

## operatime

Cincinnati Opera launches its 88th summer season



CARA OWSLEY | THE ENQUIRER

Alain Coulombe as "Bonze" rehearses a scene from *Madame Butterfly* with the Cincinnati Opera at the Cincinnati Ballet. *Madame Butterfly* is part of the Cincinnati Opera's 2008 season.

## JUST THE FACTS

**WHAT:** Cincinnati Opera summer season

**WHEN:** June 11-July 27

**WHERE:** Music Hall, 1243 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine

**PRICE:** \$25-\$147 single tickets, \$94-\$564 subscriptions (Center Stage members get half-price tickets and subscriptions)

**PARKING:** Try the CET garage on Central Parkway for \$5

**CONTACT:** 513-241-2742 or [www.cincinnatiopera.org](http://www.cincinnatiopera.org)

## RODNEY WILSON | CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

When pondering summer recreation options, many of us might head out to a Reds game or fire up the grill and start a pickup game of cornhole.

You might not think of going to the opera as a summer activity. But with the Cincinnati Opera serving up a summer season of diverse, high-caliber productions, you might want to consider squeezing in an overture and an aria between your outdoor activities.

Founded in 1920, the Cincinnati Opera is the nation's second oldest opera company, preceded only by New York's Metropolitan Opera. All productions are staged in historic Music Hall and accompanied by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

With a history of almost 90 years of quality productions, the Cincinnati Opera has earned the right to rest on its laurels, but a sneak peak at the 88th season reveals a company concerned with respecting opera's rich traditions while being open to new voices and younger audiences.

We spoke with the Cincinnati Opera's Julie Bergantino about the upcoming 2008 summer season, and she shed a bit of light on the four productions.

## MADAME BUTTERFLY

7:30 p.m. June 11 and 13 and 3 p.m. June 15

**Bergantino:** "We're starting off the season with the very classic tragic love story, *Madame Butterfly*. It's a Puccini opera - we often parallel Puccini with Barry Manilow as far as his prolific melody. A lot of people will start out with a Puccini opera, and *Madame Butterfly* is one of the most popular operas ever written - a true story of love and betrayal. It's the classic production, and it'll be very lush."

## LUCIE DE LAMMERMOOR

7:30 p.m. June 26 and 28

**Bergantino:** "This is the French revision of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and it's very rarely per-

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