

OPERA FUNTIME COLLECTION by the Young Patronesses of the Opera

The Abduction from the Seraglio	Mozart
Aida	Verdi
The Barber of Seville	Rossini
La Bohème	Puccini
Carmen	Bizet
La Cenerentola	Rossini
Così Fan Tutte	Mozart
Cristoforo Colombo	Franchetti
Don Giovanni	
Faust	Gounod
Die Fledermaus	J.Strauss
Hansel and Gretel	Humperdinck
Idomeneo	Mozart
Madama Butterfly	Puccini
The Magic Flute	Mozart
The Marriage of Figaro	Mozart
Otello	Verdi
Pagliacci	Leoncavallo
Rigoletto	Verdi
Roméo and Juliette	Gounod
The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La Traviata	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini



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COMPOSER: Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924

Puccini was born in 1858 in Lucca, Italy into a family with a long musical tradition. His musical education began at an early age. After his father died, the young Puccini helped support his mother as the village church organist. He had a funloving and mischievous side. In singing class, he would sing the wrong notes to confuse the teacher. In church, he would play an extra note or two to shock the priests.

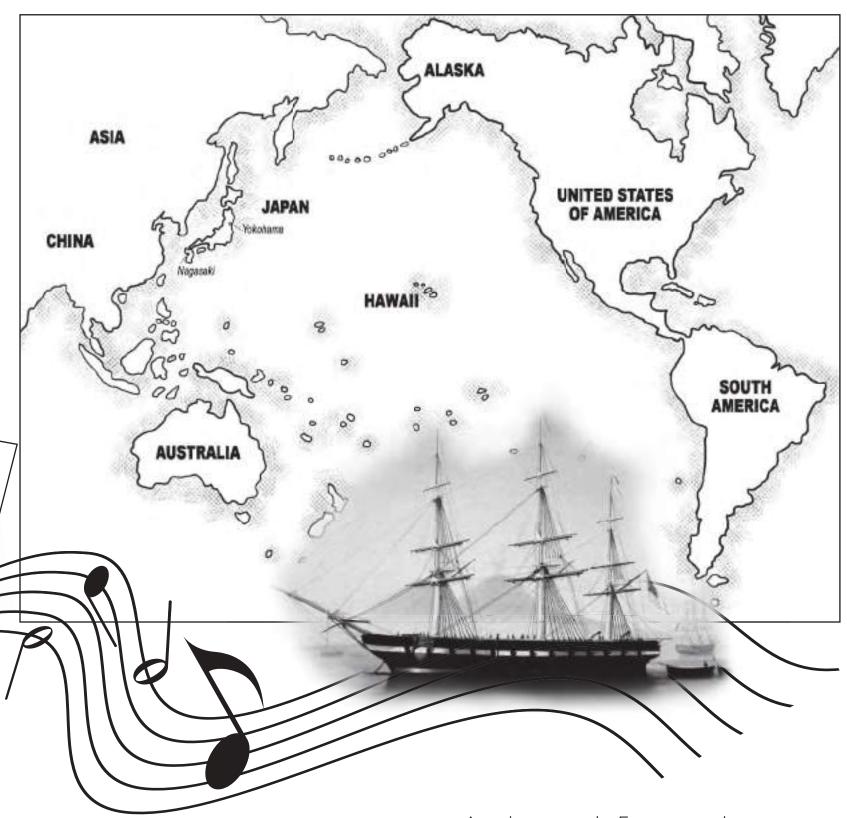
At age 18, he and his friends walked twenty miles to Pisa to hear Verdi's opera,

Aida. Puccini became so enchanted with the art form that he devoted the rest of his life to writing operas.

In January 1900, Puccini was in London to celebrate the first English production of his opera, *Tosca*. There he attended David Belasco's oneact play, *Madame*

Butterfly. The play so inspired him that he decided this would be his next opera. He wanted his opera to be authentic. While in Milan he sought out Madam Sada Yakko, a well-known traveling Japanese actress and consulted the wife of Japan's Ambassador, who sang some Japanese folk songs for him.

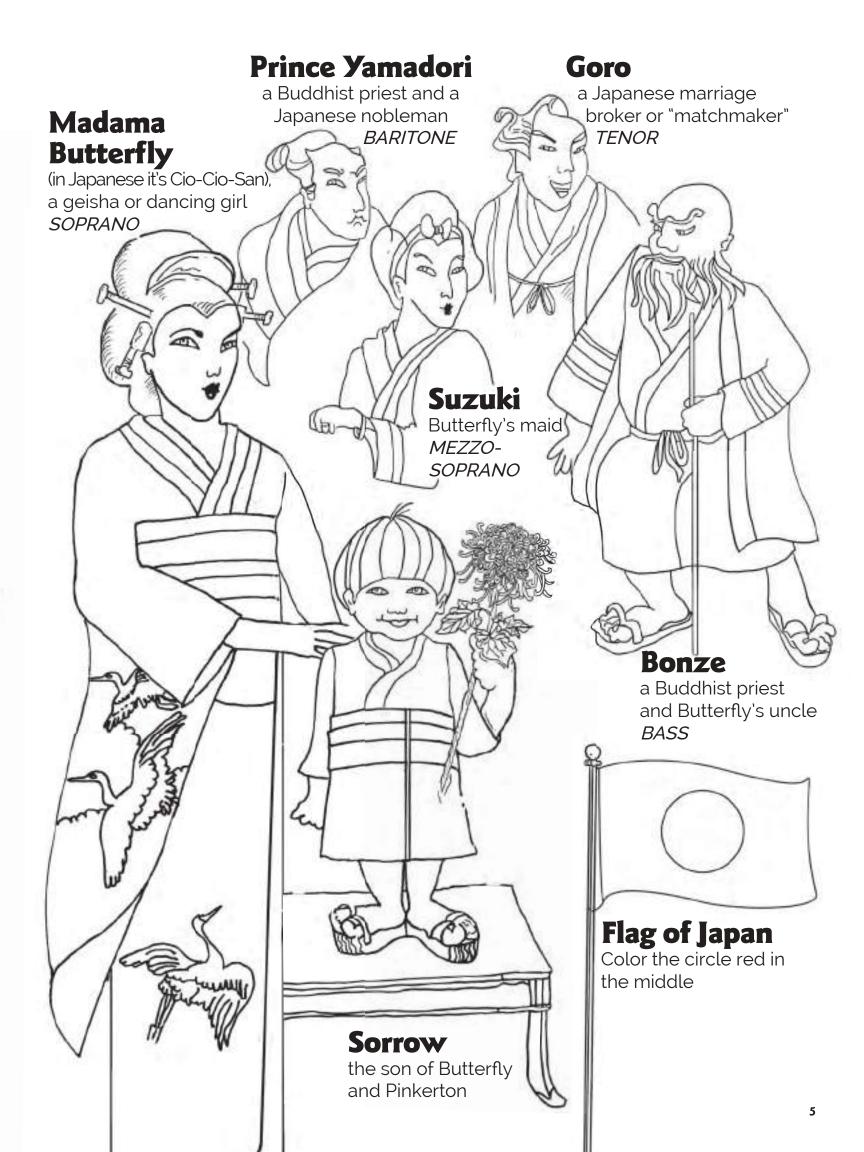
sang some Japanese folk songs for him. After three long years composing Madama Butterfly, his opera premiered at La Scala in Milan on February 17, 1904. However, organized opposition supporting his rival ruined the performance. In response, Puccini revised the score. Finally, it had its triumphal opening at Teatro Grande in Brescia on May 20, 1904. Today, it is one of the most beloved and performed operas worldwide.



When Commodore Matthew Perry dropped anchor in Yokohama Harbor on July 8, 1853, he opened Japan to American and European culture. He opened Europe to Japanese prints and colors. Thus started the Art Nouveau and the Impressionist movements. Until then, Japan had hidden behind a self-imposed "Bamboo Curtain" for 200 years.

Americans and Europeans known as the "hairy barbarians" began visiting Japan. After long voyages "treaty-port marriages" took place. In the opera, the character Butterfly comes from a noble family that has fallen on hard times after her father's death. She becomes a geisha, which means "arts person." At age 15, a "temporary marriage" is arranged between Butterfly and the American naval officer B.F. Pinkerton.





Act I

utside a villa in Nagasaki Goro and Pinkerton each do agree

To an arranged "marriage" and a small rental house For the handsome Lieutenant and a Japanese "spouse."

Sharpless, an official for the United States. Tells Pinkerton this arrangement he hates.

He warns the Lieutenant, Cio-Cio-San will get hurt, That Madama Butterfly is no casual flirt!

"To you this is just an adventurous deal But to dear Butterfly this 'marriage' is real!"

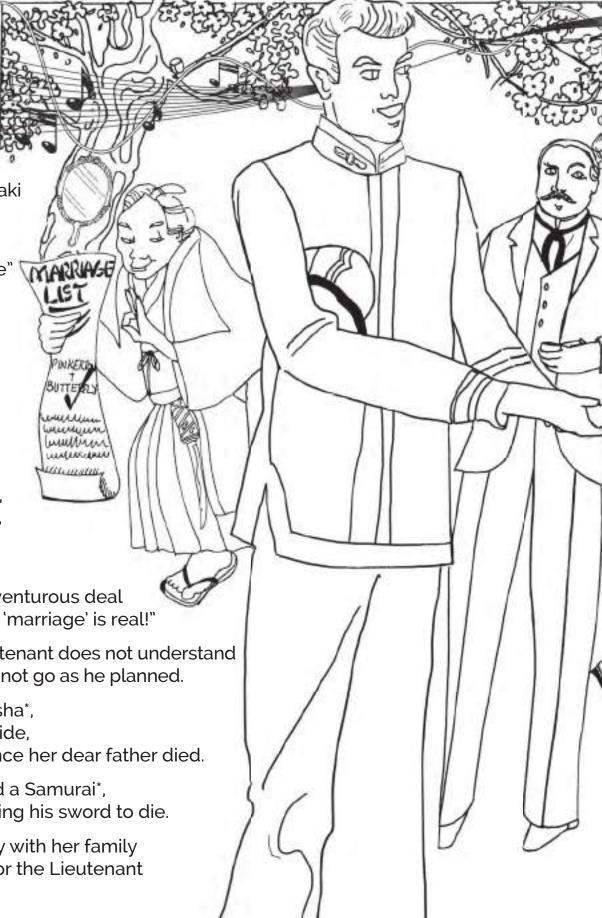
Though warned, the Lieutenant does not understand This adventure of his will not go as he planned.

She's a lovely young geisha*, Who works with great pride,

Supporting her family since her dear father died.

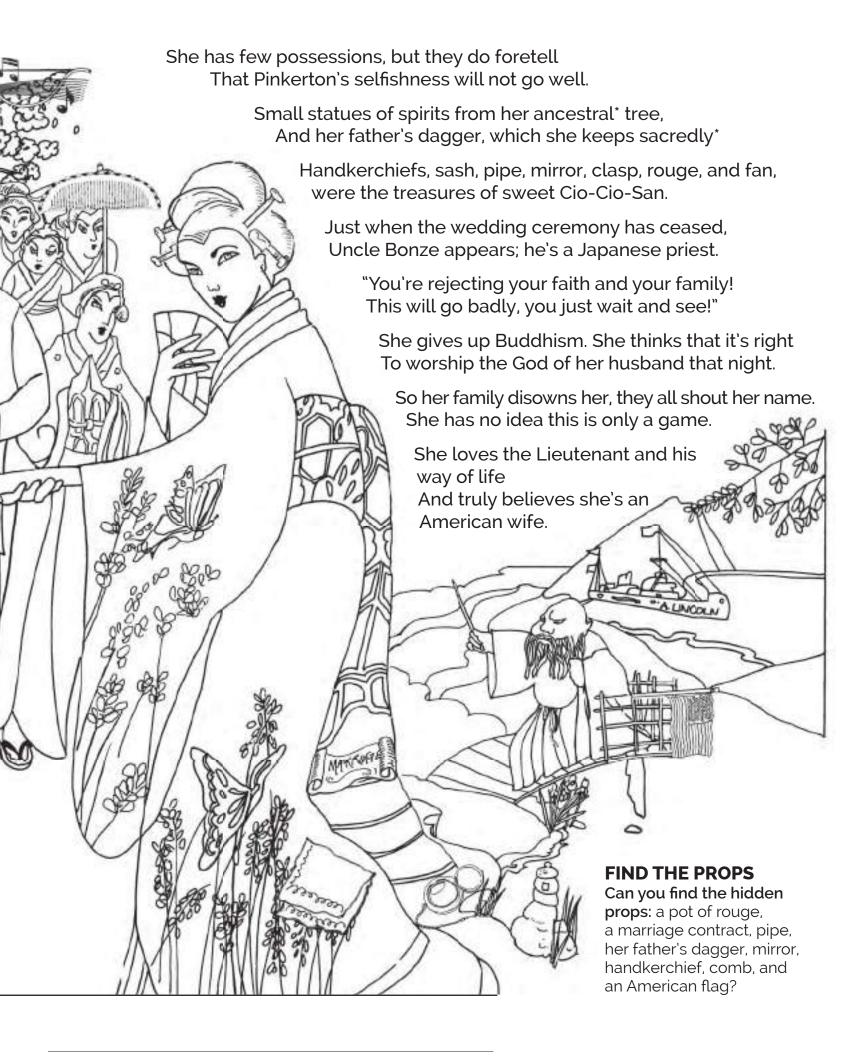
Her father was noble and a Samurai*. An honorable warrior, using his sword to die.

Here comes the Butterfly with her family And her box of trinkets for the Lieutenant to see.



^{*} Geisha - a beautiful, talented, Japanese entertainer. She may dance, sing, recite poetry or play an instrument. She is paid to perform at parties.

^{*} Samurai - a member of a powerful military caste in feudal Japan



^{*} Sacredly - with great honor and respect

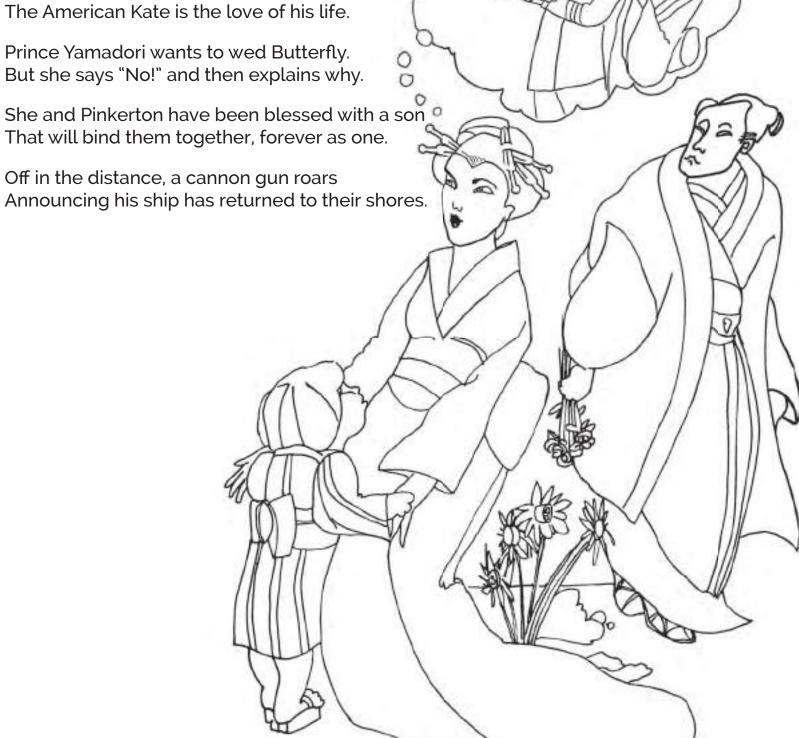
^{*} Ancestral - referring to the relatives who came before you

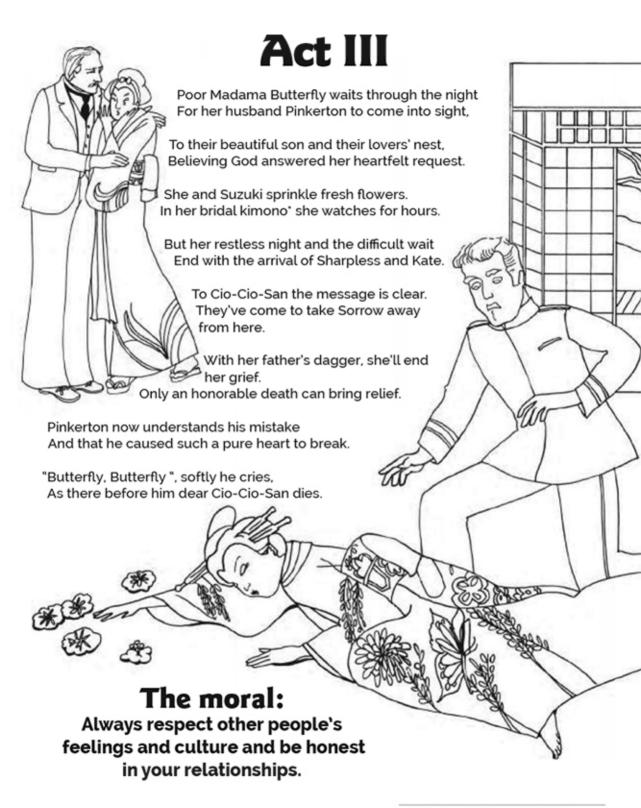
Act II

Pinkerton's gone now for three long, long years. While Butterfly just won't give in to her fears.

Sharpless appears with some very bad news
She will not hear it, she goes on to refuse,
"He said he'll come back when the red robins sing
In America, do they do that in the spring?"

But the letter says Pinkerton has a new wife. The American Kate is the love of his life.







Act It Out: A JAPANESE WEDDING

Actors in a play often underline their part in color to find their place quickly. Choose your part and underline as follows:

Pinkerton = blue; Butterfly = pink; Sharpless = brown;

Goro = yellow; Commissioner = red; Registrar = orange;

Mother = gray; Aunt = green; Cousins = shades of purple

Time: 1900

Place: Nagasaki, Japan in the garden of Pinkerton's house

Stage Directions: PINKERTON and **SHARPLESS** are standing downstage right. BUTTERFLY and **HER BRIDESMAIDS** are downstage left. The AUTHORITIES and BUTTERFLY'S **FAMILY** arrive from upstage left. Upstage is away from the audience. Upstage Upstage Right Left Center Stage Downstage Downstage Left Right Downstage is toward the audience.

Goro (Announcing each as they enter):

"The August High Commissioner... the official Registrar... Butterfly's relatives."

Pinkerton (aside to Sharpless): "Very funny! These are my new in-laws... hired on a monthly contract."

First Cousin (to Butterfly): "Where is he?"

Butterfly: "There he is." (Points to Pinkerton).

First Cousin (to others): "He's not handsome."

Second Cousin: "He was offered to me first, but I didn't like his looks."

Third Cousin: "He'll never stay. I hope he doesn't."

Mother: "I think he's just fine."

Aunt: "And he has a lot of money, too."

Pinkerton (looking at Butterfly): "She's a gem, a flower. She fascinates me."

Sharpless: "Indeed, my friend! You're lucky. She loves you. But don't take this marriage contract lightly. I warn you."

Goro: "Shhhhhhhhh. Silence. It's time for the ceremony."

(PINKERTON and BUTTERFLY go to stage center. The others form a half-circle around them.)

Commissioner (reading): "Permission is given to the undersigned, Mister B.F. Pinkerton, Lieutenant, serving on the gunboat Abraham Lincoln of the United States Navy of North America... and to the maiden known as Butterfly, inhabitant of Nagasaki... to join in bonds of wedlock. The first-named party does so by his free will, and the second by consent of her relations, witnesses of the contract."

Goro (with great ceremony): "The bridegroom..." (**PINKERTON** signs the contract.) "The bride..." (**BUTTERFLY** signs.) "Now all is settled."

Bridesmaids (gathering around **BUTTERFLY**): "Dear Madama Butterfly....."

Butterfly (raises her finger and corrects them): "No. It's Madama B.F. Pinkerton."

(The **REGISTRAR** takes the papers from **GORO** after the relatives have signed their names as witnesses, and informs the **COMMISSIONER** that the ceremony is over.)

Commissioner (to the guests): "Thank you for coming. The ceremony is now over." (Congratulating Pinkerton): "You have my best wishes."

Pinkerton: "Thank you most sincerely." (Bows to the Commissioner).

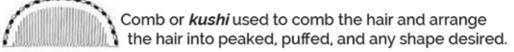
Commissioner (to Sharpless): "Shall we go back to town together?"

Sharpless: "Yes, I'll join you." (Then shakes hands with **PINKERTON**): "I'll see you tomorrow, but remember what I said. Please don't take this marriage contract lightly."



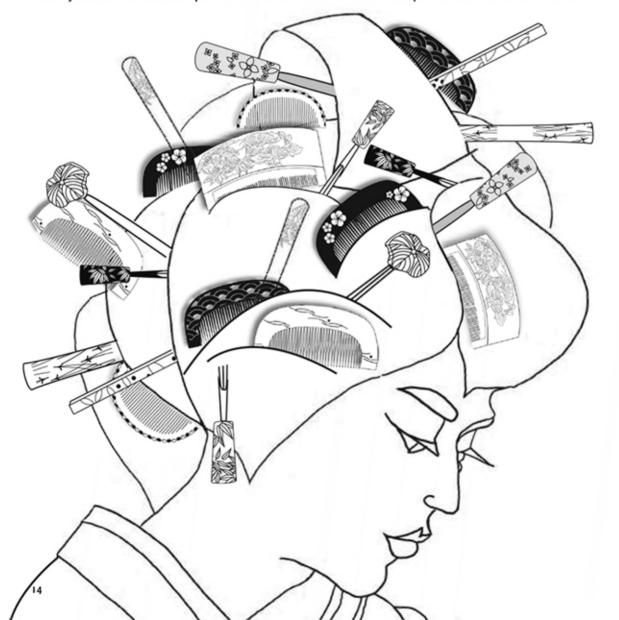
THE HAIR COMB GAME

Butterfly wore two different hairpieces to keep her elaborate hairstyle in place.



Kogai was used to wind the hair around and make a chignon (bun).

Can you match the 12 pairs that are alike? Give each pair the same number.

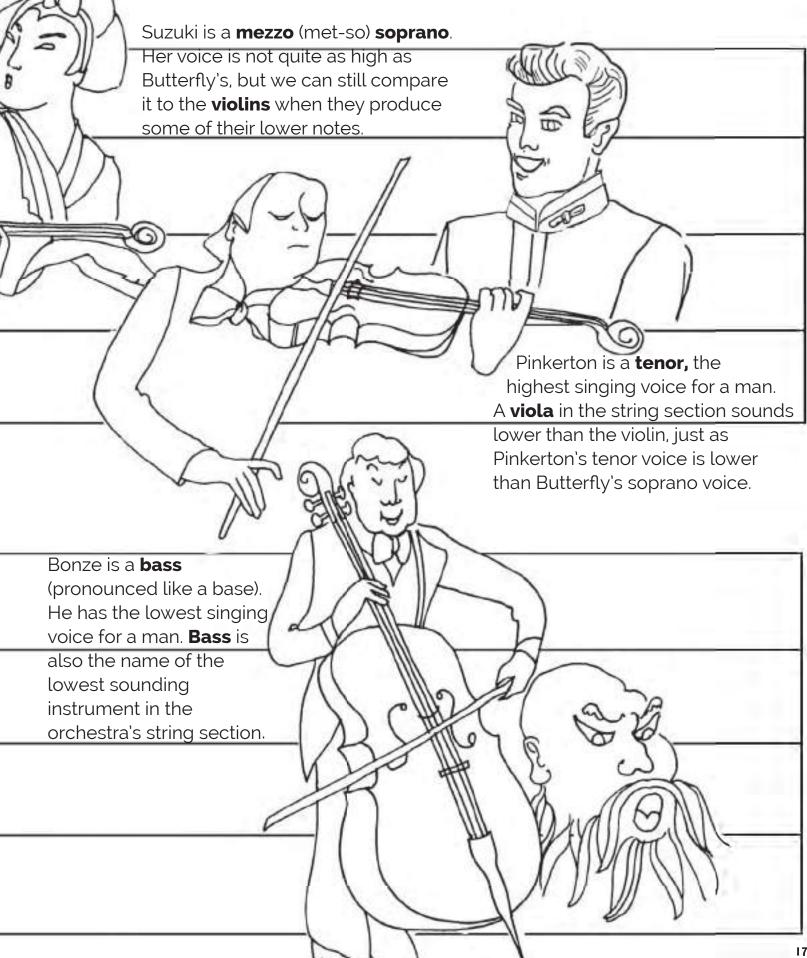






A very important "family" of instruments in the orchestra is the string section: the violins, violas, cellos and basses. Let's compare these instruments to our "family" of opera voices.

Suzuki is a mezzo (met-so) soprano.





Io So Che Alle Sue Pene

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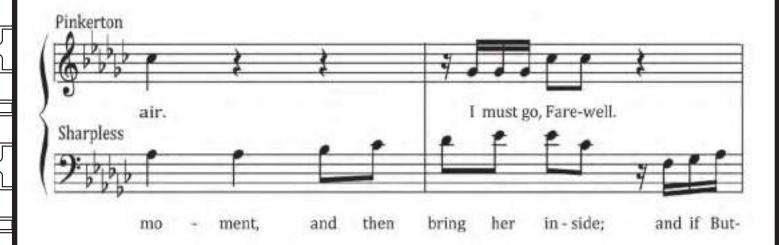
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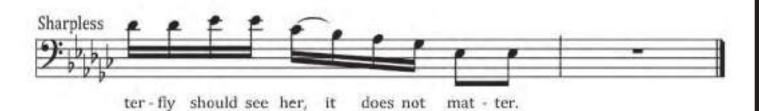
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- continued -







Japanese Crane ORIGA

Make your own Crane

out of paper. Best to use a paper that is thin and light. Cut it into a square... and get ready to fold!

In Japan, the crane is one of the mystical or holy creatures (others include the dragon and the tortoise) and symbolizes good fortune and longevity because of its fabled life span of a thousand years.

The crane is a favorite subject of the tradition of origami or paper folding.

An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by a crane.

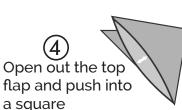
piece of paper.



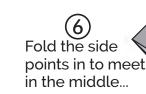
Fold the square in half diagonally.

Fold in half again.





...like so. Then turn over and repeat.





...like this.. and then unfold.

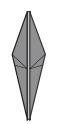


Lift the flap upwards, and using the fold lines, as a quide, bring the sides in to meet in the middle.

Then fold the edges in to meet in the middle.



Turn over and repeat steps 6-9 to get this.

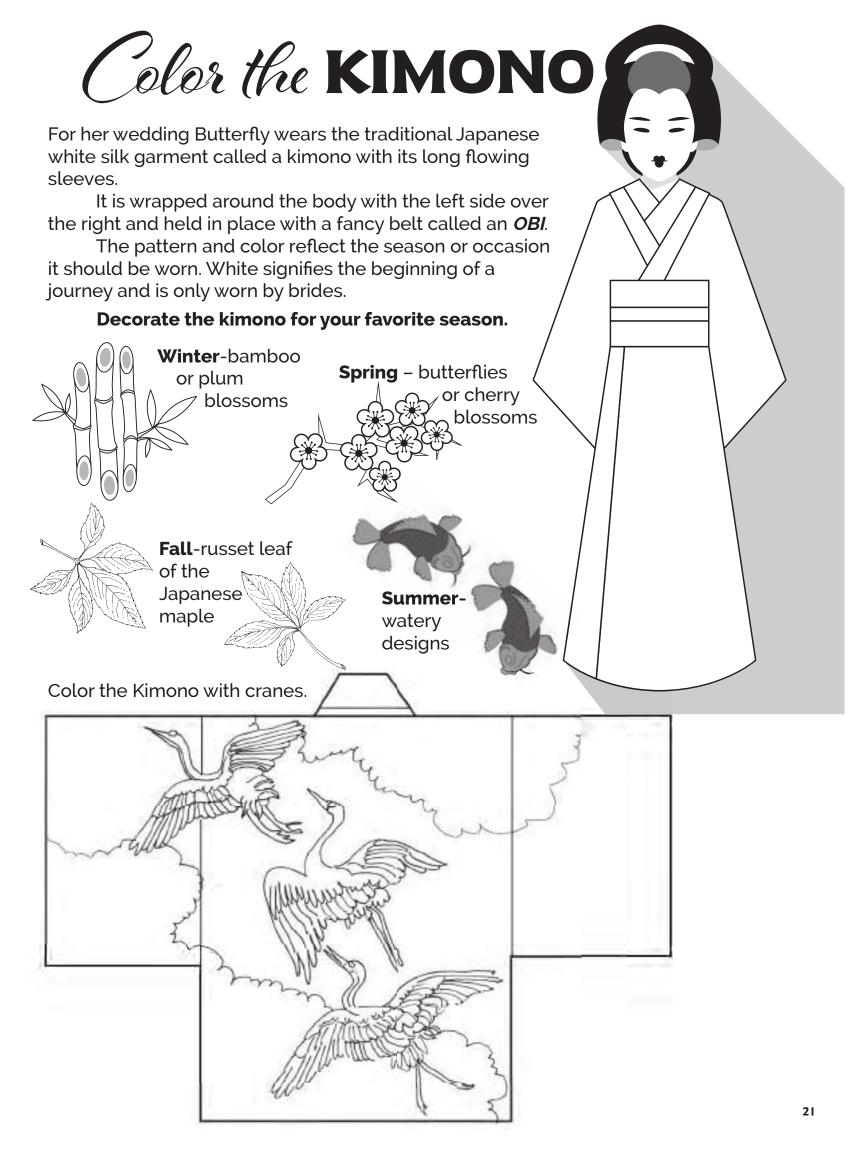


Fold one side up, pushing the edge in between the front and back flaps.









Can you find the following words hidden among the letters below? The rules are...the words can be forward, backward or diagonally in any direction.

forward, backward or diagonally in Word SEARCH

love
Butterfly
honor
Puccini
compose
libretto
Italy

baritone
Sharpless
robin
sword
shoji screen
Japan
Buddha

Bonze bass Nagasaki kimono America son Pinkerton opera tenor Yamadori naval Goro fan Fuji sing flowers coward Suzuki soprano tea

F	K	0		G	X	P	U	С	С		N	I		U
L	Р	С	N	L		В	R	E	T	Т	0	K	Т	В
0	В		S		N	G	N	W	Y	J	U	Υ	Α	N
W	0	0	N	S	W	0	R	D	М	Z	L	S	L	Α
E	N	С	E	K	T	T	0	L	U	F	S	Α	Υ	V
R	Z	D	E		E	I	N	S	R	A	R	С	K	A
S	E	R	R	M	K	R	E	E	С	E	S	0	N	L
S	0	A	С	0	A	E	Т		P	S	Y	M	F	A
0	В	W	S	N	S	T	R	0	Н	J	A	P	A	N
P	U	0		0	U	E	R	A	N	D	M	0	Т	0
R	D	С	J	В	M	P	R	0	В	I	N	S	0	R
Α	D	W	0	A	L	P	С	L	0	V	E	E	М	0
N	Н	0	Н	N	L	U	Т	Н	E	R	L	0	N	G
0	A	R	S	E	Z	R	Н	0	N	0	R	F	A	N
V	Q	D	S	N	Α	G	A	S	A	K		T	E	A
Z	F	S	Y	A	M	A	D	0	R		F	U	J	



OPERA Investigation

Directions: You are the detective.

To find the answers, replace the numbers with letters. Use the decoding chart on the right.

1. This opera takes place in_____, _____,

2. In a Japanese house, sliding panels are used in place of walls. They are called ______ screens.

19 8 15 10 9

3. The beautiful flowers blooming in the trees in the garden are

4. The Japanese name of Madama Butterfly is _____ - ___ - ___

5. Madama Butterfly is in love with a handsome Lieutenant in the United States Navy. His name is ____.

2 6 16 9 14 11 5 18 20 15 14

6. Bonze is Cio-Cio-Sans's uncle. His voice is very low. In opera, the lowest male voice is ______.

2 1 19 19

- A = 1
- B = 2
- C = 3
- D = 4
- E = 5
- F = 6
- G = 7
- H = 8
- J =10
- K =11
- L =12
- M =13
- N =14
- O =15 P =16
- Q =17
- R =18
- S =19
- T =20
- U =21
- V =22
- W=23 X =24
- Y = 25
- Z = 26

HAIKU POEMS = 3 **LINES**

SYLLABLES SYLLABLES SYLLABLES

Haiku poems date from 9th century Japan. They are a way of looking at an experience but seeing something deeper. They most often follow a pattern of three lines, five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third line. They do not need to rhyme.

Using the key below, decipher the 2 haiku poems written in Japanese letters.

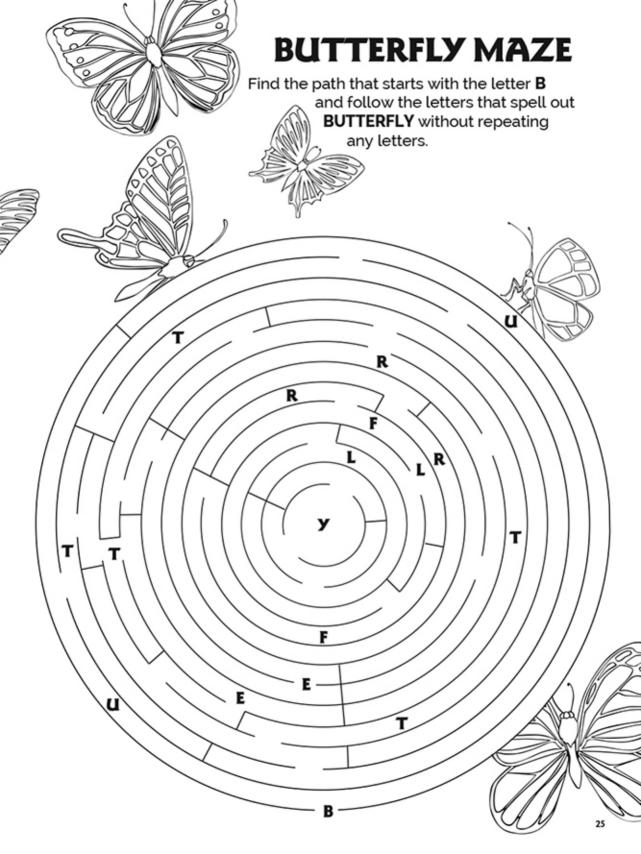
もちしちもち こなかかいすはりん りらひいし ち もちみ てにかく みら くらみらす かくらなきく とくい くちし こいいみ てちすみいし

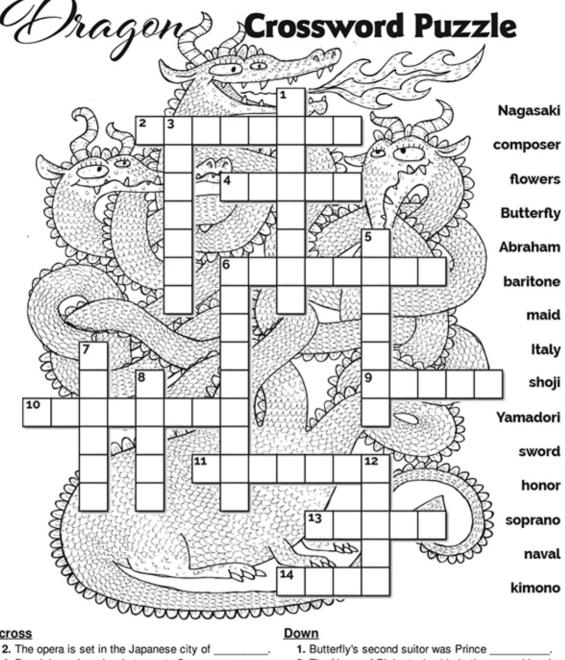
くいす くいちすか てちと こすらのいみ こん くにと といりはにとく こいかすちんちり にか のにりりいし そにらそにらとちみ

Now, you try! Think of an animal, an object or a personal thought. Remember the 5-7-5 rhythm of three lines. Here are other examples of Haiku:

A graceful swimmer With skin that's smooth and grayish, robes which are called kimonos, I am a mammal. (Dolphin Haiku)

Traditional dress. look like works of art. (Kimono Haiku)





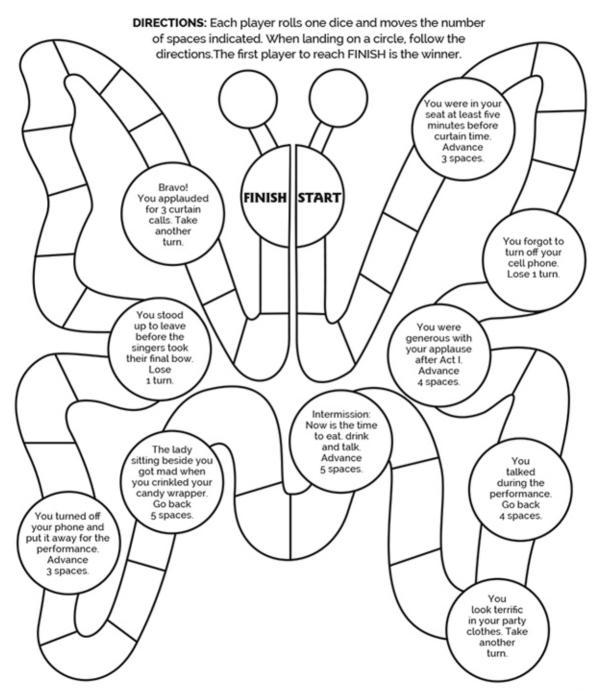
Across

- 4. Puccini was born in what country?
- The middle male voice is called
- 9. Pinkerton is what type of officer?
- The person who writes the music is the
- 11. Butterfly fills her house with what in anticipation of Pinkerton's arrival?
- 13. The maid and son hide behind a _____ screen.
- Suzuki was a loyal _____.

- 3. The Name of Pinkerton's ship is the _____ Lincoln.
- The highest female voice is called _____.
- Cio-Cio is the Japanese word for ___
- A traditional Japanese dress is called a ____
- Butterfly decides to die with
- 12. Butterfly's sacred treasure is her father's

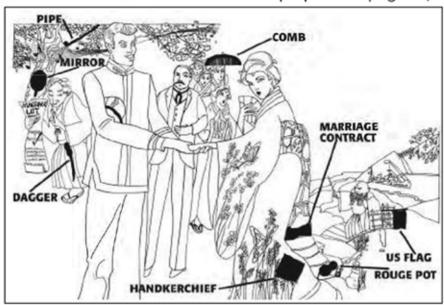
OPERA ETIQUETTE

means good manners and good behavior inside the opera house.



SOLUTIONS

Find the hidden props (from page 6-7)



The Hair Comb Game (from page 14)

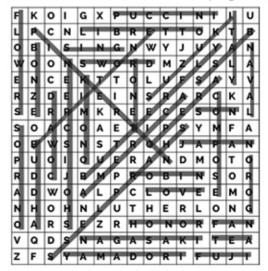
(from page 15)

The United States flag in 1900

How many stars are there and what does that mean?

In 1900 there were 45 stars on the US flag indicating that there were 45 states.

Word Search Solution (from page 22)



Opera Investigation Solution (from page 23)

- 1. Nagasaki, Japan
- 2. Shoji
- 3. Cherry Blossoms
- 4. Cio-Cio-San
- 5. B.F. Pinkerton
- Bass

Haiku Solution (from page 24)

Madama Butterfly loved a man with no honor, though she had been warned.

Her heart was broken by his selfish betrayal. It killed Cio-Cio-San.



Butterfly Maze Solution (from page 25)

Dragon Crossword Puzzle Solution

(from page 26)

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