

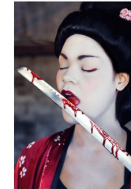
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**A RE-IMAGINED CLASSIC IN AN INTIMATE SETTING...**

**BUTTERFLY'S TROUBLE**



**TO GET U.S. PREMIERE IN JANUARY AT 45<sup>th</sup> STREET THEATRE**

This January, **Voice Afire Pocket Opera & Cabaret** will present the U.S. premiere of ***Butterfly's Trouble***, Ray Luedeke's intriguing English language adaptation of Puccini's opera *Madama Butterfly* and David Belasco's play *Madame Butterfly*. The gripping "pocket opera" for only seven performers will feature staging by director/choreographer **Heidi Lauren Duke** (Les Azuriales Opera Festival, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Palm Beach Opera) and will feature a powerful ensemble of two singers, one actor, and four instrumentalists to tell this moving story of tragic love and a clash of cultures. **The production will run from January 7<sup>th</sup> thru January 13<sup>th</sup> at the 45<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre.**

In ***Butterfly's Trouble***, Trouble, son of Madame Butterfly and Lieutenant Pinkerton – two years old at the end of Puccini's opera - is now a middle-aged and guilt-ridden man. He has returned from the USA, his adopted home, to Nagasaki, Japan, to discover the truth about his mother's death. The date is August 7, 1945 – the day after the atom bomb blast that leveled the city. As he stands in the ruins of his Japanese mother's house, looking at the devastation around him, contemplating suicide, he sees a vision: he has returned to the Spring of 1900, the year before his own birth. As in a dream, the spirits of Butterfly and Pinkerton come to him, and Trouble experiences the beautiful and tragic events that led to his mother's death.

In this new production, the seven multi-talented ensemble members each serve as musician-actors, weaving together traditions of chamber opera with modern movement theatre; this unique interpretation of the classic and tragic love story includes both spoken word and vocal performances - all presented in English. The gorgeous music is entirely that of Giacomo Puccini.

Soprano **Julianne Park** will star as Cho-Cho-San with tenor **John Tedeschi** as

Lieutenant Pinkerton and actor **Hassan Nazari-Robati** as Trouble. The ensemble is completed with music director **Jemmy Chen** on keyboard, **Edmund Bagnell** on violin (who starred as Tobias in the First National Tour of John Doyle's **Sweeney Todd**), **Guy Chadash** (formerly with The Rishon Israel Symphony Orchestra) on clarinet, and **Bobbie Lee Crow III** on cello. Soprano **Katherine Cardin** is cover for Cho-Cho-San.

***Butterfly's Trouble*** will run from **January 7<sup>th</sup> thru January 13<sup>th</sup>** at the **45<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre** (354 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street) with 8pm performances on **Saturday 1/7, Tuesday 1/10, Wednesday 1/11, Thursday 1/12** and **Friday 1/13**, as well as 2pm matinee performances on **Sunday 1/8** and **Wednesday 1/11**. Tickets, priced at \$25, can be purchased online at [www.VoiceAfire.com](http://www.VoiceAfire.com) or by phone at 866-811-4111.

For more information on ***Butterfly's Trouble***, visit [www.VoiceAfire.com](http://www.VoiceAfire.com).

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