OPERA AND RECITALS / XXXV OPERA SEASON

Teatro Cervantes

friday **24** may 20.00 h
sunday **26** may 19.00 h

Inicio venta 05/09/2023

Prices **120€** B **90€** C **66€** D **28€**
Usual discounts apply

MANON LESCAUT

Opera in four acts with music by Giacomo Puccini and libretto in Italian written successively by Ruggiero Leoncavallo, Domenico Oliva, Marco Praga, Giusepee Giacosa, Luigi Illica, Puccini and Giulio Ricordi. It is based on the novel *L'Historie du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut* (1731) by the Abbé Antoine-François Prévost, which was also the inspiration for the opera *Manon* by Jules Massenet
Premiered at the Teatro Regio of Turín on the 1st of February, 1893

Musical production Teatro Cervantes de Málaga
Stage production To be determined

Manon Lescaut Berna Perles
Renato des Grieux Carlo Ventre
Geronte de Ravoir Giacomo Prestia
Edmondo Manuel de Diego

Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga
Coro de Ópera de Málaga

Stage director Pier Francesco Maestrini
Choir director María del Mar Muñoz Varo
Musical director Daniel Montané

Puccini's first great success is an opera with obvious Wagnerian references, in which the orchestra dialogues directly with the characters, helping to underline their emotions and psychology. The orchestral writing is endowed with a truly brilliant and endless melodic fluidity, which emphasizes the characters' moral degradation, although Puccini prefers not to forget that love always prevails. The use of leitmotifs is recurrent from the beginning to the end of the drama, helping to build the whole intricate plot.
When Puccini tackled his opera, Massenet had already triumphed with *Manon*. Despite the reluctance of his publisher Ricordi, Puccini went ahead with the idea of setting Abbé Prévost's novel to music, insisting that it was possible to have more than one author tell the story of Manon Lescaut: "A woman like Manon can have more than one lover. Massenet feels her as a Frenchman, with powders and minuets; I feel her as an Italian, with desperate passion," he said. After *Le Villi* (1884) and *Edgar* (1889), *Manon Lescaut* made the Tuscan maestro one of the leaders of the Verist school and

the continuator of the great Giuseppe Verdi, who in those days premiered *Falstaff*. Another coincidence is that both achieved world fame with their third opera, *Nabucco* (1842) and *Manon Lescaut* (1893) after two lukewarm premieres with their previous operas.