

MADAMA BUTTERFLY (PUCCINI) written _____ genre _____

Instrumentation: what are the performing forces?

Who are the main characters and their voice types?

Historical context: why were Europeans so interested in Japan? What historical event caused this interest?

What kind of research did Puccini do on Japanese music?

Text: librettist _____ language _____

What was the original inspiration?

Plot: what is the general story?

What is a geisha and why is it relevant?

Structure: how many acts is the opera? How is the story divided between each act?

Prelude to Act I: key _____ tempo _____ meter _____ texture _____

Analysis: what general form/style is the prelude? Does this match or contrast with the (Japanese) exoticism in the rest of the opera?

Act II - Scene 1 "Un bel dì vedremo": key _____ tempo _____ meter _____

Context: what is the text about? What is happening in the opera? What elements of the music support the mood of this passage?

Analysis: what time signature is the contrasting section? Does it begin in a western (European) or an exotic style? What musical features make it western/exotic? What is the overall form?

Extra-musical connections: How was the first performance received? Which subsequent performance gave the opera its popularity?