



PRESS RELEASE

Well Loved Opera returns to Stambaugh Auditorium

Contact: Lynn Sabeh
Administrative Assistant
Opera Western Reserve
admasst@operawesternreserve.org
Telephone: 330-480-0693

Secondary Contact: Jamie Fleeson
Director of Advertising & Design
Stambaugh Auditorium
jfleeson@stambaughauditorium.com
Telephone: 330-747-5175

For Immediate Release:

On Friday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m., Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* will return to Stambaugh Auditorium presented by Opera Western Reserve. *Madama Butterfly* tells the story of a young Japanese geisha who clings to the idea that her relationship with a visiting American naval officer is loving and permanent. English translations will be projected above the stage to assist guests in following the story, as the opera will be beautifully sung in Italian. Marian Vogel, who has starred in *La Bohème* and *Tosca*, returns to sing the title role of Butterfly.

On a short stay in Nagasaki, Japan, Navy Lieutenant Benjamin Pinkerton enters into a marriage with a geisha named Madama Butterfly. Though Butterfly is overjoyed at their situation, Pinkerton anticipates returning to the United States and marrying an American woman.

With high hopes that her American husband would return to her, Butterfly stayed true to Pinkerton despite many marriage proposals. After years away, the American soldiers return only to crush Butterfly with the news that Pinkerton has taken a wife in the United States. Broken hearted and feeling helpless, Butterfly takes the situation into her own hands creating the tragedy that makes this story so timeless.

Preceding the performance will be a plated dinner provided by Chrystal's Catering. The \$60 dinner ticket includes four courses, beverages, and entertainment. The menu starts with hand rolled risotto balls and hot peppers and oil with artisan bread. A wild green salad will be served with sun-dried tomatoes, peppers, and olives finished with a herb vinaigrette. Sautéed chicken breast topped with artichoke hearts and a creamy basil sauce leads the entrée paired with seashell pasta and broccoli aglio olio. Handmade amaretto cake with buttercream frosting will finish the meal. Reservations must be made by November 13.

Tickets for the opera performance and the dinner are now available through the Florence and Ward Beecher Box Office at Stambaugh Auditorium. Reserved seats, for *Madama Butterfly*, range in price from \$25-\$75. The pre-opera dinner ticket does not include admission to the show. The box office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Contact the box office with questions by calling 330-259-0555. Tickets can also be purchased online at stambaughauditorium.com

About Opera Western Reserve:

Opera Western Reserve is a professional opera company in their 14th year of residence at Stambaugh Auditorium. All productions are completely created in the Mahoning Valley. OWR features singers from the Western Reserve area, which includes Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. For more information, visit operawesternreserve.org or call 330-480-0693.