

Madama Butterfly

by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

“Ah! Dolce notte!” (Lovely night!)

In the Act 1 finale, Cio-Cio-San has just been renounced by her family. Pinkerton tries to console her. She is sad, but she is in love with Pinkerton. She sees the beauty of nature and the stars, which makes her feel less alone.

BUTTERFLY

Ah! Dolce notte! quante stelle!
Non le vidi mai sì belle!
Trema, brilla ogni favilla
col baglior d'una pupilla.
Oh! quanti occhi fisi, attenti,
d'ogni parte a riguardar!
pei firmamenti, via pei lidi,
via pel mare...

PINKERTON

Vieni, vieni...
Vien! Sei mia!
Via l'angoscia dal tuo cor!
Ti serro palpitante.
Sei mia. Ah!
Vieni, guarda:
dorme ogni cosa!
Sei mia! Ah! vien!

BUTTERFLY

Lovely night! So many stars!
Never have I seen them so beautiful!
Every spark twinkles and shines
with brilliance to the eye.
Oh! They are like eyes, caring,
looking at us from all sides!
In the sky, along the shore,
out to sea...

PINKERTON

Come along, come...
Come! You are mine!
Cast all sad fears out of your heart!
Quivering, I embrace you.
You are mine!
The night is clear!
See, all things sleep!
You are mine! Oh, come!