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 JAMES CONLON, RICHARD SEAVER MUSIC DIRECTOR
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PRESENTS

La Bohème

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
 Based on *Scènes de la vie de Bohème* by Henry Murger

CREATIVE TEAM

CONDUCTOR
James Conlon

PRODUCTION
Barrie Kosky

SCENERY DESIGNER
Rufus Didwizsus*

COSTUME DESIGNER
Victoria Behr*

ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGN
Alessandro Carletti*

CHORUS DIRECTOR
Grant Gershon

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Katharina Fritsch*

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER
Marco Philipp*

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S
CHORUS**
Fernando Malvar-Ruiz

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR
Louis Lohraseb†

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Erik Friedman

STAGE MANAGER
Barbara Donner

MUSICAL PREPARATION
Jeremy Frank
Miah Im
Nino Sanikidze

CAST (in order of vocal appearance)

MARCELLO	Kihun Yoon‡
RODOLFO	Saimir Pirgu
COLLINE	Nicholas Brownlee‡
SCHAUNARD	Michael J. Hawk†
MIMI	Marina Costa-Jackson*
PRUNE SELLER	Todd Strange
PARPIGNOL	Robert Stahley**
SOLO CHILD	Shelby Perez*
MUSETTA	Erica Petrocelli†
ALCINDORO	Patrick Blackwell
CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICER	Reid Bruton
SERGEANT	Steve Pence

SUPPORT

Cecil and Michael E. Pulitzer
The Blue Ribbon
 and
The Emanuel Treitel Senior Citizen Fund

Opera at the Beach is made possible with generous support from
 Los Angeles County and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

Opera in the Park is made possible with generous support from
 Los Angeles County and Supervisor Janice Hahn.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The estimated running time is two hours and 15 minutes, including one intermission.

Note: This production contains adult content and brief nudity.

Supertitles written by David Anglin.

This production features flame.

A production of the Komische Oper Berlin. Additional costumes constructed by the LA Opera Costume Shop. Wigs constructed by the LA Opera Wig & Make-Up Department.

* *LA Opera debut*

† *Member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program*

‡ *Alumnus of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program*

ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Please refrain from talking during the performance, and turn off all cell phones, electronic devices and watch alarms. If you are using an assistive hearing device, or are attending with someone who is, please make sure that it is set to an appropriate level to avoid distracting audio feedback. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house management. Members of the audience who leave during the performance will not be shown back into the theater until the next intermission. The use of cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Your use of a ticket acknowledges your willingness to appear in photographs taken in public areas of the Music Center and releases the Center and its lessees and others from liability resulting from use of such photographs. Any microphones onstage are used for recording or broadcast purposes only; onstage voices are not amplified.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Four young men live together in a garret in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The poet Rodolfo and artist Marcello try to stay warm on a bitterly cold Christmas Eve. They have no money for food or firewood. Nor does Colline, a student of philosophy. But the fourth roommate, the musician Schaunard, has just gotten paid; he arrives with food, drink and firewood. As they celebrate, they can't help remembering that their landlord Benoit will be demanding their long overdue rent.

Rodolfo stays behind to finish up some work as the others head out for a night on the town. A knock at the door: Mimi, a pretty seamstress who lives in the same building. A draft blows out her candle. She realizes she has dropped her key

somewhere and the two search for it in the darkness. They get to know each other. Rodolfo tells her of his poetry, Mimi tells him of her life, and they fall in love. They head out to catch up with Rodolfo's friends.

ACT II

Full of high spirits, the bohemians join the holiday throng. Hat sellers, toy sellers and vendors of all sorts crowd the streets. The bohemians take a table at the Café Momus. Marcello's tempestuous ex-girlfriend Musetta enters with her rich new lover, Alcindoro. Marcello pretends to ignore her (which drives her crazy) but it's obvious to everyone that they still have strong feelings for each other. Musetta finds an excuse to send Alcindoro away on an errand. When a military parade passes by, the reunited

lovers and their friends slip away into the crowd, leaving Alcindoro to pay their bill.

INTERMISSION

ACT III

A cold February dawn. Marcello and Musetta are now living together in a tavern on the outskirts of Paris, near a toll-gate. A pale and worn Mimi comes looking for Rodolfo, who had stormed out in a jealous rage earlier that evening. Marcello tells her that Rodolfo spent the night in the tavern. Mimi hides when Rodolfo comes outside. He eventually reveals to Marcello that his jealousy is just an act: he's actually heartbroken to watch Mimi's fragile health deteriorate, knowing that he is unable to provide for her, and he fears that she will die if she stays with him. Mimi's persistent coughing gives away her hiding place, and Rodolfo realizes that she has overheard everything he's said. The two lovers realize that a long-term relationship is no longer possible for them, but they decide to postpone their break-up until spring. Meanwhile, Marcello and Musetta begin yet another senseless quarrel, and Musetta storms off in anger.

ACT IV

It is now spring; both couples have split up. Marcello and Rodolfo try to get some work done, but the memories of happier times fill them with sadness. Schaunard and Colline manage to raise their spirits for a while, until Musetta suddenly bursts in with news: Mimi is dying and wants to spend her final hours with Rodolfo. Mimi arrives in a state of collapse, and her friends try to make her comfortable. Musetta sends Marcello out to sell her earrings and buy medicine. Musetta goes out herself to look for a muff to warm Mimi's cold hands. Colline decides to sell his beloved overcoat to pay for a doctor; Schaunard goes with him.

Left alone, Rodolfo and Mimi recall their first meeting. Their friends return; a doctor is on his way. Thinking that Mimi has fallen asleep, Rodolfo begins to feel hopeful. But when he sees his friends' faces, he realizes that she is dead.



PHOTO BY CORT WEAVER

Saimir Pirgu as Rodolfo and Marina Costa-Jackson as Mimi