GIACOMO PUCCINI

LA BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR
Carlo Rizzi

PRODUCTION
Franco Zeffirelli

SET DESIGNER
Franco Zeffirelli

COSTUME DESIGNER
Peter J. Hall

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Gil Wechsler

REVIVAL STAGE DIRECTOR
Gregory Keller

Opera in four acts

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

Saturday, January 22, 2022
1:00–4:05 pm

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

GENERAL MANAGER
Peter Gelb

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Yannick Nézet-Séguin

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The Metropolitan Opera
2021–22 SEASON

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

The 1,355th Metropolitan Opera performance of GIACOMO PUCCINI’S

LA BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR
Carlo Rizzi

IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

MARCELLO
Lucas Meachem

MUSSETA
Gabriella Reyes*

RODOLFO
Charles Castronovo*

A CUSTOMHOUSE SERGEANT
Jonathan Scott

COLLINE
Peter Kellner

A CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER
Ned Hanlon

SCHAUNARD
Alexander Birch Elliott

BENOIT
Donald Maxwell

MIMI
Maria Agresta

PARPIGNOL
Gregory Warren

ALCINDORO
Donald Maxwell

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 1:00–4:05PM
Maria Agresta as Mimi and Charles Castronovo as Rodolfo in Puccini’s La Bohème

* Graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Yamaha is the Official Piano of the Metropolitan Opera.

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Chorus Master Donald Palumbo
Musical Preparation J. David Jackson, Joshua Greene, Liora Maurer, and Marie-France Lefebvre
Assistant Stage Directors Mirabelle Ordinaire and Kathleen Smith Belcher
Met Titles Sonya Friedman
Stage Band Conductor Joseph Lawson
Children’s Chorus Director Anthony Piccolo
Italian Coach Stefano Baldasseroni
Prompter Joshua Greene
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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 2:00PM)

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 Mimì, 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 3:05PM)

**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.
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 (1822–61) 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. This season, the spectacular current production by Franco Zeffirelli celebrates the 40th anniversary of its premiere. James Levine conducted the staging’s debut performance on December 14, 1981, 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 nearly 500 times since its premiere, Zeffirelli’s staging is the most-performed production in Met history.
When Puccini decided—in the wake of his first major success, *Manon Lescaut* (1893)—to write *La Bohème*, he did so against a fascinating historical backdrop stretching back four decades. The French writer Henri Murger’s 1849 drama and 1851 novel about the poor, young, artistic “bohemians” of Paris owed their popularity in part to Europe’s roiling Revolutions of 1848; tales of idealistic, nonconformist youths with social reform on their minds attracted new interest in revolutionary times. Puccini might well have seen some of his own youthful Milanese days in this story as well, a reminder of the Scapigliati (“the scruffy or disheveled ones”—an important group of convention-defying painters, writers (including Verdi’s collaborator Arrigo Boito), and musicians active in salon circles in the 1860s and 1870s. The story Puccini and his librettists, Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, fashioned from Murger might seem laughably simple at first—boy meets girl, they break up, she dies—but it is made more profound by its realism, a trend of the times for which the influential Austrian critic Eduard Hanslick sharply criticized *La Bohème*. The realistic depiction of poverty, artistic striving with little chance of success, and the destruction of love by disease and lack of means: All of this puts a different sociopolitical frame around the love story. “Non basta amor!,” cries Rodolfo, and lamentably, he is right. Love is not enough.

The creation of *La Bohème* began with a highly public controversy between two of the foremost opera composers of the day: Puccini and Ruggero Leoncavallo, fresh off the colossal success of *Pagliacci* (1892). In circumstances that are still mysterious, Leoncavallo was furious to discover that Puccini was working on *La Bohème*, as he too was developing an opera on the same subject. The imbroglio hit the newspapers, with Puccini writing to Milan’s *Corriere della Sera* (The *Evening Courier*) on March 21, 1893, “Let him compose, and I will compose, and the public will judge.” And they have: Leoncavallo’s version may have been more successful at the outset, but Puccini’s opera has long since outstripped that of his rival. And no wonder: It was a considerable feat to compose an opera in the wake of Wagner and late Verdi, all the more so since Puccini carefully devised his own method of composing acts in which the music never stops, as well as his own fast-paced conversational style, learning the lessons of those two giants without resorting to imitation.

The characters of Puccini’s opera differ in some respects from Murger’s originals, especially Mimi, who is flightier and more of a gold digger in the French than in the Italian. Puccini’s lovable seamstress is a variation on a turn-of-century literary type known as the “femme fragile,” or “fragile woman”; we identify Mimi as such by her delicacy, refinement, association with flowers and moonlight, pallor, and consumption. Eros and Death join hands in opera yet again. When she introduces herself to Rodolfo in “Sì, mi chiamano Mimi,” she sings ecstatically of the flowers that speak to her of love and springtime, and
we hear a brief, poignant emphasis on B minor: the harmony to which she will
die three acts later.

The other important female character, Musetta, is what Parisians in 1830
would have called a “lorette,” or a “good-time girl” with a string of protectors,
but we are not invited to scorn or condemn her; she is too high spirited and loyal,
too loving, for that. Her celebrated waltz-aria, “Quando m’en vo’,” gives us a
welcome pause in the helter-skelter action of Act II, and the swirl of her skirts,
the waves of sensual delight in the orchestra remind us that Puccini’s famous
melodies are inseparable from their masterful orchestrations. When Musetta
shrieks that her shoes are killing her (what woman would not sympathize?) in
order to rid herself of her latest sugar daddy, even as Marcello is declaring his
renewed love for her, we can only laugh along with such a spirited and clever
creature. Her tenderness to Mimi in the final act confirms her likeability; in
fact, the depiction of male and female friendship is one of the opera’s most
endearing traits. And if orchestration is crucial to Puccinian melody, so too are
his trademark harmonies. When he swerves suddenly from G major to A major
for “O soave fanciulla” in Act I, the effect is magic, achieved through remarkably
economic means.

We meet the male characters first and in a distinctive way; just as Mozart
withholds the introduction of the Countess until Act II of Le Nozze di Figaro,
Puccini makes us wait for Mimi’s appearance. And just as Verdi catapults the
audience into the comic maelstrom of Falstaff right at the start, with no orchestral
prelude or scene-setting chorus, Puccini dives into Act I without throat-clearing,
the four bohemians entering immediately, two by two. (Nor is this Puccini’s only
reference to Verdi. The quartet at the end of Act III, with Mimi and Rodolfo
bidding each other the saddest of farewells and Marcello and Musetta quarreling
yet again, is a nod to the design of the Act II quartet in Otello.) We encounter
the tempestuous painter Marcello first, his music stabbing at dotted rhythms
in somewhat the same way that he stabs at his painting of the Red Sea parting,
and after him, the young poet Rodolfo, whose very first strains foreshadow the
lyrical tenderness of “Che gelida manina” later in the act. It is typical of Puccini
to prefigure the “big tunes” to come and then repeat fragments later on to
trigger memories and emotions.

The philosopher Colline and the group’s ironist-in-chief, the composer
Schaunard, enter next, and it is telling that Marcello’s assertive melody comes
to characterize all of the bohemians together, hippie-like in their lack of
discipline, their rejection of social conventions, their hedonistic ethos, their
espousal of free love, their ironic twitting of the comfortable bourgeoisie.
The conversational style of this music, the declamatory chatter above a lively
orchestra, the colloquialisms: This is something new on the operatic scene. We
hear this sort of hectic activity again in Act II, when the string of rule-breaking
parallel chords for three trumpets in the Café Momus theme anticipate Stravinsky's Shrovetide Fair music in *Petrushka*, and the toymaker Parpignol sells his wares to music of staccato, childlike charm. Puccini makes a practice in *La Bohème* of contrasting this sort of crowd music and boisterous male banter with his distinctive, expansive lyricism, which slows time and tries, however unsuccessfully, to make love last forever. Indeed, time is of the essence in this opera, as the sands of Mimi's life and of the bohemians' youth are running out. In Act IV, Puccini underscores the gravity, the inevitability, of time's passage, and the powerlessness of memory to bring what was beautiful and bygone back, by weaving a tapestry of musical reminiscences. Here, death is not transcendence. Unlike with Violetta's otherwise similar death scene in Verdi's *La Traviata*, there is no heaven, only loss.

Puccini's score was finally completed at midnight on December 10, 1895. In the autograph manuscript, the composer wrote "lunga" ("long") with an exaggerated fermata (pause symbol) at the moment of Mimi's death and sketched a skull-and-crossbones in the left-hand margin. Whether he meant it ironically, as a tiny dash of cynicism to obviate sentimentality, we cannot know. But when Puccini tells us, the listeners, of her death—with a single eloquent B-minor chord in the orchestra, followed by the massive orchestral recurrence of Mimi's deathbed greeting to Rodolfo ("Sono andati?"), and the solemn "Addio" cadence of Colline's farewell to his overcoat—the characters', and composer's, grief becomes ours. Distance from what we see and hear is impossible to maintain. Puccini's publisher Giulio Ricordi was overjoyed when he received Puccini's masterpiece, swearing that it would make the orchestra dissolve in tears. "If this time you have not succeeded in hitting the nail squarely on the head," he wrote to the composer, "I will give up my profession and sell salami."

—Susan Youens

Susan Youens is the J. W. Van Gorkom Professor of Music at the University of Notre Dame and has written eight books on the music of Franz Schubert and Hugo Wolf.
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The Cast

**Maria Agresta**  
**Soprano (Vallo, Italy)**

**This season**  
Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Met; the title role of Tosca at Stuttgart, Dresden, and Turin; Verdi’s Requiem in Parma; Desdemona in *Otello* in Naples; the title role of *Adriana Lecouvreur* at La Scala; Elizabeth I in *Roberto Devereux* in Palermo; the title role of *Manon Lescaut* in Monaco; and Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* in Bilbao.

**Career highlights**  
Recent performances include Maddalena di Coigny in *Andrea Chénier* at Greek National Opera, Elisabeth of Valois in *Don Carlo* in Venice and Madrid, Leonora in *Il Trovatore* in Beijing and Madrid, the title role of *Norma* in Zurich, Desdemona in *Monte Carlo*, and the title role of *Anna Bolena* in Rome. She has also sung Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Paris Opera; Mimi and Liù at *Lyric Opera of Chicago*; Mimi at Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, and in Palermo; Violetta in *La Traviata* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Bavarian State Opera, the Paris Opera, Covent Garden, and in Palermo; and Lucrezia Contarini in *I Due Foscari* in concert and Marguerite in *Faust* at the Salzburg Festival.

**Carlo Rizzi**  
**Conductor (Milan, Italy)**

**This season**  
*La Bohème* and *Tosca* at the Met, *Madama Butterfly* at Welsh National Opera, *Tosca* at the Bavarian State Opera, Leoncavallo’s *Zingari* in concert with London’s Opera Rara, *Cendrillon* at the Paris Opera, Verdi’s *I Due Foscari* in Florence, and a concert with the Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música.

**Met appearances**  
Since his 1993 debut leading *La Bohème*, he has conducted more than 200 performances of 16 operas, including *Tosca*, *Mefistofele*, *Turandot*, *Norma*, *La Traviata*, *Nabucco*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Aida*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *L’Elisir d’Amore*, and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

**Career highlights**  
Since 2015, he has served as conductor laureate of Welsh National Opera, where he held two tenures as music director, 1992–2001 and 2004–08. Since launching his conducting career in 1982 with Donizetti’s *L’Ajo Nell’Imbarazzo*, he has led more than 100 different operas, a repertoire rich in both Italian works and the music of Wagner, Strauss, Britten, and Janáček. He has also conducted performances at La Scala, Covent Garden, Dutch National Opera, the Norwegian National Opera, the Canadian Opera Company, Pesaro’s Rossini Opera Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Deutsche Oper Berlin, among others.

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THIS SEASON Musetta in La Bohème and Liù in Turandot at the Met, Cio-Cio-San in Marina Abramović’s 7 Deaths of Maria Callas at the Paris Opera, Rosalba in Catán’s Florencia en el Amazonas at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Marzelline in Fidelio with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Mimi in La Bohème at the Glyndebourne Festival.


CAREER HIGHLIGHTS She has sung the Priestess at the Paris Opera; Musetta at the Santa Fe Opera; the First Lady in excerpts of Die Zauberflöte with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; the soprano in Philip Glass’s Hydrogen Jukebox, the title role of Tobias Picker’s Emmeline, the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro, Minskwoman in Jonathan Dove’s Flight, and a Greek Woman and a Priestess in Iphigénie en Tauride at Boston University’s Opera Institute; and the Princess in Montsalvatge’s El Gato con Botas with OperaHub. She has also appeared in concert with the New York Choral Society, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Montclair Orchestra, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. She is a graduate of the Met’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Gabriella Reyes
SOPRANO (MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT)

THIS SEASON Rodolfo in La Bohème at the Met, Staatsoper Berlin, and the Bavarian State Opera; Nemorino in L’Elisir d’Amore at Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title role of Mascagni’s L’Amico Fritz in Florence; Chevalier des Grieux in Manon in Wrocław, Poland; Puccini’s Messa di Gloria in Paris; and Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly at the Bavarian State Opera.

MET APPEARANCES Roméo in Roméo et Juliette, Tamino in The Magic Flute and Die Zauberflöte, Rodolfo, Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, the First Guard in Manon, the First Prisoner in Fidelio, Beppe in Pagliacci (debut, 1999), and the Sailor’s Voice in Tristan und Isolde.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He appears regularly at the Bavarian State Opera, where his roles have included Carlo in Verdi’s I Masnadieri, Admète in Gluck’s Alceste, the title role of Roberto Devereux, Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor, and Alfredo in La Traviata, among others. Other recent performances include Faust in La Damnation de Faust in concert and Gabriele Adorno in Simon Boccanegra at the Salzburg Festival; Rodolfo in Luisa Miller at the Glyndebourne Festival; and Alfredo at Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera. He is a graduate of the Met’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Charles Castronovo
TENOR (QUEENS, NEW YORK)
Alexander Birch Elliott  
BARITONE (FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA)

THIS SEASON  Schaunard in La Bohème at the Met, the title role of Eugene Onegin at Opera Omaha, and Demetrius in A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Des Moines Metro Opera.
MET APPEARANCES  Zurga in Les Pêcheurs de Perles (debut, 2018).
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS  Recent performances include Momus in Rameau’s Platée and Yeletsky in The Queen of Spades at Des Moines Metro Opera, Marcello in La Bohème at San Diego Opera, Escamillo in Carmen at Opera Santa Barbara, Silvio in Pagliacci at Opera Omaha, Sgt. Belcore in L’Elisir d’Amore at Virginia Opera, Maximilian / the Sea Captain / the Grand Inquisitor in Candide in concert with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a Street Singer in Bernstein’s Mass at Ravinia Festival. He has also sung John Brooke in Mark Adamo’s Little Women at Annapolis Opera, Sonora in La Fanciulla del West at New York City Opera, Guglielmo in Così fan tutte at Opera Omaha, Anthony Hope in Stephen Sondheim’s Sweeney Todd and Eugene Onegin at Portland Opera, Marcello at Tulsa Opera, and Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia at Opera Santa Barbara.

Peter Kellner  
BASS (KROMPACHY, SLOVAKIA)

THIS SEASON  Colline in La Bohème for his debut at the Met, Papageno in Die Zauberflöte at Covent Garden, and Don Basilio in Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Figaro in Le Nozze di Figaro, and Masetto in Don Giovanni at the Vienna State Opera.
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS  Since 2018, he has been a member of the ensemble at the Vienna State Opera, where his roles have included Zuniga in Carmen, Leporello in Don Giovanni, the King of Scotland in Handel’s Ariodante, Truffaldin in Ariadne auf Naxos, Theseus in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Count Lamoral in Arabella, the Bonze in Madama Butterfly, and Panthére in Les Troyens. Between 2015 and 2018, he was a member of the ensemble at Oper Graz, where he sang Osmin in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Don Basilio, Frère Laurent in Roméo et Juliette, Colline, Lord Sidney in Rossini’s Il Viaggio a Reims, and Figaro, among others. Other recent performances include Brander in La Damnation de Faust in concert, Orest’s Guardian in Elektra, and the First Soldier in Salome at the Salzburg Festival; Colline and Leporello in Bratislava; Lt. Ratcliffe in Billy Budd and Colline at Covent Garden; and Papageno in Seville and Trieste.

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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 the Notary in Don Pasquale with Random Opera Company, 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 also appeared at La Scala, the Vienna State Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the Wexford Festival, and the Glyndebourne Festivals, among others.

Lucas Meachem
BARITONE (RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA)

THIS SEASON Marcello in La Bohème at the Met and in Madrid, Wolfram von Eschenbach in Tannhäuser at LA Opera, Escamillo in Carmen at the Bavarian State Opera, Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia at the Dallas Opera, Sharpless in Madama Butterfly at Covent Garden, and the title role of Nabucco at the Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen.

MET APPEARANCES Robert in Iolanta, Marcello, Silvio in Pagliacci, Mercutio in Roméo et Juliette, and General Rayevsky in War and Peace (debut, 2007).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include the title role of Eugene Onegin at the Santa Fe Opera; the title role of Gianni Schicchi in concert at Festival Napa Valley; Figaro and Mercutio at San Francisco Opera; Silvio, Yeletsky in The Queen of Spades, and the title role of Don Giovanni at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Escamillo in Turin; Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor in Montreal; Zurga in Les Pêcheurs de Perles in Bilbao; and Marcello at the Canadian Opera Company. He has also appeared at the Vienna State Opera, Norwegian National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Palm Beach Opera, and in Dresden, Toulouse, Berlin, and Monte Carlo, among others.