GIACOMO PUCCINI

LA BOHÈME

Opera in four acts

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, based on the novel Scènes de la Vie de Bohème by Henri Murger

Friday, January 17, 2020
7:30–10:35 PM

The production of La Bohème was made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Donald D. Harrington

Revival a gift of Rolex

This season’s performances of La Bohème and Turandot are dedicated to the memory of Franco Zeffirelli.
The Metropolitan Opera
2019–20 SEASON

The 1,342nd Metropolitan Opera performance of
GIACOMO PUCCINI’S
LA BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

MARCELLO
Artur Ruciński

MUSSETTA
Susanna Phillips

RODOLFO
Roberto Alagna

A CUSTOMHOUSE SERGEANT
Joseph Turi

COLLINE
Christian Van Horn

A CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER
Edward Hanlon

SCHAUNARD
Elliott Madore*

BENOIT
Donald Maxwell

MIMI
Maria Agresta

PARPIGNOL
Gregory Warren

ALCINDORO
Donald Maxwell

Tonight’s performances of the roles of Mimi and Rodolfo are underwritten by the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Great Singers Fund.

Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:30–10:35PM
Chorus Master  Donald Palumbo
Musical Preparation  Caren Levine*, Joshua Greene, Jonathan C. Kelly, and Patrick Furrer
Assistant Stage Directors  Mirabelle Ordinaire and J. Knighten Smit
Met Titles  Sonya Friedman
Stage Band Conductor  Joseph Lawson
Children’s Chorus Director  Anthony Piccolo
Italian Coach  Loretta Di Franco
Prompter  Joshua Greene
Associate Designer  David Reppa
Scenery, properties, and electrical props constructed and painted in Metropolitan Opera Shops
Costumes executed by Metropolitan Opera Costume Department
Wigs and Makeup executed by Metropolitan Opera Wig and Makeup Department
Ladies millinery by  Reggie G. Augustine
Men’s hats by  Richard Tautkus
Animals supervised by  All-Tame Animals, Inc.

This performance is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Before the performance begins, please switch off cell phones and other electronic devices.

Met Titles
To activate, press the red button to the right of the screen in front of your seat and follow the instructions provided. To turn off the display, press the red button once again. If you have questions, please ask an usher at intermission.

Yamaha is the Official Piano of the Metropolitan Opera.

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* Graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Roberto Alagna as Rodolfo and Maria Agresta as Mimì in Puccini’s La Bohème
The Metropolitan Opera is pleased to salute First Republic in recognition of its generous support during the 2019–20 season.

FIRST REPUBLIC
Synopsis

Act I
Paris, in the 1830s. In their Latin Quarter garret, the near-destitute artist Marcello and poet Rodolfo try to keep warm on Christmas Eve by feeding the stove with pages from Rodolfo’s latest drama. Soon, their roommates—Colline, a philosopher, and Schaunard, a musician—return. Schaunard brings food, fuel, and funds that he has collected from an eccentric nobleman. While they celebrate their unexpected fortune, the landlord, Benoit, comes to collect the rent. After getting the older man drunk, the friends urge him to tell of his flirtations, then throw him out in mock indignation at his infidelity to his wife. As the others depart to revel at the Café Momus, Rodolfo remains behind to finish an article, promising to join them later. There is another knock at the door—it is Mimi, a pretty neighbor whose candle has gone out in the stairwell. As she enters the room, she suddenly feels faint. Rodolfo gives her a sip of wine, then helps her to the door and relights her candle. Mimi realizes that she lost her key when she fainted, and as the two search for it, both candles go out. Rodolfo finds the key and slips it into his pocket. In the moonlight, he takes Mimi’s hand and tells her about his dreams. She recounts her life alone in a lofty garret, embroidering flowers and waiting for the spring. Rodolfo’s friends call from outside, telling him to join them. He responds that he is not alone and will be along shortly. Happy to have found each other, Mimi and Rodolfo leave, arm in arm, for the café.

Act II
Amid the shouts of street hawkers near the Café Momus, Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet and introduces her to his friends. They all sit down and order supper. Marcello’s former sweetheart Musetta makes a noisy entrance on the arm of the elderly, but wealthy, Alcindoro. The ensuing tumult reaches its peak when, trying to gain Marcello’s attention, she loudly sings the praises of her own popularity. Sending Alcindoro away to buy her a new pair of shoes, Musetta finally falls into Marcello’s arms. A parade of soldiers passes by the café as the friends join the crowd of revelers.

Intermission  (AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30PM)

Act III
At dawn at the Barrière d’Enfer, a toll-gate on the edge of Paris, a customs official admits farm women to the city. Mimi arrives, searching for the place where Marcello and Musetta now live. When the painter appears, she tells him of her distress over Rodolfo’s incessant jealousy. She says that she believes it is best that they part. As Rodolfo emerges from the tavern, Mimi hides nearby. Rodolfo tells Marcello that he wants to separate from Mimi, blaming her flirtatiousness. Pressed for the real reason, he breaks down, saying that her illness can only
grow worse in the poverty that they share. Overcome with emotion, Mimi comes forward to say goodbye to her lover. Upon hearing Musetta’s laughter, Marcello runs back into the tavern. While Mimi and Rodolfo recall past happiness, Marcello returns with Musetta, quarreling about her flirting with a customer. They hurl insults at each other and part, but Mimi and Rodolfo decide to remain together until springtime.

**Intermission** (AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30PM)

**Act IV**

Months later in the garret, Rodolfo and Marcello, now separated from their lovers, reflect on their loneliness. Colline and Schaunard bring a meager meal. To lighten their spirits, the four stage a dance, which turns into a mock duel. At the height of the hilarity, Musetta bursts in with news that Mimi is outside, too weak to come upstairs. As Rodolfo runs to her aid, Musetta relates how Mimi begged to be taken to Rodolfo to die. She is made as comfortable as possible, while Musetta asks Marcello to sell her earrings for medicine and Colline goes off to pawn his overcoat. Left alone, Mimi and Rodolfo recall their meeting and their first happy days, but she is seized with violent coughing. When the others return, Musetta gives Mimi a muff to warm her hands, and Mimi slowly drifts into unconsciousness. Musetta prays for Mimi, but it is too late. The friends realize that she is dead, and Rodolfo collapses in despair.

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**La Bohème on Demand**

Looking for more *La Bohème*? Check out [Met Opera on Demand](https://metoperaondemand.org), our online streaming service, to enjoy outstanding performances from past Met seasons: from a classic 1977 telecast starring Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scotto—the first in the historic Live from the Met series—to the 2018 Live in HD transmission, featuring Sonya Yoncheva and Michael Fabiano. Start your seven-day free trial and explore the full catalog of more than 700 complete performances at [metoperaondemand.org](http://metoperaondemand.org).
La Bohème

Premiere: Teatro Regio, Turin, 1896

La Bohème—the passionate, timeless, indelible story of love among young artists in Paris—can stake its claim as the world’s most popular opera. It has a marvelous ability to make a powerful first impression (even to those new to opera) and to reveal previously unnoticed treasures after dozens of hearings. At first glance, La Bohème is the definitive depiction of the joys and sorrows of love and loss; on closer inspection, it explores the deep emotional significance hidden in the trivial things—a bonnet, an old overcoat, a chance meeting with a neighbor—that make up our everyday lives. Following the breakthrough success of Manon Lescaut three years earlier, La Bohème established Puccini as the leading Italian opera composer of his generation.

The Creators

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) was immensely popular in his own lifetime, and his mature works remain staples in the repertory of most of the world’s opera companies. His operas are celebrated for their mastery of detail, sensitivity to everyday subjects, copious melody, and economy of expression. Puccini’s librettists for La Bohème, Giuseppe Giacosa (1847–1906) and Luigi Illica (1857–1919), also collaborated with him on his next two operas, Tosca and Madama Butterfly. Giacosa, a dramatist, was responsible for the stories, and Illica, a poet, worked primarily on the words themselves. The French author Henri Murger (1822–1861) drew on his own early experiences as a poor writer in Paris to pen an episodic prose novel and later a successful play, Scènes de la Vie de Bohème, which became the basis for the opera.

The Setting

The libretto sets the action in Paris, circa 1830. This is not a random setting but rather reflects the issues and concerns of a particular time and place. After the upheavals of revolution and war, French artists had lost their traditional support base of aristocracy and Church, and they were desperate for new sources of income. The rising bourgeoisie took up the burden of patronizing artists and earned their contempt in return. The story, then, centers on self-conscious youths at odds with mainstream society, feeling themselves morally superior to the rules of the bourgeoisie (specifically regarding sexual mores) and expressing their independence with affectations of speech and dress. The bohemian
ambience of this opera is clearly recognizable in any modern urban center. La Bohème captures this ethos in its earliest days.

**The Music**

Lyrical and touchingly beautiful, the score of La Bohème exerts a powerfully immediate emotional pull. Many of its most memorable melodies are built incrementally, with small intervals between the notes that carry the listener with them on their lyrical path. This is a distinct contrast to the grand leaps and dives on which earlier operas often depended for emotional effect. La Bohème’s melodic structure perfectly captures the “small people” (as Puccini called them) of the drama and the details of everyday life. The two great love arias in Act I—the tenor’s “Che gelida manina” and the soprano’s “Sì, mi chiamano Mimi”—seduce the listener, beginning conversationally, with great rushes of emotion seamlessly woven into more trivial expressions. In other places, small alterations to a melody can morph the meaning of a thought or an emotion. A change of tempo or orchestration transforms Musetta’s famous, exuberant Act II waltz into the nostalgic, bittersweet tenor-baritone duet in Act IV, as the bohemians remember happier times. Similarly, the “Streets of Paris” theme first appears as a foreshadowing in Act I, when one of the bohemians suggests going out on the town; hits full flower in Act II, when they (and we) are actually there; and becomes a bitter, chilling memory at the beginning of Act III, when it is slowed down and re-orchestrated.

**Met History**

La Bohème had its Met premiere while the company was on tour in Los Angeles in 1900. Nellie Melba sang Mimi and improbably added the mad scene from Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor as an encore after the final curtain (a practice she maintained for several other performances). This production lasted until 1952, when one designed by Rolf Gerard and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, who insisted his name be removed after a disagreement with some of the singers, replaced it. In 1977, La Bohème served as the first opera telecast as part of the Live from the Met series, starring Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scotto in a new production directed by Fabrizio Melano. The spectacular current production by Franco Zeffirelli premiered in 1981 with James Levine leading an impressive cast that included Teresa Stratas, Scotto (as Musetta), José Carreras, Richard Stilwell, and James Morris. La Bohème was presented at the Met in 59 consecutive seasons after its first appearance and has appeared in all but nine seasons since 1900, making it the most performed opera in company history. Having been presented more than 480 times since its premiere, Zeffirelli’s staging is the most performed production in Met history.
A beloved portrayal of the joys and hardships of ordinary people, Giacomo Puccini’s opera about the bohemians of the Latin Quarter was neither the beginning nor the end of the literary and theatrical journey of Mimi, Rodolfo, Marcello, Musetta, Schaunard, and Colline. The characters first appeared in a series of short stories that Henri Murger published in the Parisian journal *Le Corsair* between 1845 and 1849. Murger then collaborated with Théodore Barrière on a play, *La Vie de Bohème*, which premiered in November 1849 at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, and soon after gathered his stories into a novelized version published in 1851 as *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème*. Not surprisingly, by the 1890s, an era in which the arts found new inspiration in the lives of the working class (Mascagni’s *Cavalleria Rusticana* stands out as an operatic example), Murger’s characters seemed perfectly suited for the operatic stage. Not one but two composers stepped up to the task—Puccini and Ruggero Leoncavallo (of *Pagliacci* fame), who feud openly about who had the idea first. Resolution came in the form of two operas, with the same title, premiered a year apart: Puccini’s, with a libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, in Turin in 1896; Leoncavallo’s in Venice, 15 months later. To this day, Murger’s bohemians continue to inspire directors, filmmakers, and composers. Constantin Stanislavski staged Puccini’s opera in a famous production at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1927. Baz Luhrmann brought it to Broadway in 1992 and then conflated the story with that of *La Traviata* in his 2001 film, *Moulin Rouge!*, itself now adapted for Broadway. Puccini’s opera has received multiple cinematic treatments, including in 1965 (by Franco Zeffirelli and Herbert von Karajan), 1988, and 2008 (starring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón). And its story was retold as a rock musical set in 1990s New York in Jonathan Larson’s *Rent*.

In contrast to the remarkable amiability of the characters in *La Bohème*, the working relationship of the work’s creators was vexed. Early in his career, Puccini revealed himself to be a remorseless perfectionist, at his most extreme in *Manon Lescaut*, which took a total of seven librettists (including publisher Giulio Ricordi and the composer himself) to lift it off the ground. The labor of bringing *La Bohème* to the stage, however, was marked less by issues of having too many collaborators than by a passionate struggle among Puccini, his two librettists, and Ricordi. Illica had finished the original scenario for the opera by 1894, but the months preceding that watershed moment had been a painful succession of arguments about the Latin Quarter scene and a now-discarded act set in a courtyard. On October 6, 1893, Giacosa, feeling strangled by Puccini’s demands and ready to throw in the towel, wrote to Ricordi claiming “artistic impotence.”

How remarkable, then, that, despite such creative discord behind the scenes, *La Bohème* unfolds so seamlessly and effortlessly from its opening notes. There is no prelude, and the music erupts from the depths of the orchestra on a single spring-loaded motive that defines the instability of the bohemians’ lives.
The curtain rises swiftly on a scene in medias res, the first in a series of episodes that tumble forth in quick succession, as characters improvise ways to overcome hardship: Marcello works on his painting; Rodolfo burns the pages of his play to heat the garret; Schaunard brings home the dinner; and the landlord, Benoit, is tricked out of his rent.

What is the secret to such utter freshness and spontaneity? One answer is that Puccini keeps the story moving, finding musical expression appropriate to the characters and their station in life. For this composer, “real” people simply could not sing in the formal Italian verse and musical structures that had governed so many Italian operas that came before his. Instead, he advances a more energetic and naturalistic repartee in which lyrical moments arise seamlessly out of the drama. That is exactly what happens in the second half of Act I, as the brief, intimate contact of hands groping in the dark for a lost key moves Rodolfo and Mimì to reveal something of themselves to one another in two of the opera’s greatest arias, “Che gelida manina” and “Sì, mi chiamano Mimi.”

The tone shifts again, though, as it is Christmas Eve, and the new lovers must join friends in the Latin Quarter, on a street teeming with a “vast and motley crowd of citizens, soldiers, serving girls, children, students, seamstresses, gendarmes, etc.,” as the libretto says. In the hands of a lesser composer, Rodolfo, Mimì, and their companions might have been lost in such tumult. But here, Puccini exercises his particular genius for manipulating large numbers of people and devising transparent musical textures that shine a spotlight on the characters he wants us to see and hear. At the center of it all is Musetta, who delivers a siren song (the waltz “Quando m’en vo’”) that Marcello cannot resist. As he falls into her arms, the bill arrives, and the bohemians disappear into the crowd.

One of the most familiar—and original—scenes of La Bohème is Mimì’s death, which differs significantly from the traditional “curtain deaths” of earlier operas. A good example for comparison is La Traviata, whose consumptive heroine, Violetta, is frequently thought of as a model for Mimì. Violetta, surrounded by loved ones, dies with a cry of renewed joy, a tonic chord, and a final curtain in fortissimo dynamics. When Mimì passes away, none of the characters on stage even notices that she is gone until it’s too late. She has no final spasm, nor does she collapse into a pair of loving arms. She sings no high notes; her friends have busied themselves by heating medicine, adjusting curtains, and plumping pillows; there is no vigil, no stage directions that communicate the exact moment of her death or how the singer is to enact it. The libretto does not even mark it with the perfunctory phrase that defines dozens of melodramatic deaths in opera: “She dies.” The only material indicator is in Puccini’s autograph score, where, in the margins next to the measures of the death music, he ironically
drew a skull and crossbones. A highly choreographed “good death” was not to be for the likes of his poor seamstress. Mimì only nods her head, “as one who is overcome by sleep,” and thereafter the libretto notes only “silence.” In the score, a slowing of the tempo leads to a “lunga pausa” just before the key changes from D-flat major to B minor and the tempo to andante lento sostenuto. Puccini adds a subtle detail in the single cymbal struck in quadruple pianissimo with a mallet; the diffuse sound seems to originate from and fade into the ether. Mimì is gone, and the final curtain belongs to Rodolfo.

—Helen M. Greenwald

Helen M. Greenwald is chair of the department of music history at New England Conservatory and editor of the Oxford Handbook of Opera.
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Few artists have had a greater impact on Met history than Franco Zeffirelli, the beloved director and designer who died last year. Born in 1923, Zeffirelli created 11 productions for the company over 35 years, starting with his 1964 debut staging of Falstaff at the old Met. Two years later, he would help inaugurate the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center with an extravagant vision of Samuel Barber’s Antony and Cleopatra, starring Leontyne Price and Justino Díaz.

Zeffirelli’s historically informed, intricately detailed, and breathtakingly beautiful approach delighted generations of operagoers, and his productions of such classics as Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci (1970), Otello (1972), and Tosca (1985) set the standard for grand Met stagings. His 1981 La Bohème remains in the repertory to this day and, with nearly 500 appearances, is the most-performed production in company history.

Zeffirelli’s extensive Met legacy—which also included stagings of Don Giovanni and Carmen in the 1990s—has been preserved in numerous video recordings, as all but his Antony and Cleopatra and two productions of La Traviata have been captured in full telecasts and HD transmissions. During the 2019–20 season, audiences can enjoy his monumental takes on Turandot and La Bohème, with both star-studded revivals dedicated to his memory.
The Cast

**Marco Armiliato**  
**CONDUCTOR (GENOA, ITALY)**

**THIS SEASON**  *La Bohème, Macbeth, and Turandot* at the Met; *Tosca, Aida, and Il Trovatore* at the Vienna State Opera; *La Bohème and Aida* in Zurich; *La Bohème* at Covent Garden; and *Tosca* at the Bavarian State Opera.

**MET APPEARANCES** Since his 1998 debut with *La Bohème*, he has led nearly 450 performances of 25 operas, including *La Fanciulla del West, Turandot, Madama Butterfly, Il Trovatore, Cyrano de Bergerac, Manon Lescaut, Aida, Anna Bolena, La Traviata, La Sonnambula, Tosca, Rigoletto, Francesca da Rimini, Ernani, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, and La Fille du Régiment*.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** He regularly appears at the Vienna State Opera, where he has conducted *Andrea Chénier, L’Elisir d’Amore, La Traviata, Rigoletto, Samson et Dalila, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Otello, La Fanciulla del West, Turandot, Manon Lescaut, Simon Boccanegra, Don Pasquale, Roméo et Juliette, I Puritani, and Don Carlo*, among many others. Other recent performances include *Adriana Lecouvreur* in concert at the Salzburg Festival, *La Traviata* and *Andrea Chénier* at the Bavarian State Opera, *La Traviata* in Verona, *Manon* and *La Fanciulla del West* in Zurich, *Madama Butterfly in Muscat*, and *Il Trovatore and Rigoletto* at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

**Maria Agresta**  
**SOPRANO (VALLO, ITALY)**

**THIS SEASON**  *Mimì in La Bohème* at the Met, Elisabeth of Valois in *Don Carlo* in Madrid and Venice, Leonora in *Il Trovatore* in Beijing, Queen Elizabeth I in *Roberto Devereux* in Paris and Palermo, and Elena in *I Vespri Siciliani* in Zurich.

**MET APPEARANCES**  *Liù in Turandot, Micaëla in Carmen, and Mimì (debut, 2016).*

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** Recent performances include Leonora and Elisabeth of Valois in Madrid, the title role of *Norma* in Zurich, Desdemona in *Otello* in Monte Carlo, the title role of *Anna Bolena* in Rome, Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Paris Opera, Mimi and Liù at *Lyric Opera of Chicago*, and Mimi at *Covent Garden*. She has also sung Violette in *La Traviata at Deutsche Oper Berlin*, the Bavarian State Opera, the Paris Opera, Covent Garden, and in Palermo; Lucrezia Contarini in Verdi’s *I Due Foscari* in concert and Marguerite in *Faust* at the Salzburg Festival; Desdemona at Covent Garden and in Zurich; Leonora in Monte Carlo and at Covent Garden; Micaëla at the Paris Opera; *Norma* in Madrid; *Mimì at the Vienna State Opera, La Scala*, and in Palermo; and *Liù in Verona* and at *La Scala*.

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**The Cast CONTINUED**

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**Susanna Phillips**  
SOPRANO (HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA)

**This season**  
Musetta in *La Bohème*, the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and the title role of *Káťa Kabanová* at the Met; the title role of Floyd’s *Susannah* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the San Francisco Symphony; Handel’s *Messiah* with the Philadelphia Orchestra; and John Adams’s *El Niño* with the Houston Symphony.  

**Met Appearances**  

**Career Highlights**  
Recent performances include the Countess at Cincinnati Opera, Musetta in concert with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Birdie in Blitzstein’s *Regina* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. She has also sung Donna Anna in Zurich, Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* with Boston Baroque, Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* and the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Countess at the Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, and in Lisbon. She was the 2010 recipient of the Met’s Beverly Sills Artist Award, established by Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman.

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**Roberto Alagna**  
TENOR (CLICHY-SOUS-BOIS, FRANCE)

**This season**  
Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at the Met, Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Canio in *Pagliacci* at Deutsche Oper Berlin and in Barcelona, the title role of *Don Carlo* at the Paris Opera, Calaf in *Turandot* at the Vienna State Opera, Canio at Covent Garden, Count Loris Ipanov in *Fedora* at La Scala, Samson in *Samson et Dalila* in Orange, and the title role of *Otello* at the Bavarian State Opera.  

**Met Appearances**  
Since his 1996 debut as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, he has sung nearly 150 performances of 17 roles, including Don José in *Carmen*, Samson, Canio, the title role of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, and Cavaradossi in *Tosca*.  

**Career Highlights**  
Recent performances include the title role of *Andrea Chénier* at Covent Garden; Don José, Otello, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, and Manrico in *Il Trovatore* at the Paris Opera; Rodolfo in *Luisa Miller* in concert and Maurizio in *Adriana Lecouvreur* in Monte Carlo; Samson at the Vienna State Opera and in concert in Paris; Otello at the Vienna State Opera, and the Condemned Man in David Alagna’s *Le Dernier Jour d’un Condamné* in Marseille.
Elliot Madore
BARITONE (TORONTO, CANADA)

**THIS SEASON** Schaunard in *La Bohème* the Met, Carmina Burana with the National Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the title role of Don Giovanni at Florida Grand Opera, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Calgary Opera, and John Adams’s *El Niño* and Antonio Estévez’s *Cantata Criolla* with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.  

**MET APPEARANCES** Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette*, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, the Novice’s Friend in *Billy Budd*, and Lysander in *The Enchanted Island* (debut, 2011).  

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** Recent performances include Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Manitoba Opera, Ramón in the world premiere of Adams's *Girls of the Golden West* at San Francisco Opera and at Dutch National Opera, Anthony Hope in Stephen Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd* and Germano in Rossini’s *La Scala di Seta* in Zurich, the Son in Liza Lim’s *Tree of Codes* at Spoleto Festival USA, and Papageno in excerpts from *Die Zauberflöte* in concert with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has also appeared at the Bavarian State Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Opera Philadelphia, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, among others. He is a graduate of the Met’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Donald Maxwell
BARITONE (PERTH, SCOTLAND)

**THIS SEASON** Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Bohème* at the Met and the Second Priest in *Die Zauberflöte* at Covent Garden.  

**MET APPEARANCES** Benoit and Alcindoro, and Hortensius in *La Fille du Régiment* (debut, 2008).  

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** Recent performances include Hortensius and Alcindoro at Covent Garden, the Sacristan in *Tosca* and Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino* at Welsh National Opera, and Hanezò in Mascagni’s *L’Amico Fritz* in concert at Scottish Opera. He has also sung Dai Greatcoat in the world premiere of Iain Bell’s *In Parenthesis* at Welsh National Opera, the Sacristan at Covent Garden, Alfred Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* in Paris, Swallow in *Peter Grimes* in Zurich, Sancho Panza in Massenet’s *Don Quichotte* with Chelsea Opera Group, Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* at English National Opera, and Dr. Bloom in Olga Neuwirth’s *American Lulu* at the Bregenz Festival and Edinburgh International Festival. He has appeared at La Scala, the Vienna State Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the Wexford Festival, and the Glyndebourne Festival, among others.
The Cast CONTINUED

Artur Ruciński  
BARITONE (WARSAW, POLAND)

THIS SEASON Marcello in La Bohème and Lescaut in Manon at the Met, Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor in Monte Carlo and at Covent Garden, the Duke of Nottingham in Roberto Devereux in Paris, and Germont in La Traviata in Madrid.  
MET APPEARANCES Sharpless in Madama Butterfly (debut, 2016) and Germont.  
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Count di Luna in Il Trovatore and Enrico in Madrid; Robert in Iolanta, the title role of Gianni Schicci, and Marcello at the Paris Opera; Enrico in Zurich; Francesco in Verdi's I Masnadieri in Valencia and Rome; Miller in Luisa Miller in concert in Monte Carlo; Marcello in Bilbao; and Germont at San Francisco Opera. He has also sung Marcello in Turin and Naples; Count di Luna in Barcelona and Verona; Enrico in Tokyo and at the Paris Opera; the title role of Eugene Onegin and Germont at Covent Garden; the Duke of Nottingham in Geneva; the title role of Don Giovanni at the Paris Opera; Germont at Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Salzburg Festival, and in Verona; Eugene Onegin at the Bavarian State Opera and in Warsaw and Bologna; and the Count in Le Nozze di Figaro at Staatsoper Berlin.

Christian Van Horn  
BASS-BARITONE (ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK)

THIS SEASON Colline in La Bohème, the Doctor in Wozzeck, Alidoro in La Cenerentola, and the New Year’s Eve Gala at the Met; Claggart in Billy Budd and Silva in Ernani at San Francisco Opera; Walter in Luisa Miller at Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Creon in Stravinsky’s Oedipus Rex in concert with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.  
MET APPEARANCES Publio in La Clemenza di Tito, Colline, the title role of Mefistofele, Julio in Thomas Adès’s The Exterminating Angel, the Speaker in Die Zauberflöte, and Pistola in Falstaff (debut, 2013).  
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Zoroastro in Handel’s Orlando at San Francisco Opera, Escamillo in Carmen at the Bavarian State Opera, Narbal in Les Troyens at the Paris Opera, Raimondo in Lucia di Lammermoor at Opera Philadelphia, the Emperor in Stravinsky’s The Nightingale and Other Short Fables at the Canadian Opera Company, and Méphistophélès in Faust at Lyric Opera of Chicago. He has also sung Melisso in Handel’s Alcina and Raimondo at the Santa Fe Opera, Oroveso in Norma at the Dallas Opera, the Four Villains in Les Contes d’Hoffmann at LA Opera, and Escamillo and Narbal at Lyric Opera of Chicago.