



OUR 57TH SEASON 2026-2027

PUCCINI'S
**Madama
Butterfly**



November 7, 8, 14, & 15, 2026, at 3 PM

**Free open dress rehearsal with orchestra
November 5, 2026, at 7 PM**

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Lighting Design Eka Savajol
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Assistant Conductor Emily Lōa-Swain
Backstage Conductor Rachel Spund
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Japanese Cultural Consultant..... Yoko Yamashita
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Redmond, Alycia Scott, Tyrone Owusu Slater, Santo Trapani
Program Printed by The Ink Shop

All performances at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School,
5902 6th Ave., Brooklyn, New York

REGINA OPERA COMPANY

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SPECIAL THANKS to Br. Augustus J. Riviere, Rector, and Rev. Joseph Dionne, Parochial Administrator, OLPH Parish; Ana Ruth Leon de Santos, OLPH Parish Secretary; Deborah Ross, OLPH Parish Volunteer; Isidro, Raul, and Steven, OLPH Maintenance Staff; Barry Cohen; Peter C. Orlandi, CPA; and The Ink Shop. Orchestra reduction by Bryan Higgins, courtesy of Motet Music Publishing Company.

The Cast

NOVEMBER 5 OPEN ORCHESTRA DRESS REHEARSAL

Butterfly: Makīla Kirchner
Pinkerton: David Freides
Suzuki: Julie Silva
Sharpless: Eliam Ramos
Goro: Pharel Jonathan Silaban
Prince Yamadori: Daniel Chiu
The Bonze: Eli Panek
Yakusidé: Warren B. Harding
Kate Pinkerton: Katherine Thompson
Imperial Commissioner: Victor Jaquez
Registrar: Thomas Geib
Mother: Elizabeth Moulton
Cousin: Morgan Mooney
Aunt: Emma Ritto
Dolore: Mae Valentina Batista
Servants: Ayako Landsberg, Rachel Spund
Dancer: Yoko Yamashita

NOVEMBER 7 PERFORMANCE

Butterfly: Makīla Kirchner
Pinkerton: David Freides
Suzuki: Shanelle Woods
Sharpless: Eliam Ramos
Goro: Ian Harris
Prince Yamadori: Daniel Chiu
The Bonze: Gennadiy Vysotskiy
Yakusidé: Theron LePage
Kate Pinkerton: Katherine Thompson
Imperial Commissioner: Victor Jaquez
Registrar: Thomas Geib
Mother: Elizabeth Moulton
Cousin: Morgan Mooney
Aunt: Emma Ritto
Dolore: Theodore Courtois
Servants: Ayako Landsberg, Rachel Spund
Dancer: Yoko Yamashita

NOVEMBER 8 PERFORMANCE

Butterfly: Jihye Seo
Pinkerton: Christopher Trapani
Suzuki: Manya Gaver-Holmes
Sharpless: Robert Garner
Goro: Lindell Carter
Prince Yamadori: Handong Fu
The Bonze: Steven Fredericks
Yakusidé: Warren B. Harding
Kate Pinkerton: Lauren Stokke
Imperial Commissioner: Marc Cioffi
Registrar: Sam Elliott Siddiqui
Mother: Queen Hamilton, II
Cousin: Julia Johnstone
Aunt: Rachel Spund
Dolore: Mae Valentina Batista
Servants: Ayako Landsberg, Emma Ritto
Dancer: Yoko Yamashita

NOVEMBER 14 PERFORMANCE

Butterfly: Jihye Seo
Pinkerton: Christopher Trapani
Suzuki: Shanelle Woods
Sharpless: Robert Garner
Goro: Lindell Carter
Prince Yamadori: Handong Fu
The Bonze: Steven Fredericks
Yakusidé: Warren B. Harding
Kate Pinkerton: Lauren Stokke
Imperial Commissioner: Marc Cioffi
Registrar: Sam Elliott Siddiqui
Mother: Queen Hamilton, II
Cousin: Julia Johnstone
Aunt: Rachel Spund
Dolore: Mae Valentina Batista
Servants: Ayako Landsberg, Emma Ritto
Dancer: Yoko Yamashita

NOVEMBER 15 PERFORMANCE

Butterfly: Makila Kirchner
Pinkerton: David Freides
Suzuki: Manya Gaver-Holmes
Sharpless: Eliam Ramos
Goro: Ian Harris
Prince Yamadori: Daniel Chiu
The Bonze: Gennadiy Vysotskiy
Yakusidé: Theron LePage
Kate Pinkerton: Katherine Thompson
Imperial Commissioner: Victor Jaquez
Registrar: Thomas Geib
Mother: Elizabeth Moulton
Cousin: Morgan Mooney
Aunt: Emma Ritto
Dolore: Theodore Courtois
Servants: Ayako Landsberg, Rachel Spund
Dancer: Yoko Yamashita

Ensemble

Benjamin Austin, Jessica DeGennaro, Thomas Geib, Catherine Greco, Queen Hamilton, II, Warren B. Harding, Wayne Huang, Laura Ann Heckman, Elijah John-Burnley, Julia Johnstone, Nicole Kuchta, Ayako Landsberg, Theron LePage, Morgan Mooney, Elizabeth Moulton, Wayne Olsen, Kyung (Jonathan) Pak, Melissa Perry, Renna Popli, Emma Ritto, Sam Elliott Siddiqui, Rachel Spund, Lauren Stokke, Giovanna Yaqi Yang



The Story of *Madama Butterfly*

Act I: Nagasaki, Japan, 1904. Goro shows off the new house that Pinkerton has just leased for his upcoming marriage to a geisha. Pinkerton brags to Sharpless that both his lease and his marriage are short-term and ignores Sharpless's warning that the bride may be truly in love, toasting the day on which he will marry a real American bride. Goro announces the arrival of Butterfly and her friends. Pinkerton is enchanted with her artless charm. She explains that she is from a noble but poor family and was forced to become a geisha to support herself. When Sharpless asks about her father, she becomes embarrassed and replies briefly, "Dead." Sharpless asks how old she is; she reveals that she is only 15. Sharpless is shocked, but Pinkerton is thrilled. The parade of officials and relatives begins. Sharpless again warns Pinkerton that Butterfly is in earnest. Butterfly shows Pinkerton her few trinkets, including a mysterious box. Goro whispers to Pinkerton that the Mikado had given her father a knife with the invitation to kill himself, and he obeyed. Butterfly confides to Pinkerton that she secretly converted to Christianity for him and vows that she would even give up her family. The marriage ceremony takes place. As Sharpless departs, he advises Pinkerton to be careful. Pinkerton's wedding toast is interrupted by Butterfly's uncle, the Bonze, who denounces her for giving up her religion. Pinkerton throws him out, and the family goes off shouting imprecations. Pinkerton comforts Butterfly. When she goes into the house to undress for her wedding night. Pinkerton is consumed with desire. They declare their passion and retire for their wedding night.

Act II: Three years later. Suzuki prays for Butterfly and warns her that if Pinkerton does not return soon, they will be ruined. Butterfly is adamant that he will return. Sharpless arrives, and Butterfly welcomes him to her "American" house. He tries to show her a letter from Pinkerton, but she continually interrupts him. Goro has been urging her to marry Prince Yamadori, who now arrives to press his suit, but she firmly declares that she is already married. Sharpless confides to Goro and Yamadori that he has come to give Butterfly the bad news that Pinkerton will soon be in Japan but does not want to see her. The disappointed Yamadori leaves. Sharpless now begins to read the letter to Butterfly, but she, joyously believing that Pinkerton is coming back, does not hear the rest of it. Sharpless gives up, cursing Pinkerton, and asks Butterfly what she would do if Pinkerton never came back. Shocked, she replies that she could either go back to being a geisha, or,

better, die. Sharpless urges her to accept Yamadori's proposal, but Butterfly, stunned and hurt, asks him to leave. Then, crying, "Has he forgotten me?" she runs out of the room and returns with her little son, Sorrow. Pinkerton does not know about the child, who was born after he left Japan. She imagines having to beg in the streets and swears that she would rather die. Sharpless leaves, promising to write to Pinkerton. Moments later, Suzuki drags Goro in, cursing him for spreading the lie that no one knows who Sorrow's father is. Butterfly threatens to kill him. Then a cannon shot is heard: Pinkerton's ship has arrived. Butterfly and Suzuki fill the room with flowers. Butterfly puts on her wedding dress, and, with Suzuki and Sorrow, sits by the door and awaits her husband.

Act III. Dawn the next day. Butterfly is still waiting. Suzuki urges her to rest. Butterfly takes Sorrow into the other room. When Pinkerton and Sharpless arrive, Suzuki goes to call Butterfly, but they stop her. She spies a woman in the garden and is devastated to learn that she is Pinkerton's wife. Sharpless urges her to convince Butterfly to give up her child. Pinkerton, filled with remorse, rushes away. Kate Pinkerton promises Suzuki that she will take good care of the child. Suzuki tries in vain to stop Butterfly from coming in, but she rushes about the room, looking for Pinkerton. She then sees Kate in the garden and becomes afraid. When she is told that Pinkerton will never return to her, she realizes that Kate is his wife and that she has come to take Sorrow. Kate asks her forgiveness. Butterfly stoically asks that Pinkerton himself come for the child in a half hour. When Kate and Sharpless leave, Butterfly is overcome by grief. She orders Suzuki to leave. Then she takes out her father's knife and reads the inscription: "He who cannot live with honor dies with honor." She is about to stab herself when Suzuki sends Sorrow in. Butterfly embraces the child and urges him to remember his mother's face. She gives him an American flag and a toy, and blindfolds him. Then she stabs herself. Pinkerton and Sharpless rush into the room to find her lifeless body.

INTRODUCING . . .

MAE VALENTINA BATISTA (Dolore) is a public-school student, attending fifth grade. She lives in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, with her parents, older sister, and younger brother. She has been playing piano since she was six. She is also a student of Brooklyn Judo Academy. She is fluent in Russian and Spanish.

LINDELL CARTER (Goro) - A native of the Bronx, NY, tenor Lindell Carter has appeared on opera and concert stages across the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Recent performances include the ensemble in *Porgy and Bess* at the Metropolitan Opera, the title role in *Faust* at L'Opéra Comique de Lyon, and Belmonte at the Winter Harbor Music Festival. Mr. Carter is pleased to return to the stage with Regina Opera where he's performed many roles including Pinkerton, Rodolfo, and others.

DANIEL CHIU (Yamadori), from East Setauket, NY, has studied at Manhattan School of Music (MM, 2021) and SUNY New Paltz (BS, 2018). Roles include Dancaïro (*Carmen*), Barone (*La Traviata*), Sciarrone (*Tosca*), Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Bob (*The Old Maid and the Thief*), Gabriel von Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), and Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*). Daniel can be found singing for the Church of the Ascension, St. Thomas Church, the NY Philharmonic Chorus, as well as "Luminescence" at St. Patrick's Cathedral through early January.

MARC CIOFFI (Commissioner) is a bass-baritone currently pursuing his Master of Music in Vocal Arts at the Mannes School of Music under the guidance of Stephen Powell. His 2025 engagements included Colline in *La Bohème* with Regina Opera, Pantalone in Busoni's *Turandot* at Mannes School of Music, Vodník in *Rusalka* with LAHSOW at AVA, and the Marchese in *La Traviata* with New Jersey Opera Theater. Previous appearances include Melisso in *Alcina* (New York Opera Forum) and Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (LAHSOW at AVA).

RICHARD EVANS (Technical Director) is a retired electronics engineer. He and his wife Lynn sold their home of 40+ years in Connecticut and moved to Brooklyn in 2014 so that they could attend more operas and Off-Broadway shows and enjoy the Brooklyn vibe. Looking for things to do, Richard worked at restoration on the old tanker ship *Mary A. Whalen* in Red Hook for a few years. He then responded to Regina Opera's call for help and joined as a stagehand. He is now the company carpenter and set designer.

STEVEN FREDERICKS (Bonze) recently sang Marke in *Tristan und Isolde* with Connecticut Lyric, Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with Salt Marsh Opera, Filippo in *Don Carlo* with Fulham Opera (London), and Rossini's

Stabat Mater and Mozart's *Requiem* with Konzert Opera Firenze (Italy). Other credits include the title role in *Der fliegende Holländer* with Connecticut Lyric, Boïto's *Mefistofele* with Taconic Opera, and *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall. Internationally, Chuvash State Theatre (Russia) as Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, Commendatore at Greve Festival (Italy), and Tod in *Kaiser von Atlantis* with Israel Chamber Orchestra.

DAVID FREIDES (Pinkerton) is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music. Raised in New Jersey, David began as a trumpet player but switched paths to singing during his college years. Recently he has performed as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* with Sarasota Opera, as Albazar in Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* with Teatro Nuovo at the Rose Theater in Lincoln Center, and with Regina Opera as Don José in *Carmen*. A student of Arturo Spinetti, David lives in Queens pursuing a career in music.

HANDONG FU (Yamadori) holds a Professional Studies Diploma from the Mannes School of Music and a Master's Degree from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and is a member of the Talent Cultivation Program at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. Handong has performed leading roles in numerous operas in the US, Europe, and China, including Escamillo in *Carmen*, Marcello in *La Bohème*, Sprecher in *Die Zauberflöte*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, and Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

ROBERT GARNER (Sharpless) - appearances at Regina Opera include: title role of *Gianni Schicchi*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, Germont in *La Traviata* and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Other repertoire includes the title roles of *Eugene Onegin*, *Nabucco*, *Don Giovanni*, *Rigoletto*, Ford in *Falstaff* and Marcello in *La Bohème*. Since 2007, Mr. Garner has been a member of The Metropolitan Opera associate chorus, appearing in many productions in both New York and on tour in Japan.

MANYA GAVER-HOLMES (Suzuki) is delighted to join Regina Opera for her sixth show after appearing as Mercedes and Zia Principessa last season. She enjoys performing Gilbert & Sullivan, including Little Buttercup at the International G&S Festival in Buxton, England. Many appeared as the Sorceress in a sold-out performance of *Dido and Aeneas* with Opera Picciona, which she co-founded (www.opnyc.org). Favorite roles include Katisha (*Mikado*) and Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon*). She is excited to be running her first marathon in the fall! ManyatheMezzo.com

THOMAS GEIB (Stage Manager/Registrar) is excited to be a part of another Regina Opera production. Previous opera/opera roles include the Organ Grinder in *Il Tabarro*, Dancaïro in *Carmen*, Vespone in *La Serva Padrona*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Imperial Commissioner/Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Customs Sergeant in *La Bohème*, Amelia's Servant in *Un Ballo in*

Maschera, Bogdanowitsch in *The Merry Widow*, and Fezziwig/Charwoman in *Scrooge & Gilbert & Sullivan*.

QUEEN HAMILTON, II (Mother) is an alum of NYU Steinhardt and the College of Charleston. Having moved to New York two years ago, most of her professional career has taken place in South Carolina. Most recently, she played 3rd Spirit in Delaware Valley Opera's *Magic Flute*, and she last worked with Regina as a member of the chorus for their production of *Carmen*.

WARREN B. HARDING (Yakusidé), a Brooklyn, NY, native, performed as the Jailer (*Tosca*) and the Marquis (*La Traviata*) with Regina Opera. Ensemble performances with Regina Opera and Liederkrantz Opera Theatre include: *La Bohème*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Faust*, *Susannah*, and *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Additional performances include Wolf in the children's opera *Knightly News* (Delaware Valley Opera Company), Martin in *Candide* (Heights Players, Brooklyn), Spinelloccio/Amantio di Nicolao (*Gianni Schicchi*), and guest soloist in Fauré's *Requiem*.

IAN HARRIS (Goro), a San Francisco Bay Area native, is a New York-based tenor. Recent credits include covering Normanno (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with New York Orchestra Project, Remendado (*Carmen: Opera in Concert*) and the Hunter (*Rusalka*) with the Manhattan School of Music. He has also performed as Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) with Vienna Opera Festival, Roméo (*Roméo et Juliette*) and Le Doyen de la Faculté (*Cendrillon*) with Utah Valley Opera Festival, and Fenton (cover) in Pocket Opera's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

VICTOR JAQUEZ (Commissioner) is a Certified Public Accountant by day and an opera singer by night! Previous credits include Sarastro (*The Magic Flute*) with Amore Opera, Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with the NYC Orchestra Project, Colas (*Bastien und Bastienne*) with Opera Picciona, and Zuniga (*Carmen*) with Regina Opera. Victor currently studies privately with Terence Goff. He is thrilled to be playing the Imperial Commissioner with Regina!

JULIA JOHNSTONE (Cousin), Canadian lyric soprano, previously sang with Regina Opera Company in *Carmen* and *La Bohème*. Recent performances include the world premieres of Marco Catella's *Prince Cnut* and *To Night* with Ex Corde, and Despina (*Così Fan Tutte*) with Utah Valley Operafest. Upcoming: The New York Pops' *Sleigh Bells Ring* at Carnegie Hall, and Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, in concert) at Snug Harbor Cultural Center. She holds degrees from Manhattan School of Music and the University of British Columbia.

MAKĪLA KIRCHNER (Butterfly) - Hailed as a “stunning coloratura soprano” of “dazzling high notes and cutting sound” (*Voce di meche*) with “a mad scene worthy of La Scala” (*Red Hook Star-Revue*), Makīla is an emerging, commanding artist who recently made her role debut as Gilda in Verdi’s *Rigoletto* with Arte Concert Opera in Lincoln Center, as well as Violetta in Verdi’s *La Traviata* with Regina Opera. She also made her role debut with Collegium Musicum New York as Donna Anna in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*.

MARCIA C. KRESGE (Costumes) began as a teen sewing her own clothes and grew to making costumes and headpieces. As a designer, dancer, teacher, and performing artist, she collaborates with directors (and artists) to realize the vision of a time period, the emotions, and the characters, whether played by schoolchildren or by professional singers and dancers. She designed and performed in *The Seagull*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, ballets with American Ballet Russe, the Freeman Repertory Dance Company, and the Folk Dance Theatre.

THERON LePAGE (Yakusidé), baritone and Missouri native, is beginning his master’s degree studies in vocal performance at Mannes School of Music in New York City. He is thrilled to appear in Regina Opera’s production of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*.

EMILY LŌA-SWAIN (Assistant Conductor) - Equally at home with chamber music, song, and operatic repertoire, Dr. Lōa-Swain has been especially passionate in coaching singers and working on orchestral reduction/realization on piano. Her operatic repertoire includes *Il Trittico*, *La Rondine*, *Armide*, *Rape of Lucretia*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *I Pagliacci*, and *La Traviata*. Since 2023, she has served as an independent contractor to Stony Brook University Music Department for mostly instrumental recital projects.

MORGAN MOONEY (Cousin) earned her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Georgia State University, where she performed with the ensemble in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Mikado* and Mercy Lewis in Robert Ward’s *The Crucible*. Morgan has also been heard as La bergère Louis XV in Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortilèges* with Spotlight on Opera’s 2021 season. Most recently, Morgan has been heard in the ensemble of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and as Gretchen in *The Student Prince* with Regina Opera.

ELIZABETH MOULTON (Mother) is so happy to be expanding her work here at Regina Opera Company. She was most recently seen reprising her role as La Maestra delle Novizie in last season’s *Suor Angelica*, having also performed the role in the 2013 production. Recently, she debuted with Delaware Valley Opera this summer as Third Lady in their Production of *The*

Magic Flute. Elizabeth celebrates twenty-one years with Regina Opera, having sung her first role with them in 2005.

WAYNE OLSEN (Graphic Design), a Bay Ridge resident, holds degrees in Fine Art and Art History from Brooklyn College, as well as a degree in Graphic Communications from Brooklyn Technical College. Mr. Olsen has received a CLIO Award, and his work has appeared in *Graphis*. Mr. Olsen has designed sets for productions of *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Impresario*, *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Don Pasquale*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Hansel and Gretel*, among others.

ELI PANEK (Bonze cover) is a bass from Kansas City, Missouri. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Kansas, studying under Dr. John Stephens. Recent engagements include the Duke of Verona in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at Winter Opera of St. Louis and Tom in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Musica Le Mans. He will return to Winter Opera of St. Louis this season to play Pasha Selim and cover Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*.

ELIAM RAMOS (Sharpless) is a Puerto Rican singer with a warm and rich baritone voice who has performed opera and concert works with companies in the United States, Spain, Israel, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. His artistic engagements range from traditional opera and symphonic concerts to zarzuelas and modern compositions. *Madama Butterfly* is the sixth production he has performed with Regina Opera after participating in *Rigoletto*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Tosca*, *I Pagliacci*, and *La Bohème*.

EMMA RITTO (Aunt) is a New York-based soprano and writer. Her operatic credits include Una Conversa (*Suor Angelica*) at Regina Opera; Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Dewman (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with Manhattan Opera Studio; Lucano (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*) at Manhattan School of Music; and Barbarina (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with Saluzzo Opera Academy. She made her Opera Collective debut earlier this year as Prima Cercatrice (*Suor Angelica*). She is also the author of the poetry collection *Passion and The Shadow*.

JOHN SCHENKEL (Stage Director) directed *Gianni Schicchi* (Empire Opera, Regina Opera); *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Modus Opera); *Così Fan Tutte* (Opera of the Hamptons); *Die Fledermaus*, *Werther*, *The Old Maid and The Thief*, *Coffee Cantata*, and *The Art of Eating* (NYMVAE); *Madama Butterfly* (Bleecker Street Opera); *The Medium* and *The Telephone* (Golden Key Opera, Manhattan Opera, Regina Opera); Eakin's *Gertrude Stein: an Evening at 27 Rue de Fleurus* (Hell's Kitchen Opera); and *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Don Pasquale*, *La Bohème*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Rigoletto* (Regina Opera).

JIHYE SEO (Butterfly) - With a “sweet but fluid soprano that also managed to make its presence” (*Opera Wire*), Jihye Seo is a young South Korean soprano who has performed extensively in NYC. Roles include Marguerite (*Faust*), Dama and Lady Macbeth (study cover) in *Macbeth* with Teatro Nuovo, Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Diana (*La Calisto*), and Amore (*L’Incoronazione di Poppea*). Her upcoming performances include the BCENY Concert at Carnegie Hall.

SAM ELLIOTT SIDDIQUI (Registrar) is a bass-baritone from Queens, New York. He previously served as assistant stage manager with Regina Opera. His ensemble performances with Regina Opera include *I Pagliacci*, *Carmen*, and *La Bohème*. Sam has sung a variety of oratorio works including Verdi’s *Requiem*, Mozart’s *Requiem* and Handel’s *Messiah*. A native Urdu speaker, he is currently training in both Hindustani voice and opera.

PHAREL JONATHAN SILABAN (Goro cover), Indonesian tenor, is a two-time Asian Cultural Council Fellow and founder of Rumah Seriosa, a platform devoted to Indonesian art song. His roles include Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) at the Bay View Music Festival and Sam Polk (*Susannah*) with University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, and he tours as a soloist with the American Spiritual Ensemble. He holds degrees from the University of Kentucky, the Eastman School of Music and the Royal College of Music, London. pharelsilabantenor.com

JULIE SILVA (Suzuki cover) - With a “lovely medium deep tone” (*OperaGene*) and the panache to “steal every scene she is in” (*Opera Today*), mezzo-soprano Julie Silva brings vocal richness and stage presence to diverse repertoire. She recently performed Siébel (*Faust*) with Amore Opera and performed new operatic works as the resident mezzo with Light Opera Lab. Her credits include work with Washington National Opera, Austin Opera, Opera San Antonio, Utah Festival Opera, the Natchez Festival of Music, iSING!, and NYC Off-Off Broadway projects.

RACHEL SPUND (Aunt) is a versatile musician who has called NYC home since 2019, after she completed her Master’s degree at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She has curated a varied musical life here, performing mostly opera and church music, while teaching choir and voice lessons at a local music school. Rachel feels lucky to have worked on *Suor Angelica*, *Carmen*, and now *Madame Butterfly* with Regina Opera, a company which brings exceptional talent to an enthusiastic audience in Brooklyn.

LAUREN STOKKE (Kate) - Praised for her “stunning stage presence” and “agile, expressive vocal production” (*South Florida Classical Review*), Norwegian-American soprano Lauren Stokke brings vocal strength and

emotional vulnerability to a wide range of repertoire. Recent roles include Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with Spotlight on Opera at Tulsa Opera, Micaëla in *Carmen* at Bay View Music Festival, and the title role in *Rusalka* with LAH-SOW (Philadelphia). Lauren is delighted to appear as Kate Pinkerton in Regina Opera Company's *Madama Butterfly*.

KATHERINE THOMPSON (Kate) is a New York-based lyric soprano, thrilled to return to Regina Opera as Kate Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. She recently appeared with the company as Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen* and Suor Genovieffa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Her past operatic credits include Morgana in Handel's *Alcina*, Fortuna in Mozart's *Il Sogno di Scipione*, and Dorothée in Massenet's *Cendrillon*.

CHRISTOPHER TRAPANI (Pinkerton) is a New York City based tenor acclaimed for "his clear and vibrant upper voice" and "endearing stage presence." Title operatic roles include Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and *Faust*, and Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*. Other roles: Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Manrico in *Il Trovatore*, Don José in *Carmen*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Duke in *Rigoletto*, Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*.

GENNADIY VYSOTSKIY (Bonze) was born in Odesa, Ukraine, and graduated from the Odesa School of Music. He began acting at an early age and participated in numerous musical theater performances and major motion pictures. He graduated from the University of California at Davis, earning a double degree in Economics and Mathematics. In the last few years he has participated in productions of *The Magic Flute* and *Macbeth* with San Francisco Lyric Opera. New York performances include the Commendatore and Masetto (*Don Giovanni*).

SCOTT JACKSON WILEY (Music Director/Conductor) - In addition to his position as Music Director of the Regina Opera Orchestra, Mr. Wiley is Artistic Director and Conductor of the Centre Symphony Orchestra on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and a frequent conductor of the Staten Island Philharmonic. Mr. Wiley was a close friend of Maestro José Alejandro Guzmán, the longtime former Principal Conductor of Regina Opera and Music Director of both the Centre Symphony and the Staten Island Philharmonic.

SHANELLE WOODS (Suzuki) is a versatile performer and educator working across operatic, musical theater, and concert repertoire. Upcoming: Strauss's *Four Last Songs* (Ocala Symphony Orchestra). Opera roles include Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), Mercedes (*Carmen*), and La Badessa (*Suor Angelica*) with Regina Opera; Carmen (*Carmen*), Tituba (*The Crucible*), Jenny (*Threepenny Opera*), Alma Stinney (*Stinney: An American Execution*), The

Judge (*Stomping Grounds* world premiere: The Glimmerglass Festival). Oratorio: soprano soloist in Brahms' *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and *Messiah*. Featured engagements: Charleston Symphony Orchestra, National Sawdust, Seattle Opera.

YOKO YAMASHITA (Japanese Cultural Consultant/Dancer), a native of Japan, is a New York-based soprano, choreographer, dancer, cultural consultant, Japanese movement coach, and licensed kimono dresser. In the US, she has worked with Regina Opera, Amore Opera, and Sarasota Opera, among others. She recently began performing in Europe, where CNN Portugal featured one of her concerts in July 2026. In October 2026, she sang at Carnegie Hall in an award-winners' concert.

VIOLETTA ZABBI (Rehearsal Pianist) - A native of Odessa, Ukraine, Dr. Zabbi is currently Adjunct Professor and Vocal Coach at Adelphi University and Brooklyn College; summer program in Kiev, Ukraine; and Oyster Bay Festival. She is the music director and conductor with Vocal Productions NYC, New York Opera Studio, and Delaware Valley Opera, and is a pianist and coach with Regina Opera, Hofstra University, and Opera Manhattan Repertoire. Dr. Zabbi has performed with DCINY International at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and other concert halls.

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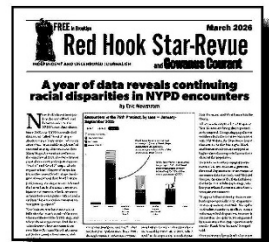


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