

Giacomo Puccini (22 December 1858 – 29 November 1924) was an Italian composer whose operas, including *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot*, are among the most frequently performed in the standard repertoire. Some of his arias, such as "O mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi*, "Che gelida manina" from *La bohème*, and "Nessun dorma" from *Turandot*, have become part of popular culture.

Madama Butterfly, premiered in 1906, is an opera in three acts (originally two acts), with an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa. Puccini based his opera in part on the short story "Madame Butterfly" (1898) by John Luther Long, which was dramatized by David Belasco.

The **Humming Chorus** is at the end of Act II. As the off-stage chorus hums a wordless, melancholy tune, Butterfly, her child and Suzuki begin the long wait for Pinkerton to come. Night falls. Suzuki and the baby are soon asleep, but Butterfly keeps her vigil. (There is no intermission between Acts 2 and 3 – the action continues without interruption as the Humming Chorus ends and morning light appears.)

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Croswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreesh, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Humming Chorus

from *Madama Butterfly*

Duration 2:00

Giacomo Puccini
Arr. by Michael Pratt
for brass septet

Moderamente Mosso $\text{♩} = 100$

Trumpet in B♭ 1 2 Mute 3 4 5 6

Trumpet in B♭ 2 Mute mp

Trumpet in B♭ 3 Mute mp

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium mp

Tuba

7 8 9 10 11 12

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba