *Madame Butterfly* reflected the West’s fascination with Japanese literature and fashion at the time. The opera’s heart-stirring arias will move you as you are taken on a journey to an exotic land, to the outskirts of 19th century Nagasaki. The authentic Asian sets are stunning, from the lush gardens of a Japanese villa to the clean, graceful lines of a home’s interior with their delicate paper screens. Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

Madama Butterfly

by Giacomo Puccini



Everlasting love transcends all as a devoted daughter and a cursed prince are brought together in this magical fairytale setting.

Enter a fascinating world of human topiaries and fantastic bird women that is truly a feast for both your eyes and ears. This lush and grand production of *Beauty and the Beast* will certainly please both young and old, even those who this may be their first exposure to the world of opera. *Beauty and the Beast* has continued to delight audiences ever since its 1771 debut in France where Queen Marie Antoinette marveled at this charming spectacle. Whimsical, stirring and elegant are all words used to describe the music created by Andre Ernest Modeste Grétry, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's favorite composer. The touching story of a beautiful young girl who, in the course of aiding her father, meets the prince Azor who has been transformed into a hideous beast as punishment for his selfish character, is brought to vivid life in this poignant performance. In the end, Azor's unselfish love is declared, the enchantment is broken and the beast is transformed back into the handsome prince. The couple is joyfully joined together. Hailed last year at its premier in St. Louis, now is your special opportunity to see this magnificent piece. Sung in English with English surtitles.

Beauty & the Beast

by André Modeste Grétry

featuring

Monica Yunus
ZÉMIRE

"charmingly melodious"
WALL STREET JOURNAL

John McVeigh
AZOR

"...a sweetly lyrical voice"
NEW YORK TIMES

Hugh Russell
SANDER

"Vocally solid & completely convincing as Zémire's besieged father."
KDHX REVIEW

Production Sponsored by
Jack & Marguerite Clifford



true love transforms
a hideous beast into a handsome prince

TUC MARCH 3 & 4, 2007
PHX MARCH 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2007