
CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

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Record of the Week: Unless you attended Washington Opera's "Wiener Blut" in 1987, when she stole the show, you probably saw soprano Constance Hauman for the first time in Frederic Mitterand's splendid movie version of "Madame Butterfly." She was Kate



HERBERT BARRETT MANAGEMENT

To die for: Soprano Constance Hauman makes one lulu of a "Lulu."

Pinkerton, the wife (actually the second wife) of U.S. Navy Lt. Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton. Her surprise arrival in Nagasaki triggered the suicide of Pinkerton's first wife, Cio-Cio-San.

In the title role of a powerful new recording of Alban Berg's opera "Lulu" (Chandos CHAN 9540, three CDs with libretto), she is a *femme* even more *fatale*. In Act I, Scene 1, her husband (a professor of medicine) drops dead when he finds her in the arms of a painter who is working on her portrait. In Act I, Scene 2, the painter (now her second husband) commits suicide when he discovers that she has had a long-standing affair with Dr. Ludwig Schoen, a powerful newspaper editor who becomes husband No. 3 and survives until Act II, Scene 1, when Lulu shoots him. After that, her fortunes begin to decline; she becomes a London prostitute and finally dies at the hands of Jack the Ripper.

Hauman, who spent a year preparing this role, tries to make the audience see Lulu as "an abandoned child," a victimizer who was first a victim.