

WELCOME TO THE OPERA!



Welcome to Rimrock Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly*. The irresistible passion of this opera radiates in the theater today to take you to another time and place. Opera springs to life through music, drama and voices. And what amazing voices they have, filling this space without amplification. Giacomo Puccini's great success with *Butterfly* allowed him to compose *La Fanciulla del West* (The Girl of the Golden West), coming in October 2007.

Rimrock Opera depends on local, dedicated individuals in the orchestra, chorus, and production team, as well as volunteers in every aspect of our company. Most orchestra members also perform in Billings Symphony; many are local music teachers. Some singers are in the Symphony Chorale; some are area students. These musicians are your friends, teachers and family members. Behind the scenes, our volunteers spend countless hours working to produce fine opera. I am extremely proud and grateful to all of our musicians and volunteers. I urge you to review their names and thank them for being part of this cohesive opera company.

Please look through the program for more events brought to you by Rimrock Opera. Let the Rimrock Opera Board members and our Opera Ambassadors know how to make your experience more enjoyable. Visit our website at www.rimrockopera.org for more information or call 671-2214. Rimrock Opera arose through a grass roots effort in Billings in 1997 and each successive year the organization widens and deepens. Our continued growth depends upon the generosity of corporate sponsors and individual donors. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to express our sincerest appreciation to each of our donors.

Lucinda Butler, President, Board of Directors

[Douglas Nagel Photo]

I remember when the curtain rose on our first production as a new opera company...*Madama Butterfly* in 2000. It remains one of my fondest memories in opera, seeing a smiling audience! Many of you are with us again tonight as the beautiful love story returns to our stage. We've raised the bar, thanks to you and your generous support. Rimrock Opera has been able to branch out into the community with our *From Met to Broadway* program, school tours, and Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids. The 2007-2008 season brings two new operas to our stage that you won't want to miss: Puccini's intense drama in the Western genre, *The Girl of the Golden West* and Donizetti's adorable love story, *Elixir of Love*.

I cannot thank you enough for your attendance, generous financial support, and gracious in-kind donations, we cannot continue without you. Many thanks go out to our angel, my friend Henrietta Johnstone, for her love and support of this organization.

Douglas Nagel, Artistic Director

[Tracy Nielsen Photo]

Rimrock Opera Company is delighted to bring you its 8th exhilarating season. As a new Executive Director, I am honored to be a part of this brilliant assembly of professionals. Their passion for the art form and hard work are astounding and I am pleased to be in their ranks. No matter how many times you've enjoyed *Madama Butterfly*, the brilliant score and captivating drama will move you again, as it has audiences for more than a century. Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* on March 23 & 25 will charm you with its comedy of errors, as Alfonso sets out to prove that all women are fickle--at least in the 17th century! Death toll: none. In this da Ponte comedy everything works out happily.

Excitement abounds as we embark on our third year of Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK). I invite you to experience the joy of hearing children sing superior music at one of ROCK's performances. Our education outreach tour of "The Night Harry Stopped Smoking" continues in 2007, bringing an entertaining and important message to children of all ages. The cast of *From Met to Broadway* gave a brilliant show at Skyview High School Theater, the first of many planned for this beautiful venue. Please join me in thanking our many sponsors, patrons and supporters, without whom Rimrock Opera would cease to exist. We are proud of this season's productions and feel confident that we will exceed your expectations. I look forward to greeting you at all of our events and thanking you personally for supporting Rimrock Opera.

Tracy Nielsen, Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The mission of Rimrock Opera is to enhance the cultural life of this region by providing high quality opera productions and to make opera available to everyone through outreach presentations and educational programming.

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Rimrock Opera Executive Office

P. O. Box 11, Billings, MT 59103
Phone: 406.671.2214
Fax: 406.245.2161
Website: www.rimrockopera.org
E-mail: info@rimrockopera.org

RIMROCK OPERA HISTORY

1999 *The Barber of Seville*
Lloyd Mickelson, President

2000 *Madama Butterfly*
Lloyd Mickelson, President

2001 *The Merry Widow*
Elizabeth McNamer, President

2002 *Tosca and Carmen*
Barbara Taylor, President

2003 *The Magic Flute*
Don Giovanni
Bonnie Daniels, President

2004 *Hansel & Gretel*
Bonnie Daniels, President

2004 *Nosferatu*, World Premiere
Lucinda Butler, President

2005 *La bohème*
La traviata
Lucinda Butler, President

2006 *Die Fledermaus*
Madama Butterfly
Lucinda Butler, President

[HENRIETTA JOHNSTONE PHOTO- please use the one from the Madama Butterfly performance mailer]

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING BENEFACTOR

Henrietta Johnstone, an integral part of Rimrock Opera Board of Directors since joining in 2001, is a tireless advocate for the mission of Rimrock Opera and a tremendous leader to other board members and donors to Rimrock Opera. She is sole sponsor of the lavish costumes and sets for both annual mainstage performances, a donation of nearly \$50,000 each season. Henrietta's willingness to underwrite these costs greatly enhances the professionalism of our company and your opera experience. Thank you, Henrietta, for leading Rimrock Opera in Billings to stand proudly among grand opera houses!

Rimrock Opera Presents Puccini's

Madama Butterfly

October
27 & 29, 2006



Alberta Bair Theater
Tickets: 406.256.6052
www.rimrockopera.org

RIMROCK
OPERA
Billings, Montana • 406.671.2214
www.rimrockopera.org

THE RIMROCK OPERA COMPANY

Douglas Nagel, Artistic Director – Tracy Nielsen, Executive Director
Eighth Season
Presents

Giacomo Puccini

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Librettists: Giuseppe Giacosa, Luigi Illica

Madame Butterfly, drama by David Belasco, based on the story “Madame Butterfly” by John Luther Long

First performance: Teatro alla Scala, Milan, 17 February 1904

Sung in Italian with Titles in English

The Cast

Madama Butterfly (Cio-Cio-San) (Soprano) Eilana Lappalainen
Suzuki *Cio-Cio-San's* servant (Mezzo-Soprano) Laura Twelves
B. F. Pinkerton *lieutenant in the United States Navy* (Tenor) Christopher Bengochea
Sharpless *United States consul at Nagasaki* (Baritone) Jan Michael Kliewer
Kate Pinkerton *Pinkerton's American Wife* (Mezzo-Soprano) Ashley Miller
Goro *a marriage broker* (Tenor) Gennard Lombardozzi
Prince Yamadori (Baritone) Bret Weston
The Bonze *Cio-Cio-San's uncle* (Bass) Dennis Rupp
Yakuside *Cio-Cio-San's* Relative (Baritone) _____
Trouble *Cio-Cio-San's child* (Actor) Sophia Writesel
The Imperial Commissioner *for Nagasaki* (Tenor) Kevin Schweigert
The Official Registrar *for Nagasaki* (Baritone) Brett Weston
Cio-Cio-San's Mother (Mezzo-Soprano) Kristen Olsen
The Cousin (Soprano) _____

The Ensemble: Cio-Cio-San's relatives and friends, geishas, servants

Rimrock Opera Chorus

Chorus Master: Kevin Schweigert - **Assistant Chorus Master:** Amy Logan

Kelli Bartholomew, Caitlin Chandler, Kelly Deiling, Kaylajo Downing, Gabe Elmore, Kristin Goralczyk, Jake Jurovich, Meghan Kilroy, Jacque Klasna, Jon Kohn, Melinda McInnis, Ashley Miller, Anne Marie Mitchell, Jesse Murphy, Kristen Olsen, Melissa O. Olsen, Karen Postema, Kristen Reid, Kevin Schweigert, Karen Simmons, Cindy Stowell, Jacob Troyer

Conductor Anthony Quartuccio

Production and Stage Director Douglas Nagel

Stage Manager Amy Logan

Assistant Stage Manager Stephen Baker

Sets and Costumes Cedar Rapids Opera Theater, Westendorf Costume Emporium

Lighting Designer Alex Heyneman

Technical Director Dennis Sprankel

Sets and costumes underwritten by a generous gift from Henrietta Johnstone

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006, 7:30 PM & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2:00 PM
ALBERTA BAIR THEATER – BILLINGS, MONTANA

MADAMA BUTTTERFLY

Synopsis

Time: Beginning of 20th century
Place: Nagasaki, Japan
Running Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes
including intermissions

Act I

Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton, a young U.S. Navy lieutenant, has arranged with Goro, a marriage broker, to acquire a fifteen-year-old Japanese bride, Cio-Cio-San (Madama Butterfly). Pinkerton takes a 999-year lease on a home overlooking Nagasaki harbor; this lease, as well as his marriage, can conveniently be canceled on a month's notice. Sharpless, the American Consul and a friend of Pinkerton's, arrives to witness the wedding. He warns Pinkerton not to treat the marriage lightly, as his bride-to-be is truly in love with him. Though Pinkerton claims to be infatuated with Butterfly, he proposes a toast to the American woman he will one day wed. Butterfly arrives for her wedding. She tells Sharpless that her family was once wealthy, but hard times forced her to become a geisha. After she admits that her father is dead, Goro tells Pinkerton that he committed ritual suicide at the Mikado's command. Butterfly's relatives arrive, and the wedding proceeds. The festivities are interrupted as the Bonze, Butterfly's uncle and a Buddhist priest, enters to denounce her for forsaking their ancestral religion. Pinkerton angrily orders the guests to leave. He comforts the distraught Butterfly, and the newlyweds proclaim their love.

Fifteen Minute Intermission

Act II

Pinkerton has been gone from Nagasaki for three years. Suzuki, Butterfly's devoted maid, fears that he will not keep his promise to return; yet Butterfly confidently and patiently awaits his homecoming. Sharpless arrives to read Butterfly a letter he received from Pinkerton, who has since taken an American wife. Goro, who ushers in Prince Yamadori, a potential suitor for Butterfly, interrupts him. When Sharpless finally reads Pinkerton's letter to Butterfly, she gradually realizes that she has been abandoned. She sends for her young son, Trouble, sure that Pinkerton will return when he learns that he has a son. Butterfly insists that she would rather die than be a geisha again. Suddenly a cannon boom in the harbor, signaling the arrival of Pinkerton's ship. Butterfly and Suzuki decorate the house and await Pinkerton's return in an all-night vigil.

Fifteen Minute Intermission

Act III

Pinkerton, his wife Kate, and Sharpless arrive at Butterfly's house. They ask Suzuki to tell Butterfly that they wish to take Trouble to live with them in America. Butterfly enters, anxiously seeking Pinkerton, but he has fled in remorse. She meets Kate, and reluctantly agrees to surrender her child if Pinkerton will come for him in half an hour. Solemnly, Butterfly prepares for death. After bidding farewell to Trouble, she commits suicide. Pinkerton rushes into the house, only to find Butterfly dead.

(from New York City Opera)

Rimrock Opera Orchestra

Maestro Anthony Quartuccio, Conductor

Richele Sitton, Orchestra Manager - Aaron Schendel, Orchestra Technician

Orchestra Parts courtesy of Opera San José

Violin I

Mary LaMonaca,
Concert Master

Kathy Griffin
Vikki Payne
Sharon Yazak
Barbara Kirk
Laura Dolbey

Violin II

Lisa Bollman
Betsy Rutt
Cathy Pomeroy
Jackie Harmon

Viola

Amy Letson
Brian Bell
Diane Fossen

Cello

Carol Critelli
Mary McCullough

Bass

Richele Sitton

Flute

Lynette Larson
Dru Wagner

Oboe

Sue Logan

Clarinet

Laurel Linde
Jolane Veeder

Bassoon

Susan Wadsworth

French Horn

John Dutton

Trumpet

Jim Browning
Aaron Roberts

Harp on Keyboard

Doug Han

Tympani

Barbara Fordham

Composer Biography



Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini

Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy into a family with a long history of music. After the death of his father when he was only five years old, he was sent to study with his uncle Fortunato Magi, who considered him to be a poor and undisciplined student. Later, he took the position of church organist, but it was not until he saw a performance of Verdi's *Aida* that he became inspired to be an opera composer. From 1880 to 1883 he studied at the Milan Conservatory under Amilcare Ponchielli and Antonio Bazzini. In 1882, Puccini entered a competition for a one-act opera. Although he did not win, "Le Villi" was later staged in 1884 at the Teatro dal Verme; it also caught the attention of the publisher Giulio Ricordi who commissioned a second opera ("Edgar"). Not only was *Manon Lescaut*, his third opera, a great success, it also began his relationship with the librettists

Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, who worked him on his next three operas. The first of these, *La Bohème* (based on a story by Henry Murger), is considered one of his best works, as well as one of the most romantic operas ever composed. His next opera, *Tosca*, was Puccini's first foray into verismo. *Madame Butterfly* (based on a play by David Belasco) was greeted with great hostility at its opening (mostly orchestrated by his rivals), but after some reworking it has become another of his most successful operas, consistently in the top ten list of most performed operas in the world.

Puccini's Operas

- *Le Villi* (1884)
- *Edgar* (1889)
- *Manon Lescaut* (1893)
- *La bohème* (1896)
- *Tosca* (1900)
- *Madama Butterfly* (1904)
- *Girl of the Golden West* (1910 Metropolitan Opera, New York)
- *La rondine* (1917)
- *Il trittico* (1918) *Il tabarro*, *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*
- *Turandot* (1926)

Opening Night Reception

Rimrock Opera continues the excitement and glamour of opening night with an informal social gathering immediately after the opera in the lower level of the D. A. Davidson Company, Hart Albin Building, one block south of the theater at 208 North Broadway. Mingle with the RO staff and artists directly after the performance.

Meet the Artists



Anthony Quartuccio, Conductor

Maestro Quartuccio debuts as conductor of the Rimrock Opera Orchestra. He is the founding music director of Bay Shore Lyric Opera, and Assistant Conductor of the San José Chamber Orchestra. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute, and studied conducting both in the U.S. and Europe. As a student conductor he participated in master classes and seminars with some of the world's leading conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Ricardo Muti, Andre Previn, Kurt Masur and David Zinman. This is Maestro Quartuccio's first appearance with Rimrock Opera. He received rave reviews as conductor of *Roméo et Juilliette* for Opera San José this fall.



DOUGLAS NAGEL

Douglas Nagel, Stage Director

Native Montanan Douglas Nagel made his directing debut at 21, then the youngest Opera Theater Director in a University. At California State University, and later at Southern Oregon University, he produced, directed and often conducted. As Artistic Director of Opera Idaho, Boise, and Rimrock Opera simultaneously, he produced and directed *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Don Pasquale*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. At Sacramento Opera, he stage directed *Die Fledermaus* this winter. He takes great pride in bringing opera to children, touring in the schools. Mr. Nagel has sat on the National Endowment of the Arts Opera

Division panel, reviewing grant requests. He is currently Education Consultant at Opera San José in addition to his position as Artistic Director for Rimrock Opera.



Eilana Lappalainen, Soprano Cio-Cio-San – “Butterfly”

Finnish-American soprano Eilana Lappalainen is a world-class interpreter of the ecstasy and agony of Butterfly. She made her debut at La Scala, Milan, in the world premiere of Corghi's *Tat'jana*, Abigaille in *Nabucco* in Warsaw and her debut with the New Israeli Opera as Marie in *Wozzeck*. She also performed *Mefistofele* in Montreal, Elsa in *Lohengrin* in Trier, Hanna in *The Merry Widow* in Hamilton, Ontario, and performances of *Madama Butterfly*, *Jenufa*, *Der Fliegende Holländer*, *Giovanna d'Arco* and *Eugene Onegin*. Ms.

Lappalainen sang *Salome* with New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Kentucky Opera, Nashville Opera, Polish National Opera, Opera Lyra and a tour of Japan. She also sang the role of Senta in *Der Fliegende Holländer* in Japan, and at Minnesota Opera. Ms. Lappalainen performed the title role of *Tosca*, and Nedda in *I Pagliacci* in Germany. Coming engagements include a Carnegie Hall debut with the Mozart *Requiem*, a gala concert in Greece, a Verdi Gala in Japan, *Salome* in Spain and Detroit; her first *Aida* in Idaho, *Salome* in Poland, a recital in Finland and a Japan tour with *Salome*.

Christopher Bengochea, Tenor

Pinkerton

Basque-American lyric tenor and Montana native Christopher Bengochea has been praised for “A voice most brilliant and romantic that will become very important in the future of opera.” A Montana native and currently in the resident company of Opera San José, Bengochea was seen recently as Reverend Samuel Parris in *The Crucible* and King Gustavus III in *Un ballo in maschera*; Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, and the title role in *Poliuto*. In 2006-07 Bengochea performs the title role in *Roméo et Juliette*, Alfredo in *La traviata*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*. With Rimrock Opera he covered the role of Eric in the world premiere of Alva Henderson's opera, *Nosferatu*, and sang Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*. He was an award winner at the Northwest Regional Metropolitan Opera auditions and placed third at the Internationale Societa Concertistica Vocal Competition in Santa Margherita-Ligure, Italy.



[USE NEW PHOTO FROM MB PERFORMANCE MAILER]

Laura Twelves, Soprano

Suzuki

Laura Twelves appeared in the role of Ginger for Rimrock Opera's school tour production of *The Night Harry Stopped Smoking*, and currently serves as RO Outreach Tour Director for Phases Two and Three of the same show. She is also a guest artist with Opera San José for the 2006-2007 season, where she has sung numerous roles including Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* and Mimì in OSJ's touring production of *La bohème*. Ms. Twelves has performed with Lyric Theatre of San Jose in several roles. She appears in concerts and solo performances across the Bay Area and also maintains a private vocal studio.

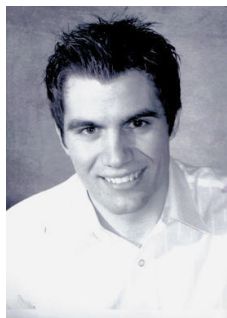


Jan Michael Kliewer, Baritone

Sharpless

A Rimrock Opera favorite, Kliewer's passionate portrayal of Giorgio Germont in *La traviata*, 2005, landed raves from audiences and reviewers. Also with Rimrock Opera, he sang *Carmen's* Escamillo in 2002, *Don Giovanni's* Masetto in 2003, and Dr. Harding in the world premiere of Alva Henderson's *Nosferatu* in 2004. Kliewer teaches music and opera at Northwest College, Powell, Wyoming. An active soloist in both concert and opera, he has performed with the Casper Chorale and Orchestra, the Cheyenne Chamber Singers and

Orchestra, the Northwest Civic Orchestra and Chorus, the Wyoming Symphony, the Billings Symphony, and the Helena Symphony.



[USE NEW GAZETTE PHOTO]

Gennard Lombardo, tenor

Goro

A Billings native, Gennard returned to make his Rimrock Opera debut earlier this year in *Die Fledermaus*. During music studies at Concordia College, Moorhead, he launched his operatic career with the Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera. His roles with FMCO included Parpignol in *La bohème*, Bogdanovitch in *The Merry Widow*, and Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Continuing his

studies, he spent two years with the Knoxville Opera Studio, where he sang Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Little Bat in *Susannah* and Count Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and Monostatos in *The Magic Flute* with Knoxville Opera. In Colorado's Central City Opera, he performed in the "Opera a la carte" series, sang Nathaniel in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, and debuted on the main stage as Second Lackey and Arnheim in *The Student Prince*.

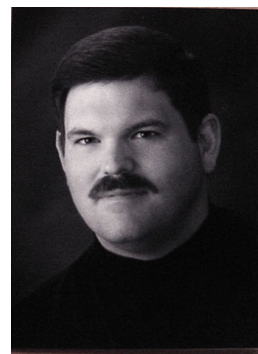
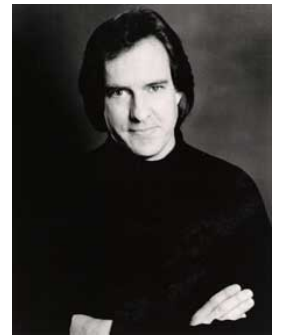


Ashley Miller, soprano
Kate Pinkerton

Young soprano Ashley Miller made her Rimrock Opera debut in the role of Ida, in *Die Fledermaus* earlier this year. Her chorus debut at age fifteen was in Rimrock Opera's *The Magic Flute*. She has also appeared in *Don Giovanni*, and *La traviata*. In high school, she studied voice with Calie Mayte and was a finalist in NATS and Montana music festival competitions. Ms. Miller has studied dance for thirteen years at the School of Classical Ballet. Her ballet performances include *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Who Cares*, and *Le Corsaire*. She has studied opera with Giovanna Collica in Siracusa, Sicily, and currently studies with Lisa Lombardy of Billings. A Montana native, Ms. Miller is a student at Rocky Mountain College, pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance, with a minor in Italian.

Dennis Rupp, bass
The Bonze

In his Rimrock Opera debut, Dennis Rupp created the role of Agent Skuller in the world premiere of Alva Henderson's *Nosferatu*. His Méfistophélès in Gounod's *Faust* received an L.A. Emmy Award for Best Entertainment Feature. He has performed in the Shanghai International Arts Festival in China as Colline in *La Bohème*. Other roles include Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*; Prince Gremin, *Don Alfonso*; Leporello, *Don Basilio*; Hoffmann's *Four Villains*, and Figaro, to name but a few. He has also bowed with Opera San José, Stockton Opera, Townsend Opera Players, Pocket Opera, Nova Opera, Pacific Repertory Opera, Bay Shore Lyric Opera, and Anchorage Opera.



Bret Weston, baritone (Frank)

Mr. Weston has sung in many Rimrock Opera productions over the past seven years, and is in his seventeenth season as a member of the Billings Symphony Chorale. He played the part of David in the one act opera *A Hand of Bridge*, Armored Guard in *The Magic Flute*, and more recently Doctor Grenvil in *La traviata*. He continues to appear in select Billings Studio Theater musicals. Mr. Weston has also appeared in Venture Theater and Billings Studio Theater productions such as *Return to the Mountain Hollow* and *Victor/Victoria*. He is currently receiving voice coaching from Elizabeth Rowan and Dennis Rupp.

Kevin Schweigert, Chorus Master
Photo & Bio

Amy Logan, ROCK Director, Assistant Chorus Master, Stage Manager

Photo & Bio



Doug Han, Pianist, Harp on Keyboard

Since moving to San Francisco in 2003, Doug Han has rapidly become one of the Bay Area's most sought-after young coach/accompanists. In 2005 he was a Resident Artist in Education for San Francisco Opera, and throughout 2006 he has made his first contributions as a musical assistant with Berkeley Opera (*Falstaff*, Clark Supryniewicz's *Chrysalis*, and *La Fanciulla del West*) and West Bay Opera (*Macbeth*). He is honored to follow this string of "firsts" with the present production of *Madama Butterfly* in his Rimrock Opera debut. Future engagements include his California Chamber Opera debut in January 2007, conducting Mozart's *Idomeneo*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRODUCTION TEAM

Rehearsal Pianist, Doug Han
Properties Master, Wardrobe Assistant, Kevin Schweigert
Properties Assistant, Lucinda Butler
Props Assistance, Amy Logan & Lucinda Butler
Costume Coordinator, Jill Port
Hair and Makeup Coordinator, Sophia Smith
Hair and Make-up Assistant, Kristin Reid
Valeria Camboni Miller, Italian Diction Coach
Supertitle Operator, Sandi Rabas
Supertitles courtesy of Douglas Nagel
ABT Stage Crew
Rimrock Opera Voice Specialists: ENT Associates,
Steven A. Butler, MD, Brian T. Pelczar, MD,
Cynthia A. Kennedy MD

PRODUCTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

24 Hour Fitness, Charlie Coe, Manager
ABCO Supply, Inc., Gail Hein, Susie Loran
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Spotlight Productions, Anne Gauer, archive videographer
Stephen Baker, shipping expense
Treasure State Costume & Formal Wear
Welcome! Visitors' Guide to Billings publication

REHEARSAL SPACE - West Park Plaza, Prell Gleason,
Operations Manager

PROGRAM - Gail Hein, Tracy Nielsen, Collin Spangle

POSTERS – The *Madama Butterfly* poster was designed
by Melanie Fabrizius of the Billings Gazette

AUTOMOBILES – Laurel Lord, Steve Solberg,
Rimrock Opera Exclusive Automobile Provider

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Exclusive Contractor for Rimrock Opera

HOUSING Billings Country Inn and Suites, Exclusive
Hotel of the Rimrock Opera; Homestays provided by Fay
Ellis, Gail Hein, Patricia Torney, Helen Nagel

TRAVEL Horizon Airlines, Official Airline of the
Rimrock Opera

RIMROCK OPERA AMBASSADORS, FANToms of the OPERA and VOLUNTEERS

Debbie & Dave Weinard and children, Nancy Downing,
Mary Ann Farias, Katie Gerke, Pegee Haman, Teri
Hergett, Jennifer Jones, Kathy Keepers, Ken & Phyllis
Kindelman, Kathie Kirkpatrick, JoAnn Marble, Jean
McDonough, Helen Wayman, Sandra Mossman, Helen
Nagel, Megan Powers, Colleen Powers, Micah Nielsen,
Rachel Nielsen, Stan Nielsen, Mike Nielsen, Chris
Keup, Rhonda Molloy, William Link, Barbara Wagner

Gourmet Dinners, Fall 2006

Homes: Steve & Lucinda Butler, Mark & Teresa
Darnielle-Morse
Chef Tom Nelson; Chef Laurent Zirotti; entertainment,
Rimrock Opera cast; dinner music, John O. Baber, Teresa
Darnielle-Morse; servers, Steve Butler, Gail Hein, Tracy
Nielsen, Susan Rose, Christine Writesel

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

D. A. Davidson, Hart Albin Building, providing reception
space

Note: Rimrock Opera takes pleasure in acknowledging
and thanking all of its participants and volunteers. If your
name was overlooked or received after program press
deadline, please accept our apology and our thanks.

VISIT THE OPERA SHOPPE for commemorative
Rimrock Opera posters, T-shirts, tote bags, CDs, mugs
and more. Shoppe is open in the theater lobby and at the
opening night reception.

USHERS - Rimrock Opera thanks the members of the
Alberta Bair Theater Volunteer Corps, who are pleased to
serve as ushers for all opera performances.

RIMROCK OPERA PROHIBITS

DISCRIMINATION on the basis of race, color, national
origin, sexual orientation, handicap or age.

DON'T BE LATE! Latecomers will not be seated after
the music begins. Please silence cell phones and pagers.
Thank you for your cooperation.

ROCK LOGO

Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids (ROCK) is a select choral program founded by the Rimrock Opera in September 2004. Its mission is “to challenge, to teach and to elevate—through music of the highest quality.”

Area kids in grades 1-12 are invited to audition for participation in a two-semester season with weekly rehearsals and many opportunities for public performances. ROCK has performed at such events as the Big Sky State Games, the Mannheim Steamroller concert, Billings Symphony concerts, the Montana Music Teachers Association, Downtown Billings’ Strawberry Festival, Rimrock Opera’s mainstage performances and in many other venues.

Dolce Choir 1st - 3rd Grades

This choir works on unison and 2-part music. Students learn about vocal technique and music theory concepts.

Cantabile Choir 4th - 9th Grades

The students in this chorus perform 2, 3, and 4-part treble music. They also learn music theory, history, rhythm, diction and vocal techniques.

Bel Canto Choir 8th - 12th Grades

This choir includes boys with changed voices and can perform music with soprano, alto, tenor, and bass parts. These students learn more advanced musicianship skills, including theory, history, rhythm, and languages.

ROCK Staff

Dolce Directors, Amber Gamsby & Cassidy Gamsby

Cantabile Director, Amy Logan

Bel Canto Director, Kevin Schweigert

Auditions are held twice a year. For more information, call ROCK Director Amy Logan at 534-2243.

YOU ARE INVITED --

ROCK Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 7:00pm

Skyview High School Theater



Business Partnerships and Government Support

Patrons of the Opera

Patrons of the Opera
Memorials and Tributes

New theme for this page – re:
fundraisers/support, etc.

FROM MET TO BROADWAY

[CAST PHOTO]

Rimrock Opera's *From Met to Broadway* ensemble evolved by popular demand. This dynamic cast lights up smaller venues with a topnotch show lineup from Broadway showstoppers and grand opera's "hit parade."

From Red Lodge's Bridge Creek Wine and Food Bar to Billings' Mission Ridge community and the new City Vineyard, from Miles City to Sheridan, Wyoming, this cast captures rave reviews and repeat invitations. The ensemble gave its first stand-alone concert at Skyview High School Theater last summer to an enthusiastic audience.

"Opera for Everyone" takes many forms, and Rimrock Opera's *From Met to Broadway* delivers a big show wherever it goes.

Artistic Director Douglas Nagel will hold auditions in December for open positions in the cast of *From Met to Broadway*. Contact Mr. Nagel at douglas514@aol.com for complete audition information.

Clockwise from top, cast members are Douglas Nagel, Elizabeth Meyer, Bret Weston, Karen Evanson, Kevin Schweigert, Amy Logan, and keyboardist, Sandi Rabas.

Rimrock Opera Spring Production
COSI FAN TUTTE
DATES AND PHOTOS
FROM SEASON BROCHURE

Education and Outreach

Rimrock Opera's annual school tour visited 52 locations, some with several schools meeting in a single school, in communities across Montana and northern Wyoming. At its conclusion, Phase One, the spring segment of the 2006 tour of *The Night Harry Stopped Smoking* had reached 10,000 students in seven weeks.

Special thanks to the dedicated cast, Laura Twelves, Diedra Walker, Steven Soich, Cody Maki, Maria Day, Mary Pankratz, Rachel Pankratz, Sandi Rabas, accompanist for the show, and Douglas Nagel, performer and director.

Thanks to the sponsors and financial underwriters who made the tour possible

- Benefis Foundation
- Billings School District 2 Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation
- Nibs and Edna Allen Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Health Network
- Sheridan Arts Council
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation
- West Billings Optimist Club
- Yellowstone City-County Health Department
- Yellowstone Valley Medical Society Alliance (YVMSA)

Rimrock Opera also thanks Laurel Ford, automobile provider; Treasure State Costumes; Barnett Opticians for exclusive eyewear; hotel sponsors, Best Western Sheridan Center, Great Falls Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls and Bozeman La Quinta Inn, Butte Red Lion, Great Falls Hampton Inn, Miles City Guest Inn; and for Billings housing, Fay Ellis and Gail Hein.

[CAST PHOTO FROM FILE OR DIE FLEDERMAUS PROGRAM]

[MAP OF TOUR COVERAGE COMING IN SEPARATE FILE]