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**THE MORGAN TO DISPLAY ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS FROM  
MADAMA BUTTERFLY AND LA BOHÈME IN NEW EXHIBITION ON  
GIACOMO PUCCINI**

**SHOW MARKS 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT COMPOSER'S BIRTH**

**Celebrating Puccini on View September 15, 2009, through January 10, 2010**

**New York, NY, July 24, 2009**—The life and art of one of opera's iconic figures, composer Giacomo Puccini, is the subject of a new exhibition opening September 15 at The Morgan Library & Museum. On view are approximately forty items related to Puccini's career, including rarely seen original sketches for his acclaimed operas *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème*. The exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary (2008–09) of Puccini's birth in Lucca, Italy, on December 22, 1858. The show runs through January 10, 2010.



Giacomo Puccini, *La Bohème*, sketches for Act IV, 1895. The Dannie and Hettie Heineman Collection. Heineman MS 173B.

In addition to original manuscripts, the exhibition also includes a display of first-edition librettos, personal letters, a period poster and playbills, souvenir postcards, and rare material linked to Puccini's relationship with such legends as Enrico Caruso and Arturo Toscanini. The exhibition is drawn almost exclusively from the Morgan's extensive music holdings, including the Cary, Heineman, and Fuld collections, as well as the Robert Owen Lehman Collection, which is on deposit at the Morgan.

"The Morgan is delighted to bring to life this major figure in operatic history," said William M. Griswold, director of the Morgan. "So many of Puccini's compositions have become part of the opera canon that we may now know the work as well as or better than the artist who created it. To see original manuscripts for *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème* is truly thrilling. And to learn about the arc of Puccini's triumphant career is equally inspiring."

## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Visitors have the rare opportunity to view manuscripts for five Puccini works: *Le Villi*, *Edgar*, *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *La Fanciulla del West*. A display of first-edition librettos constitutes a chronology of Puccini's operatic output, augmented by information about premieres, casts, and first performances in cities throughout the world during the composer's lifetime.

The last in a line of five generations of organists and composers, Puccini, inspired by a performance of Verdi's *Aida*, decided to pursue an operatic career. After graduating from the Milan Conservatory, he wrote his first opera, *Le Villi*. The work attracted the attention of Giulio Ricordi, Italy's preeminent publisher, who acquired the rights to the work and also commissioned the composer's next opera, *Edgar*. Although *Edgar* was not a success, Ricordi continued his support, enabling Puccini to realize his ambition.

A letter dated December 16, 1884 from Ricordi to soprano Romilda Pantaleoni documents the high regard Ricordi had for Puccini's work as well as his efforts to promote his music. Also on view is a telegram sent by Ricordi the morning after the premiere of *La Bohème*, attesting to his enthusiastic response.

Adolf Hohenstein's vivid poster for the original production of *La Bohème* and a playbill for the world premiere of *Turandot* are on view. Also featured are souvenir postcards, designed by Hohenstein's pupil Leopoldo Metlicovitz, for *Tosca*, along with a commemorative postcard, marking the opera's premiere at Rome's Teatro Costanzi and inscribed with comments about the performance.

Puccini met tenor Enrico Caruso in 1897 and is reported to have said, "Who sent you to me? God?" On display is Caruso's signed receipt for his compensation for performances at Covent Garden in *La Bohème* and *Tosca* in June 1907. Also on view is a silk program from the gala performance on June 11, 1907 commemorating the visit of the king and queen of Denmark to England in which Caruso sang excerpts from *Madama Butterfly* and *La Bohème*. Puccini, in London at the time, probably attended.

The stormy relationship between Puccini and Arturo Toscanini (who conducted the world premieres of *La Bohème* and *Fanciulla*, and after Puccini's death, *Turandot*) is revealed in letters from Puccini.



Giacomo Puccini, *Tosca*, text by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, Milan: G. Ricordi, 1899, first edition libretto. James Fuld Collection: 112047.

## COLLECTION HISTORY

The Morgan Library & Museum houses one of the finest collections of music manuscripts in the country. In addition to a large collection of musicians' letters and first editions of scores and librettos, it has the world's largest collection of Mahler manuscripts and substantial holdings of Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Mozart, Schubert, and Richard Strauss. The collection spans six centuries and many countries. The Morgan's holdings of material relating to the lives and works of the dramatist William S. Gilbert and the composer Arthur S. Sullivan form the most extensive archive of its kind in the world.

Although Pierpont Morgan is not on record as evincing any notable interest in music, he did make two important purchases: the two earliest dated letters of the thirteen-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the manuscript of Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Sonata no. 10, op. 96, in G Major.

The Morgan's music collection is the result of the generosity of several donors and lenders. In 1962 the Dannie and Hettie Heineman Collection, a small but exceedingly well-chosen selection of music manuscripts, was placed on deposit and then formally given to the Morgan in 1977. In 1968 the institution became a major repository of music manuscripts with the donation of Mary Flagler Cary's extraordinary collection of manuscripts, letters, and printed scores. In 1972 Robert Owen Lehman put on deposit his collection of manuscript scores, the greatest private collection of its kind. In 2008 the Morgan acquired the James Fuld Collection, by all accounts the finest private collection of printed music in the world.

*Celebrating Puccini* is organized by Frances Barulich, Mary Flagler Cary Curator and Department Head of Music Manuscripts and Printed Music at The Morgan Library & Museum.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò.  
Additional support is provided by the William C. Bullitt Foundation.



This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### **The George London Foundation Series**

This concert is part of a series that pairs renowned international singers with recent winners of a George London Foundation award. Artists will include selected works by Puccini.

James Morris, bass

Marjorie Owens, soprano

Joshua Greene, piano

**Sunday, December 13, 4:30 PM**

Tickets: \$45 for Non-Members; \$35 for Members

## **Music Discussion**

### **Adventures in Italian Opera**

Noted author and opera expert Fred Plotkin hosts a series of conversations with leading performers of the Italian repertory. This series is sponsored by and co-presented with the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, New York University.

Karita Mattila (appearing in The Metropolitan Opera's *Tosca*)

**Thursday, October 15, 6:30 pm\***

Patricia Racette (performing the three lead soprano roles in The Metropolitan Opera's *Il Trittico*)

**Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 pm\***

\* *Celebrating Puccini* will be open at 5:30 pm especially for lecture attendees.

*Tickets:* \$15 for Non-Members; \$10 for Members

## **Film**

**Tosca** (1976, 117 minutes)

*Director:* Gianfranco De Bosio

Join us for a Sunday matinee screening of Puccini's dramatic masterpiece. Filmed on location in Rome, this thrilling tale of passion, lust, and political betrayal is sung by distinguished leads Raina Kabaivanska (as the diva Tosca), Plácido Domingo (as the painter and political dissident Cavaradossi), and Sherrill Milnes (as the evil, conniving Chief of Police Scarpia).

**Sunday, October 4, 2 pm**

**Film tickets are free with museum admission.** Tickets are available at the Admission Desk on the day of the screening. Advance reservations for Morgan Members only: 212.685.0008, ext. 560, or [tickets@themorgan.org](mailto:tickets@themorgan.org).

## **Family Program**

### **Merrily We Draw Along: Cartoons in Concert**

Discover the harmonious ways in which cartoons and classical music work together in this family workshop. Music educator Jennifer Greene will help children learn how the actions and emotions of cartoon characters match the rhythms and modes of their celebrated soundtracks through a selection of *Looney Tunes* and other animated classics. Fran Krause, Animation Professor, Mercy College, will then teach children how to produce their own cartoon storyboards while listening to a piece of classical music, creating drawings that capture the movement and mood of the melodies they hear. Appropriate for ages 6–12.

**Saturday, November 14, 2–4 pm**

*Tickets:* Adults: \$6 for Non-Members; \$4 for Members; Children: \$2

## **Gallery Talk**

### **Celebrating Puccini**

Frances Barulich, Mary Flager Cary Curator and Department Head, Music Manuscripts and Printed Music, The Morgan Library & Museum

**Friday, October 16, 7 pm**

Free admission

## **The Morgan Library & Museum**

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. A century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of

New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

**General Information**

The Morgan Library & Museum  
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405  
212.685.0008  
[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

**Hours**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

**Admission**

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.