

OLLI May 6, 2021

CHAMBER MUSIC CINCINNATI

www.cincychamber.org

Sunday, 5/9, 4:00, streaming, free. Gloria Chien, piano; Benjamin Beilman, violin; Sean Lee, violin; Richard O'Neill, viola; Narek Hakhnazaryan, cello

- John Field, Nocturne No 2 in C minor, piano
https://youtu.be/GZmIV_vcOjo
- Franz Liszt, *Grand Duo Concertant sue la romance de 'Le Martin,'* violin and piano
<https://youtu.be/DL6dCattbrw>
- Felix Mendelssohn, Piano Quintet, Op. 1
https://youtu.be/P_YwtqgWKXI

METROPOLITAN OPERA

www.metopera.org

- Friday, 5/7, 7:30 and 23 hours thereafter, free. *Wozzeck*
- complete
<https://youtu.be/Dp4NrQUXeqQ>

Saturday, 5/8, 7:30 and 23 hours thereafter, free. *Madama Butterfly*

- complete
<https://youtu.be/3stgof-xyN0>

CINCINNATI POPS

www.cincinnati-symphony.org

Friday, 5/7, and Saturday, 5/8, 7:30*, Damon Gupton, conductor. The Great Film Scores

- Alan Sylvestri, *Forrest Gump*
<https://youtu.be/qxKHZJsJ2il>
- John Williams, *Schindler's List*
<https://youtu.be/cLgJQ8Zi3AA>

- Ennio Morricone, *The Mission*
<https://youtu.be/s7w-leNR9ko>

*DIGITAL: Saturday, 5/8, 7:30, free

John Williams, E. T.

<https://youtu.be/fC6flQGoRVc>

BONUS

Alma Deutcher, composer and performer. Link to Carnegie Hall performance last fall at age 16. She composed all the music on this program and performed her violin and piano concertos. Scroll down under Show More to locate individual works.

<https://youtu.be/4xB79aWL6O8>

recent interview

<https://youtu.be/duvweU35Q04>

WOZZECK SYNOPSIS

Act I

Germany, before the First World War. The soldier Wozzeck is working for the captain. The officer urges him to work more slowly, then tells him that he is a good man but lacks morality because he has an illegitimate child. Wozzeck replies that virtue is a luxury not meant for the poor. Wozzeck and a fellow soldier, Andres, are carrying firewood in the fields. Wozzeck is frightened by visions: He hears noises and imagines the sinking sun as a fire setting the earth aflame. Suddenly, all is quiet. Marie, who is the mother of Wozzeck's child, and her neighbor Margret watch a military band pass by outside their window. Marie admires the handsome drum-major, and Margret mocks her. Alone with her young son, Marie sings him a lullaby. Wozzeck arrives and tells her about his visions, which he sees as an omen of evil things to come. Marie tries to comfort him, but he rushes off to the barracks without looking at his son. Overwhelmed by her own fears, Marie runs out of the room, leaving the child. Wozzeck visits the doctor, who pays him to act as a subject in his pseudoscientific research. Full of self-delusion about making a grand scientific discovery, the doctor asks Wozzeck about his diet. Wozzeck again brings up his visions, which the doctor dismisses as mere imagination. On the street outside her door, the drum-major makes advances toward Marie. She resists at first, then gives in to him.

Act II

Marie is admiring the earrings that the drum-major has given her. When Wozzeck enters, she tries to hide them, then claims that she found them in the street. Wozzeck is suspicious. He gives her the money that he has earned and leaves. Marie is overwhelmed by remorse. The captain and the doctor meet in the street and talk morbidly of sickness and death. When Wozzeck passes by, they taunt him with

allusions to Marie's infidelity. Shocked, Wozzeck asks them not to make fun of the one thing in the world that is his. Then, he rushes off. Wozzeck confronts Marie with his suspicions and tries to force her to confess. He is about to hit her, but she remains defiant, telling him that she'd rather have a knife in her belly than his hand on her. Two drunken apprentices amuse the crowd in a beer garden. Wozzeck enters and sees Marie and the drum-major on the dance floor. A fool approaches Wozzeck and tells him that he smells blood. Wozzeck has a vision of people waltzing while covered with blood. The same evening in the barracks, Wozzeck wakes to nightmarish memories of what happened in the beer garden. The drum-major enters, drunk, and boasts about his conquest. The two men fight, and Wozzeck is knocked down.

Act III

Alone with her child, Marie reads from the Bible, first about the adulteress who was forgiven, then about Mary Magdalene. She begs God for mercy. Marie and Wozzeck are walking together near a pond. Marie wants to hurry back to town, but Wozzeck makes her stay with him. He makes ironic remarks about her fidelity. When she attempts to escape, he draws a knife and kills her. Wozzeck is drinking in a tavern, shouting wildly, and dancing with Margret. When she notices blood on his arm, he is unable to explain where it has come from and rushes out. At the pond, Wozzeck searches for the knife and throws it into the water. Suddenly, he imagines that the moon will reveal his crime. He wades farther into the water to hide the knife in a safer place and to wash the blood off his hands. The doctor and captain, passing by, hear him drown. Neighbor children playing in the street tell Marie's son that his mother is dead. He does not understand and keeps singing and playing.

MADAME BUTTERFLY SYNOPSIS

Act I

Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton of the U. S. Navy inspects a house overlooking Nagasaki harbor that he is leasing from Goro, a marriage broker. The house comes with three servants and a geisha wife known as Madame Butterfly (CioCio-San). The lease runs for 999 years, subject to monthly renewal. The American consul Sharpless arrives breathless from climbing the hill. Pinkerton describes his philosophy of the fearless Yankee roaming the world in search of experience and pleasure ("Dovunque al mondo"). He is not sure whether his feelings for the young girl are love or a whim, but he intends to go through with the marriage ceremony. Sharpless warns him that the girl may view the marriage differently, but Pinkerton brushes off such concerns and says someday he will take a real, American wife. He offers the consul whiskey and proposes a toast. Butterfly is heard climbing the hill with her friends for the ceremony ("Spira sul mare"). In casual conversation after the formal introduction, Butterfly admits her age, 15, and explains that her family was once prominent but lost its position, and she has had to earn her living as a geisha. Her relatives arrive and chatter about the marriage. Cio-Cio-San shows Pinkerton her very few possessions, and quietly tells him she has been to the Christian mission and will embrace her husband's religion. The Imperial Commissioner reads the marriage agreement, and the relatives congratulate the couple. Suddenly, a threatening voice is heard from afar—it is the Bonze, Butterfly's uncle, a priest. He curses the girl for going to the Christian mission and rejecting her ancestral religion. Pinkerton orders them to leave and as they go the Bonze and the shocked relatives denounce CioCio-

San. Pinkerton tries to console Butterfly with sweet words. She is helped by Suzuki into her wedding kimono, and joins Pinkerton in the garden, where they make love (“Viene la sera”).

Act II

Cio-Cio-San’s house. Three years have passed, and Cio-Cio-San awaits her husband’s return. Suzuki prays to the gods for help, but Butterfly berates her for believing in lazy Japanese gods rather than in Pinkerton’s promise to return one day (“Un bel dì”). Sharpless appears with a letter from Pinkerton, but before he can read it to Butterfly, Goro arrives with the latest potential husband for Butterfly, the wealthy Prince Yamadori. Butterfly politely serves the guests tea but insists she is not available for marriage—her American husband has not deserted her. She dismisses Goro and Yamadori. Sharpless attempts to read Pinkerton’s letter and suggests that perhaps Butterfly should reconsider Yamadori’s offer. “And this?” (“E questo?”) asks the outraged Butterfly, showing the consul her small child. Sharpless is too upset to tell her more of the letter’s contents. He leaves, promising to tell Pinkerton of the child. A cannon shot is heard in the harbor announcing the arrival of a ship. Butterfly and Suzuki take a telescope to the terrace and read the name of Pinkerton’s ship. Overjoyed, Butterfly joins Suzuki in strewing the house with flower petals from the garden (“Scuoti quella fronda”). Night falls, and Butterfly, Suzuki, and the child settle into a vigil watching over the harbor (Humming Chorus). Dawn breaks, and Suzuki insists that Butterfly get some sleep. Butterfly carries the child into another room. Sharpless appears with Pinkerton and Kate, Pinkerton’s new wife. Suzuki realizes who the American woman is, and agrees to help break the news to Butterfly. Pinkerton is overcome with guilt and runs from the scene, pausing to remember his days in the little house (“Addio, fiorito asil”). Cio-Cio-San rushes in hoping to find Pinkerton, but sees Kate instead. Grasping the situation, she agrees to give up the child but insists Pinkerton return for him. Dismissing everyone, Butterfly takes out the dagger with which her father committed suicide, choosing to die with honor rather than live in shame. She is interrupted momentarily when the child comes in, but Butterfly says goodbye to him and blindfolds him (“Tu, piccolo Iddio”). She stabs herself as Pinkerton calls her name.

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