

#### HAWAI'I OPERA THEATRE

# THE TRAGEDY OF RANGEDY OF

#### At the Blaisdell Concert Hall February 18 & 20, 2022



## THE TRAGEDY OF CARNER

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**Please take a moment to silence your devices.** Flash photography or video recording of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Facemasks must be worn at all times.



# Aloha

#### Welcome to Hawai'i Opera Theatre's 2022 Season!

It's difficult to believe that our last performance at the Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall took place on February 18, 2020—exactly two years prior to our opening performance this season. As the final curtain came down on our critically acclaimed production of Mozart's delightful *The Marriage of Figaro*, we had no way of knowing that the Covid pandemic would shut everything down for so long. Indeed, the first case of Covid in Hawai'i wasn't reported until early March.

Yet here we are—despite continuing bumps along the way—finally gearing up to bring live opera back to the Blaisdell stage.

None of this would have been possible without the amazing dedication of our staff and board, and the outpouring of support from you, our HOT 'Ohana. You sustained us with your kokua demonstrated through thought, word and deed—and with your unwavering belief that live performance is a vital part of what makes a community strong and complete. You followed us through our two-year journey of imagining what opera and opera-based education programs could be in the digital sphere. And we are a stronger company because of that learning process.

A huge part of the kokua shown to HOT has been the willingness of staff, board, artists and artisans, and patrons to take safety protocols





the creation of engaging experiences while keeping everyone as safe as possible. We had hoped the situation would be such that our mainstage return could take place last fall, and then again in late-January. Yet if there's one thing we've learned these past two years, it's that this virus is unpredictable and ever-changing. So, we continue to adapt with the goal of learning to live with something that will likely be a part of everyday life for years to come.

Mahalo nui loa for believing in your Hawai'i Opera Theatre. The company was founded in 1961 with the belief that opera is a relevant, transformative art-form for everyone, and that belief lives on today. With your continued kokua, HOT will thrive through the next 60 years and beyond.

With much aloha,



**Andrew Morgan General Director** 



# About Us

Opera has been part of island culture for more than a century. Its history in Hawai'i, which dates back to the 1850s, includes stories of Queen Emma singing in the chorus of Verdi's II Trovatore while her husband, King Kamehameha IV served as the stage manager! Today, Hawai'i Opera Theatre is known for its vibrant and creative productions and award-winning education programs.

Since 1961, HOT—founded as a division of the Honolulu Symphony Society and incorporated in 1980—has enhanced the quality of life in Hawai'i by presenting opera performances and education programs of the highest standards. Celebrating 60 years as the only professional opera company in Hawai'i, HOT is one of the largest performing arts organizations in the state with performances and education presentations on all of the main islands. Each season, HOT's opera productions provide 10,000 audience members annually with access to internationally renowned artists, innovative design & direction, and cultural experiences that enrich the quality of life for Hawai'i residents. HOT's year-round educational programs serve as both catalyst and active participant in the artistic education of Hawai'i's youth, serving over 20,000 students, parents, and teachers each year.



## **Board of Directors**

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### Honolulu invites you to join us for a cocktail reception to view the Spring 2022 Eveningwear Caravan

#### Friday, February 25 4 to 6pm

### Dress Collections Level Two

The Caravan will be available for viewing and shopping from February 24 - 27

Please respond by February 21 to **808.948.7575** 

In compliance with local mandate,



## THE TRAGEDY OF GARNEN

#### CAST

**Ashley Dixon<sup>\*</sup>** Carmen

**Kyle van Schoonhoven<sup>®</sup>** Don José

**Christian Pursell\*** Escamillo

#### **ARTISTIC TEAM**

**Emily Senturia** Conductor

Karen Tiller

Music by Georges Bizet Adapted by Peter Brook

**Maria Valdes<sup>\*</sup>** Micaëla

**Benoit Weber** Zuniga & Garcia

**Joshua Habermann<sup>\*</sup>** Lillas Pastia

**Supernumenary** Stephanie Conching

**Michelle "Mei" Chibana** Make Up Artist

**Carol Kasamoto** 

Director

Ronny Michael Greenberg\* Répétiteur/Coach

**Brian Shevelenko** Lighting Designer

**David Hunt** Multimedia Designer

**Kathe James** Costume Designer Hair Stylist **Emily Rose Carr Hunt** Stage Manager **Jamie Sanborn** Orchestra Personnel Manager **Tony Pisculli** Stage Fight Choreographer \*HOT Debut

#### **PRODUCTION SPONSORS**

Carol Franc Buck Foundation Dorette P.S. Luke, in memory of Theodore K.W. Luke

#### **ARTISTS SPONSOR**

National Endowment for the Arts – American Rescue Plan

KAREN TILLER POLIVKA FUND FOR STAGE DIRECTION Anela Kolohe Foundation

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#### **SUPERTITLES SPONSOR**



## Synopsis

#### THE TRAGEDY OF CARMEN (LA TRAGÉDIE DE CARMEN)

Seville, Spain 1918

Micaëla, a young country girl, arrives in Seville looking for her childhood sweetheart, Don José. She brings him a letter from his mother. A gypsy, Carmen, throws a flower to the young corporal and sings a seductive love song.

The two girls fight and José's superior, Zuniga, appears. Unable to control Carmen, he orders José to take her to jail. En route, Carmen promises José that if he lets her escape she will meet him at the inn of her friend Lillias Pastia. José lets Carmen go, whereupon Zuniga locks him up and takes away the corporal's rank. Carmen arrives at the inn with stolen goods. Zuniga comes to see Carmen and offers money for her favors. Carmen accepts, but shortly thereafter José enters.

Carmen abandons Zuniga and sings for José. At this moment the bugles blow, summoning José back to the barracks. Carmen is furious and taunts him; the situation becomes tense. José discovers Zuniga, loses control and kills the officer.

The body is quickly hidden as Escamillo, a famous bullfighter, enters. Buying drinks all around, he announces that he, too, wants Carmen. José, jealous, picks a fight with Escamillo. Carmen separates them and Escamillo withdraws, inviting all to his next bullfight.



José, who has now killed for Carmen, sings of his love for her and they traverse to the mountains.

While they are sleeping, Garcia appears at the camp. He is Carmen's husband, though she has hidden his existence from José. The two men challenge each other and as they go off to fight, Carmen reads her tragic fate in the cards. The song ends, Garcia returns wounded and falls dead at Carmen's feet.

Micaëla appears again searching for José; the two women seem to understand each other. They sing while José, twice a murderer and abandoned by Carmen, flees. Carmen becomes Escamillo's mistress. José returns to persuade her to leave with him to start a new life. She refuses, knowing she is putting her life in jeopardy.

Escamillo is killed in the bullring. Carmen still refuses José's offer, but she goes with him as far as the place where the cards have foretold that she will die.



## Director's Note

When Andrew and I first discussed La Tragédie de Carmen, I actually had never seen it. I knew about it, and thought, like many of you, that this version is just a "greatest hits" of the larger work by Bizet... no big chorus scenes, but all of the arias in a short, sweet package. As soon as I cracked the score, it was clear that I was mistaken...

Though familiar, the characters themselves are reimagined, and in many ways, go back to earlier sources of the tale of Carmen the Gypsy. José, Carmen, Micaëla...are all grittier, darker, more complex. Escamillo is not so self-assured and Pastia is no longer an affable tavern owner. There is a thread of desperation and death that snakes through all of these 90 minutes that doesn't truly appear until the end of Bizet's *Carmen*.

I kept coming back to the notion that *La Tragédie de Carmen* is more than a retelling, but is somehow a dramatic and musical deconstruction that forces us down an entirely different path...and this led me to the concept for this production.

We find ourselves in post-WWI Spain, the year 1918.

During the war, Spain remained neutral. Spain's military was in disarray, and there was, in certain sectors of the country, a "Wild West" feel to cities... with gun fire common in the streets. Spain had



politicians had no stomach to venture into the fray. The war did however, as throughout Europe, tear at the cultural fabric of society. Arms and munitions factories were quickly built and began feeding the weapons need of France. Traditional, simpler ways of life were rapidly dissolving into a thing of the past...crumbling into obscurity as the concept of the global stage was coming into being.

And, as we begin the third year of the COVID pandemic, we are all now aware that 1918 marked the official beginning of the global pandemic known as the Spanish Flu. Though it probably began earlier and elsewhere, spreading through the lingering field hospitals at the end of the war, the moniker has remained. This particular strain of virus truly decimated the youngest and healthiest of society. Many who survived the horrors of war succumbed to this terrible flu, with an estimated mortality of over fifty million worldwide.

It is within this historical context that we explore tonight's "opera noir." Societal structures and norms are crumbling, global economies are in disarray, and as we come to the end of our evening, a deadly virus stalks the streets of Seville.

I hope you will enjoy HOT's return to the Main Stage... I am deeply honored to be a part of such a momentous occasion.

**Enjoy!** 



**Karen Tiller** Stage Director





# Shop new & gently used designer clothing, accessories & household items.

ACTI

Hawai'i Opera Plaza 848 S. Beretania St., Suite 307 Thursdays 10am - 3pm



## HOT Profiles

#### **Ashley Dixon | Carmen**

Hometown Peachtree City, Georgia

#### **Recent & Upcoming Productions**

- Title Role, Carmen (Atlanta Opera)
- Title Role, Lucrezia (Opera Louisiane)
- Annio, La clemenza di Tito (The Ravinia Festival)
- Adalgisa, Norma (Festival Opera)

#### **Career Highlights**

- Sara, Roberto Devereux (Los Angeles Opera)
- Grand Finals winner of the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions • San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program Alumna **HOT Debut**



• Yes

#### Kyle van Schoonhoven Don José

Hometown

Lockport, New York

#### **Recent & Upcoming Productions**

- Lancelot, Le Roi Arthus (Bard Music Festival)
- Loud Stone, *Eurydice* (The Metropolitan Opera)
- Laca, Jenufa (Opera de Rouen)
- Tenor Soloist, Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Oregon Symphony)

#### **Career Highlights**

- Grand Finals winner of the 2017 Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition
- Title Role, Rienzi (San Francisco Opera)
- San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program Alumnus

#### **HOT Debut**





### **Christian Pursel | Escamillo**

Hometown: Santa Cruz, California

- **Recent & Upcoming Productions**
- Escamillo, Carmen (Cincinnati Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis)
- Bass-Baritone, Messiah (San Francisco Symphony)
- Baritone, Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Arizona Musicfest)
- Lieutenant Ratcliffe, Billy Budd (San Francisco Opera)

#### **Career Highlights**

- 3rd Prize Winner in the 2021 James Toland Vocal Arts Competition
- Dandini, La Cenerentola (Merola Opera Program)
- San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program Alumnus

**HOT Debut** 

• Yes

### Maria Valdes | Micaëla

Hometown: Marietta, Georgia





#### **Recent & Upcoming Productions**

- Gilda, Rigoletto (Gulf Coast Symphony)
- Amy, The Snowy Day (Houston Grand Opera)
- Younger Alyce, Glory Denied (Atlanta Opera & Berkshire **Opera Festival**)
- Soprano Soloist, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 (Georgia Symphony Orchestra)
- **Career Highlights**
- San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program Alumna
- Doris Parker, Yardbird (Atlanta Opera)
- Diana, Cruzar la cara de la luna (New York City Opera)

**HOT Debut** 

• Yes

### Benoit Weber | Zuniga & Garcia

Hometown: Honolulu, Hawai'i

**Recent & Upcoming Productions** 

- Nicky Arnstein, Funny Girl (Diamond Head Theatre)
- Head Servant, La Traviata (Hawai'i Opera Theatre)

Career Highlights





- Music Teacher, Assets School, 2002-2014 **HOT Debut**
- The Magic Flute (February 2003)

#### Joshua Habermann | Lillas Pastia

Hometown: San Francisco, California

- **Recent & Upcoming Productions**
- Chorus Director (Dallas Symphony Chorus)
- Artistic Director (The Desert Chorale, Santa Fe)
- Conductor, Mozart's Requiem (Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra)

**Career Highlights** 

 GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> nominee, Threshold of Night, (Best Choral Recording & Best Classical Album)

**HOT Debut** 

• Yes

## **Emily Senturia** | Conductor





Hometown: San Francisco, California

**Recent & Upcoming Productions** 

- Conductor, La clemenza di Tito (Opera Steamboat)
- Conductor, Semele (Opera Santa Barbara)
- Conductor, Fellow Travelers (Florida Grand Opera)
- Conductor, Sky on Swings (Opera Saratoga)
- **Career Highlights**
- Music Director, Denis & Katya (Opera Philadelphia's O19 Festival)
- Mainstage Conducting Debut, Il barbiere di Siviglia (Houston Grand Opera and Washington National Opera)
- Conductor, Ariadne auf Naxos (Wolf Trap Opera)
- **HOT Debut**
- La Traviata (May 2019)



### Karen Tiller | Director

#### Hometown: Honolulu, Hawai'i

#### **Recent & Upcoming Productions**

- Director, Hometown to the World (Hawai'i Opera Theatre)
- Director, Three Decembers (Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Livermore Valley Opera, and San Diego Opera)



• Commissioner-at-Large for the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

#### **Career Highlights**

- Served as Executive Director of Opera Memphis & Hawai'i Opera Theatre
- Director, The Turn of the Screw (Opera Memphis)
- Director, Orpheo et Euridice (Opera Festival of New Jersey)

#### **HOT Debut**

Susannah (February 2005)

### Ronny Michael Greenberg Répétiteur

Hometown: Montreal, Québec, CA **Recent & Upcoming Productions** 



- The Dream of the Red Chamber (San Francisco Opera)
- Co-Chair, Collaborative Piano Program (Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival)
- Co-Producer & Music Director, 2021 Merola Virtual Gala

#### **Career Highlights**

- Full Time Member Music Staff (San Francisco Opera)
- CEO & Artistic Director (Taste of Talent)
- **HOT Debut**
- Yes



ETURN

## Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra

Violin 1 Iggy Jang Judy Barrett Maile Reeves

#### Violin 2

Hung Wu **Darel Stark Ki Won Kim** 

Viola **Steve Flanter** Sandra Wong

Clarinet 1 Jim Moffitt

Basoon 1 **Phil Gottling** 

French Horn 1 Anna Lenhart

Trumpet 1 **Casey** Tamanaha

Cello Sung Chan Chang Josh Nakazawa

Bass Matt Love

Flute 1 **Claire Butin** 

Oboe 1 Scott Janusch

Trombone 1 Jason Byerlotzer

Timpani **Brad Davis** 

Percussion **Becca Laurito** 

Harp **Connie Uejio** 

Librarian Kim Kiyabu

**Orchestra Personnel** Manager Jamie Sanborn



## Production Staff

**Multimedia Designer** David Hunt

**Lighting Designer Brian Shevelenko** 

**Costume Designer** Kathe James

**Make Up Artist** Michelle "Mei" Chibana

**Props Manager** Gen Boyer

Sound **Charles Roberts** 

Video Skye Yee

Wardrobe Mistress Pamela Gossage

**Hair Stylist Carol Kasamoto** 

**Stage Manager Emily Rose Carr Hunt** 

Assistant Stage Manager **Stephanie Conching** 

Lead Carpenter Al Omo

Lead Electrician Sandy Sandelin

Lead Flyman Alema Ryder

**IATSE Union Steward** Al Omo, Local 665

**Running Crew** I.A.T.S.E. Local 665

Security Joe Uahinui

**Backstage Security** Coordinator Miu Lan Olan

**Supertitles Keenan Dolan** 



## **HOT** Staff

**Andrew Morgan General Director** 

**Troy Apostol** Education Operations Manager Box Office Assistant

**Erik D. Haines** Director of Education Programs Director of Finance

**Brandann Hill-Mann Production Coordinator** 

**Blythe Kelsey Director of** Artistic Administration

**Regi Lammers Development Manager**  Jamie Offenbach Artistic Program Officer

Lore Ramiro

**Suzanne Ruiz** & Administration

**Eric Schank Education Music Specialist** 

**Gordon Svec Director of Production** 

**James Wright Safety Protocol Coordinator** 

**Kristen Lau-Grover Director of Advancement** 

#### Volunteers

#### Wigs & Makeup Ilona Penzes

#### Wardrobe

Sharry Rowe **Chris Valles** Carlynne Wolfe

#### **Backstage Security**

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#### **Stuart Zwagil Special Projects Manager**

### Health & Safety

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#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Call <u>808-596-7858</u> or visit <u>Tickets.HawaiiOpera.org</u> to reserve your seats.

Friday, March 11 | 7:30pm

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## HOT Education Outreach

Explore all of the ways HOT's education team provides access to live performance and arts education to our community year-round! Interested in having HOT come to your school or community group? Contact Troy Apostol, Education Operations Manager, at t\_apostol@hawaiiopera.org.

#### **OPERA EXPRESS**

Each year, HOT's touring show brings child-friendly versions of popular operas directly into schools, libraries, and community centers on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands. The 45-minute show features talented artists live piano accompaniment, a set, costumes, props, opportunities for audience participation, and more.

#### **OPERA RESIDENCY**

Let HOT turn your class, grade level, or entire school into a mini opera-production company! Through our award-winning program led by HOT's skilled Teaching Artists, students, faculty, and staff are coached to develop their own opera from concept to performance integrated with curriculum themes.

#### **OPERA FOR EVERYONE**

Students from K-12 and college, plus their teachers and  $\frown$ families, can enjoy the final full orchestra dress rehearsal of each mainstage opera for just \$7. Teachers can integrate the performance into the classroom through provided materials connecting opera to literature, language, history, science, and math.



#### MAE Z. ORVIS OPERA STUDIO

Now in its 22nd year, HOT's Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio provides meaningful training and performance opportunities to local singers. Studio artists work with opera professionals and master coaches to develop vocal mastery, artistic repertoire and musical styles, language facility, audition skills, and business acumen. 2022-2023 auditions will be held on Saturday, April 9.

#### **ORVIS YOUNG VOICES STUDIO**

HOT's Orvis Young Voices Studio provides high school age singers in Hawai'i with the unique opportunity to explore the world of solo voice performance. Students work with HOT's professional staff, as well as master guest artists to improve their skills as performers in workshops ranging from vocal technique, diction, and repertoire to acting, movement and more.

#### **OPERA PREVIEW/S & LANALLECTURES**

Learn about the creators, story, and history behind each show through HOT's free panel discussions and guided lectures! HOT's 15-minute Lanai Lectures are held twice on performance days at the Blaisdell Concert Hall's Ward Avenue lanai at 60 and 30 minutes before curtain.

#### MAHALO TO THE HOT EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORTERS:

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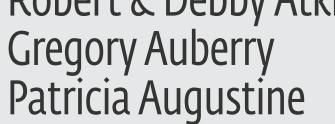
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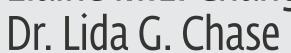
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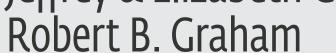
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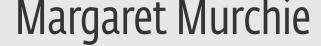
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## Join The Opera Legacy Society

For more than 60 years, Hawai'i Opera Theatre has played an integral role in our local community —providing dynamic and innovative programming for more than 10,000 audience members annually, as well as vital exposure to the performing arts and arts education for over 20,000 keiki and their families across the entire state. HOT is grateful for the many generous individuals committed to the future artistic and financial strength of the organization through planned giving.



Help us plan for the next 60 years and beyond! There are several ways to provide support to HOT in your legacy planning—explore the planned giving vehicle that works best for you.

## Give to the future.

Please contact Kristen Lau-Grover at 808-596-7372 or by email at <u>k\_laugrover@hawaiiopera.org</u> for more information.

If you have already named HOT as a beneficiary of your estate, please let us know so that we can recognize you now as a member of our Legacy Society and thank

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## Invites you to the 2022 Opera Ball The Butterfly Emerges

#### Saturday, March 26 | 6pm Sheraton Waikiki 2255 Kalakaua Ave

### Tables & Tickets ON SALE NOW!

Call <u>808-596-7858</u> to reserve by March 14



## Henry Akina Fund

Henry Akina served as HOT's Artistic Director from 1996 to 2017. To mark his 20 year legacy with HOT, The Henry Akina Tribute Fund was established in his honor. The income generated from the fund is used each year to sponsor a visiting director or opera production in Henry's name. We are grateful to the following individuals who established the fund:

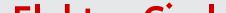
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Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00pm Hawai'i Opera Plaza, Studio 101 Runway 848 S. Beretania St. | Honolulu, HI 96813 Tickets: \$40

Reserve your tickets at <u>Tickets.HawaiiOpera.org</u>



#### Must be 21 years of age or older to attend | Proof of vaccination required

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# Butterly

HOT's season comes to a stunning close with Puccini's Madame Butterfly, one of opera's most beloved works. Japanese-Canadian Director, Aria Umezawa, tells the tale through the eyes of Trouble, Cio-Cio-San's son, returning as an adult to explore his Japanese heritage. Puccini's haunting score filled with unforgettable music of beauty and pathos will linger long after.

#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Call <u>808-596-7858</u> or visit <u>Tickets.HawaiiOpera.org</u> to reserve your seats.

Friday, April 8 7:30pm

Sunday, April 10 | Tuesday, April 12 **4:00pm** 



# EVENts

From grand operas to pop up performances, fashion shows & more, save the date for these exciting events!

Spring 2022 Eveningwear Caravan Neiman Marcus | Ala Moana Cocktail Reception + Shopping Preview Event Friday, February 25 | 4-6pm Free | RSVP by Feb 21 at 808.948.7575

**FEB** 

Studio 101 Pop Up: Concert & Couture Hawai'i Opera Plaza | 848 S. Beretania Introducing Collection CHO by Anne Namba Wednesday, March 2 | 6pm \$40 | Tickets. Hawaii Opera.org

MAR 2

#### **Re-Emerging: HOT Live in Concert Blaisdell Concert Hall**

90 minutes | No Intermission Friday, March 11 7:30pm Sunday, March 13 | 4pm Tickets start at \$30 | Tickets.HawaiiOpera.org

#### **Orvis Young Voices Recital** Location **TBD**

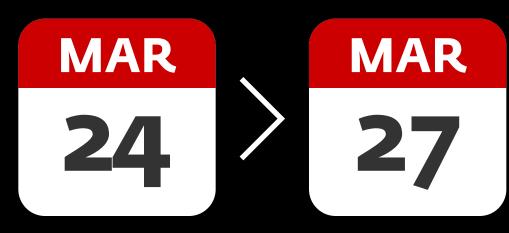
A showing of HOT's Young Artist Talent Sunday, March 13 | 4pm Free | RSVP by March 11 at

#### **Miseno Jewelry Trunk Show** Neiman Marcus | Ala Moana Portion of proceeds benefit Hawai'i Opera Theatre

Thursday, March 24 - Sunday, March 27

## MAR 13







#### 2022 Opera Ball: The Butterfly Emerges **Sheraton Waikiki Hotel**

Don't miss the cultural event of the spring! Saturday, March 26 | 6pm Single Tickets & Tables Available | Call 808. 596. 7858

#### **Opera for Everyone:** Madame Butterfly **Blaisdell Concert Hall**

Full Orchestra Student Dress Rehearsal Wednesday, April 6 | 7pm \$7 Tickets for Student Groups | Call 808. 596. 7858



MAR

26

#### **Madame Butterfly Blaisdell Concert Hall**

3 hours | One Intermission Friday, April 8 | 7:30pm Sunday, April 10 | 4pm & Tuesday, April 12 | 7:30pm Tickets start at \$30 | Tickets.HawaiiOpera.org



