

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

FESTIVAL OPERA COMPANY

presents

LA BOHEME

by Puccini

8 p.m., Meany Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1960

The Festival Opera Company presents

La Boheme

by Puccini

Founded upon "La Vie De Boheme" by Henry Murger
by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
English version by William Grist and Percy Pinkerton

CAST (in order of appearance):

Rudolph, a poet.....Robert McGrath, *tenor*
Marcel, a painter.....John De Merchant, *baritone*
Colline, a philosopher.....August Werner, *bass*
Schaunard, a musician.....Kurt Steinbrecher, *bass*
Benoit, a landlord.....William Smith, *baritone*
Mimi.....Peggy Nessel, *soprano*
Musetta.....Doris Richards, *soprano*
Alcindoro.....Alan Lund, *bass*
Parpingnot.....William Humphrey, *tenor*

Students, work girls, street vendors, soldiers, waiters, children:
Lucille Anderson, Rebecca Bennion, Nancy Boone, Annette Bowman, Linder Chlarson, Walter Cothary, Sasi Funes, Virginia Funes, Robert Gordon, Richard Humphrey, Henry Howard, Christine McGrath, Pauline Prindible, Becky Rosinbum, Tod Rosinbum, Glenna Jean Rust, Beckie Scribner, Dan Scribner, Rolfe Simonsen, Damian Sokol, Gerry Vandervoort, and Susan Yank.

Paris about 1840

There will be an intermission after each act.

1757
1758

ACT I—The Attic

It is Christmas Eve. Rudolph is gazing out of the window, Marcel is painting. The cold is so intense that they burn Rudolph's manuscript to warm their frozen fingers. Presently Colline enters, throwing down a bundle of books he has failed to pawn. Then Schaunard joins the company, having had better fortunes. With money given him by an Englishman he has bought provisions and wine. While the Bohemians are enjoying these, the landlord calls for the rent, and is surprised that his tenants can pay. They ply him with drink, get rid of him without paying what they owe, and then divide the sum among themselves.

Leaving Rudolph with pen in hand, the others go off to the Cafe Momus for supper. Rudolph is about to follow them when there is a knock at the door. It is Mimi, the delicate little seamstress who lives in a tiny room near the roof. Her candle has gone out, and when he attempts to light it with his own, both candles are extinguished. Mimi drops the key to her room and as they search for it in the darkness their hands meet and Rudolph takes Mimi's hand in his. He tells about his life and invites her confidence. They are mutually attracted and soon announce their love for each other. As the curtain falls they go out to join the others at the cafe.

ACT II—The Cafe Momus # 1759

In a gay holiday mood, Mimi and the Bohemians join the crowd for supper at the cafe. The fascinating Musetta and her elderly admirer, Alcindoro, arrive and seat themselves at another table. Musetta had quarrelled with Marcel and now wishes to make up. Pretending that her shoe pinches, she sends Alcindoro to buy another pair and, when he is gone, returns to the arms of Marcel. The four Bohemians then depart with the two ladies, leaving Alcindoro to pay the bill for all.

ACT III—The Barriere d'Enfer # 1760

At dawn on a snowy morning Mimi comes to the tavern at a Paris tollgate to get help from Marcel who is living there with Musetta. Mimi is distraught by Rudolph's jealousy and wishes to leave him. She hides as the poet enters to confess his fears to Marcel concerning

Mimi's health. Reassured of her lover's affection, but aware that she has not long to live, Mimi comes out to bid him farewell. Yet the contrasting quarrels of Marcel and Musetta are too much for the romantic Rudolph and Mimi. They decide once more to unite.

ACT IV—*The Attic* #1761

Rudolph and Marcel have returned to their lonely attic to bewail the absence of the fickle Musetta and the apparently faithless Mimi. As their friends join them, they all dance gayly to keep up their spirits. Interrupting the frolic, Musetta enters to announce that Mimi waits below, with hardly enough strength to climb the stairs. The Bohemians bring her into the room and gently place her on a couch. Musetta sends Marcel to sell her earrings to buy medicine while Colline goes off to pawn his overcoat to pay for the doctor. Wistfully, Mimi reminds Rudolph of their first happy days and dies peacefully before the doctor arrives.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC FESTIVAL OPERA STAFF

Director and Conductor.....Stanley Chapple
Stage Director.....Ralph Rosinbum
Repetiteur.....Bill Clarke
Production Assistant.....Chris Trembanis

FESTIVAL OPERA PRODUCTION STAFF

Art Director and Technical Supervisor.....John Ashby Conway
Technical Director.....Warren C. Lounsbury
Costumer.....James Crider
Electrician.....Fred Bornhoeft
Scene Painting.....Norman Boulanger
Set Construction.....Joseph E. Poc

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