



Philip Skinner to replace Bojan Knezevic as Sharpless in Festival Opera's *Madama Butterfly*, opening July 10

Due to scheduling conflicts, baritone Bojan Knezevic, who was scheduled to perform Sharpless in the Festival Opera production of *Madama Butterfly* on July 10 – 18, 2010, has been replaced by bass-baritone, Philip Skinner.

Skinner last sang the role for Festival Opera in 2001, and last performed with the company in 2003. A graduate of the Merola Opera Program, the former Adler Fellow began his career with San Francisco Opera in 1985, and has since appeared in 35 roles there. He has also performed with Pittsburgh Opera, Washington Opera, Portland Opera, Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera,

Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, Teatro di San Carlo and San Diego Opera, the latter in March.

Equally prolific in the concert hall, Skinner has performed the *Verdi Messa Da Requiem* at Carnegie Hall with the Masterworks Chorale and in Europe with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra; *Beethoven Symphony No. 9* at the Hollywood Bowl and with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra; and *The Lord Nelson Mass* at the Spoleto Festival in Italy; among others.

He can be seen on video in San Francisco Opera's *L'africaine* with Placido Domingo, in Seattle Opera's *War and Peace*, in Canadian Opera's *Tosca* and heard on the Spoleto Festival's recording of *Antony and Cleopatra*. A graduate of Northwestern University, Skinner received his master's degree and the prestigious performance certificate from Indiana University.

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