

OPUS
ARTE

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PUCCINI
MANON LESCAUT

Puccini began to compose *Manon Lescaut* in 1889. It was an act of supreme bravado as only five years previously Massenet had premiered *Manon*, based on the same novel by the Abbé Prévost. The story is set in France and Louisiana in the early 18th century and focuses on – in a way different to Massenet – the fortunes and tragedy of the hero, the Chevalier des Grieux, and his lover, Manon. Its ceaseless melodic beauty and drama were recognised immediately and the first night was an overwhelming triumph, with Puccini effectively anointed as Verdi's successor and Italy's greatest operatic composer.

Ninety years after its 1893 premiere in Turin, the work was staged by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The 1983 production was conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli, making his British operatic debut to such remarkable effect that *The Times* referred to him as 'Europe's most spectacular new opera star'. The cast included three of the greatest exponents of their roles: Plácido Domingo as the romantic hero whose performance 'was a cause for drop-jawed wonder' (*The Spectator*), the radiant Kiri Te Kanawa as Manon and Thomas Allen as her brother, Lescaut. Director Götz Friedrich's largely traditional staging proved a major theatrical success.



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SUBTITLES: ENGLISH, FRENCH,
GERMAN, ITALIAN, SPANISH, JAPANESE

MUSIC

OPERA



4:3

COLOUR

RUNNING TIME APPROX. 128 MINUTES



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OPUS ARTE

THE ROYAL OPERA



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PUCCINI
MANON LESCAUT

THE ROYAL OPERA

EDMONDO ROBIN LEGGATE

THE INNKEEPER GEORGE MACPHERSON

CHEVALIER DES GRIEUX
PLÁCIDO DOMINGO

LESCAUT THOMAS ALLEN

MANON LESCAUT KIRI TE KANAWA

GERONTE DI RAVOIR FORBES ROBINSON

MADRIGAL SINGER ANNA COOPER

DANCING MASTER JOHN FRYATT

SERGEANT OF ARCHERS
HANDEL THOMAS

LAMPLIGHTER MARK CURTIS

SERGEANT PASCHAL ALLEN

A NAVAL CAPTAIN RODERICK EARLE

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS MASTER JOHN MCCARTHY

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL
OPERA HOUSE

LEADER JOHN BROWN

CONDUCTOR GIUSEPPE SINOPOLI

DIRECTOR GÖTZ FRIEDRICH

DESIGNER GÜNTER SCHNEIDER-SIEMSEN

COSTUMES ALIUTE MECZIES

STAGE LIGHTING ROBERT BRYAN

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
HUMPHREY BURTON

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PUCCINI

**MANON
LESCAUT**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS | ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

DIRECTOR GÖTZ FRIEDRICH | CONDUCTOR GIUSEPPE SINOPOLI

PLÁCIDO DOMINGO | KIRI TE KANAWA | THOMAS ALLEN