

## Fw: Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #52

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From: Catherine Abboud (catherineabboud@sbcglobal.net)

To: catherineabboud@sbcglobal.net

Date: Monday, March 8, 2021, 06:28 PM PST

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**From:** Abby Edmunds <aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org>

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:06 PM

**To:** Abby Edmunds <aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org>

**Subject:** Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #52

Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

The great Athenian philosopher, Plato, who lived during the Classical Period in ancient Greece between 427-347 B.C. coined my sentiments perfectly when he wrote, *"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."*

I am certain you will agree with me when you hear today's selection by **Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini**. That is quite a name! For our purposes, we will simply go by his last name, Puccini. Puccini lived in Italy between 1858 and 1924. He is considered the greatest composer of Italian opera after Verdi. For us opera lovers, there is nothing like his opera, *Turandot*. It is an opera in three acts which was posthumously completed by Franco Alfano, and it contains one of my favorite arias, *Nessun Dorma*.



The story of *Turandot* is as follows.....the opera's version of the story is set in China. It involves Prince Calaf, who falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot. In order to obtain permission to marry her, a suitor must solve three riddles. Any single wrong answer will result in the suitor's execution. Calaf passes the test, but Turandot refuses to marry him. He offers her a way out: if she is able to guess his name before dawn the next day, he will accept death. In the original story by Nizami, the princess sets four conditions: firstly "a good name and good deeds", and then the three challenges. As with *Madame Butterfly*, Puccini strove for a semblance of Asian authenticity (at least to Western ears) by integrating music from the region. Up to eight of the musical themes in *Turandot* appear to be based on traditional Chinese music and anthems, and the melody of a Chinese song, *Mo Li Hua* or "Jasmine", became a motif for the princess.

To hear this unusual and very moving performance of Nessun Dorma Flashmob, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nohnZRsnd9E>

To hear the same piece sung by The Three Tenors, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi1nTz3nITc>

*Where words fail, music speaks.*” — Hans Christian Andersen

In closing, I invite you to join Pacific Symphony online on Friday evening for our Virtual Lunar New Year Concert at 8:00PM. You can find more information on our website at: [https://www.pacificsymphony.org/tickets/concert/lunar\\_new\\_year\\_2021](https://www.pacificsymphony.org/tickets/concert/lunar_new_year_2021)



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## Usher in the Year of the Ox!

Join us for Pacific Symphony's annual festivities honoring the **Lunar New Year!** This year's concert will be a virtual experience, available for **free streaming** on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels on **Friday, February 12 at 8 p.m.**

Ushering in the Year of the Ox, Music Director **Carl St.Clair** and actor **Ron Banks** host the program featuring the orchestra in archival footage of past concerts of music that intertwines Eastern and Western cultures.



*Min Xiao-Fen,*



*Fei-Fei Dong*



*Dennis Kim*

Artists include the renowned pipa soloist, vocalist and composer **Min Xiao-Fen**, acclaimed pianist **Fei-Fei Dong** and Concertmaster **Dennis Kim**.

I am so happy to stay connected with you each week. Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I miss you.

Warmest regards,

Abby

## Abby Edmunds

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**Reception:** (714) 755-5788 | **Tickets:** (714) 755-5799

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