

Young cast energizes *La bohème*, April 18, 20 & 26

Been young? Been in love? That's all you need to appreciate Opera Cleveland's production of Puccini's *La bohème*, showing April 18, 20 and 26. Performed at the State Theatre in Playhouse Square, the opera delves into the lives of young bohemians, in and out of love in 19th century Paris.

Director Tomer Zvulun and Conductor Dean Williamson lead a vibrant cast, including Melody Moore (Mimi), Mark Panuccio (Rodolfo), Laura Pedersen (Musetta), Michael Todd Simpson (Marcello), Kristopher Irmiter (Schaunard), Derrick Parker (Colline) and Jason Budd (Benoit/Alcindoro).

La bohème takes us to an artists' garret, where writer Rodolfo falls for the gentle but ill Mimì. Their meeting culminates in two of opera's greatest arias ("Che gelida manina" and "Mi chiamano Mimì") and the blissful duet "O soave fanciulla." The intimacy of the garret transforms into a large café, which fills with a colorful crowd including jugglers, a stilt-walker and chorus. This is where we meet the coquettish Musetta and painter Marcello, whose tempestuous relationship parallels Rodolfo and Mimì's troubled romance throughout the opera. From the lively antics in the café to the poignancy of a bittersweet reunion, *La bohème* both dazzles our senses and grips our emotions.

Performances on Friday and Saturday begin at 8 p.m. with the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Performances will last approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes, which includes two 20-minute intermissions. All ticket-holders are welcome to attend the pre-opera lecture one hour prior to the curtain.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$135 and are on sale now. Purchase online at www.operacleveland.org; by phone at 216.241.6000; or at the State Theatre Box Office, 1519 Euclid Ave. Discounts are available for groups of ten or more by calling 216.575.0903, ext. 221. *La bohème* will be sung in Italian with English "subtitles" projected above the stage.

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| DIRECTOR | TOMER ZVULUN |
| CONDUCTOR | DEAN WILLIAMSON |
| Mimi | Melody Moore |
| Musetta | Laura Pedersen |
| Rodolfo | Mark Panuccio |
| Marcello | Michael Todd Simpson |
| Schaunard | Kristopher Irmiter |
| Colline | Derrick Parker |
| Benoit/Alcindoro | Jason Budd |

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| Set Design | Erhard Rom |
| Lighting Design | Robert Wierzel |
| Wigs & Make-up Design | Alison Mizerski |
| Production Stage Manager | Ginger Castleberry |
| Costume Coordinator | Kim Brown |

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