

PUCCINI

# LA BOHÈME

ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED ON APRIL 5, 2014

CONDUCTOR

Stefano Ranzani

PRODUCTION

Franco Zeffirelli

SET DESIGNER

Franco Zeffirelli

COSTUME DESIGNER

Peter J. Hall

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Gil Wechsler

STAGE DIRECTOR

J. Knighten Smit

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Barbara Willis-Sweete

LIVE IN HD HOST

Joyce DiDonato

MIMI

Kristine Opolais

MUSETTA

Susanna Phillips

RODOLFO

Vittorio Grigolo

MARCELLO

Massimo Cavalletti

SCHAUNARD

Patrick Carfizzi

COLLINE

Oren Gradus

BENOIT/ALCINDORO

Donald Maxwell

**ACT I** *Paris, the 1830s.* The near-destitute painter Marcello and poet Rodolfo live with their roommates, Colline and Schaunard, in a garret in the Latin Quarter. As his friends leave to celebrate Christmas at the Café Momus, Rodolfo stays home to write. He meets his pretty neighbor Mimì, and the two fall in love at first sight. Arm in arm, they leave to join his friends.

**ACT II** At the café, Marcello's former sweetheart Musetta makes a noisy entrance on the arm of her elderly but wealthy lover Alcindoro, arousing Marcello's jealousy. Tumult ensues, and Musetta, having sent Alcindoro away, eventually falls into Marcello's arms.

INTERMISSION

**ACT III** Weeks later, Mimì comes to see Marcello on the outskirts of Paris and tells him of her distress over Rodolfo's jealousy. She says it is best that they part. Rodolfo, on the other hand, wants to separate from Mimì because he thinks that her illness can only grow worse in the poverty they share. Mimì tearfully says goodbye to him, but overcome with emotion, the two decide to remain together until spring.

**ACT IV** Now separated from their girlfriends, Rodolfo and Marcello lament their loneliness. Musetta arrives with Mimì, who is mortally ill. Left alone, Mimì and Rodolfo recall their first happy days. The others return, and Mimì dies, leaving Rodolfo heartbroken.

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