

Episode 4:
LA BOHÈME
Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 7:00pm EDT

Sponsored by Dr. & Mrs. Michael Zoller

Conductor	Andrew Bisantz
Director	Fabrizio Melano
Stage Manager	Julius Sanchez
Production Manager	Patrick Joel Martin
Lighting Designer	Jacob Nelson
Psychological Consultant	Laura Melano Flanagan
Wardrobe Supervisor	Lani Winskye
Properties Coordinator	Judy Levin
Assistant Conductor	Emery Kerekes
Mimi	Liz Lang
Rodolfo	Peter Lake
Musetta	Angela De Venuto
Marcello	Jean Carlos Rodriguez
Colline	Leo Radosavljevic
Schaunard	Mariano Gladić
Alcindoro	Fabrizio Melano
Piano	Howard Watkins
Clarinet	Russell Brown
Violin I	Sinisa Ciric
Violin II	Ricardo Ochoa
Viola	Lizhou Liu
Cello	Chris Glansdorp
Bass	Marc Chesanow

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Mr. Bisantz is sponsored by Daniel C. Cohen

Ms. Lang is sponsored by Nancy & Gary Radke

Mr. Lake is sponsored by Dr. Michael & Linda Zoller

Ms. De Venuto and Mr. Radosavljevic are sponsored by Kathie & Les Anderson

Mr. Rodriguez is sponsored by Middy Larson

Mr. Gladić is sponsored by Toby Hollenberg

Dr. Watkins is sponsored by Claudia & David Seyle

Special thanks to our friends at Asbury Memorial Church for hosting this event on August 21, 2021!

Special thanks to Marjorie & B.H. Levy and Carolyn Donovan for their sponsorship of this production, and to Helen Downing for sponsoring SVF's use of Asbury Memorial Church.

and don't miss...

HEADLINER: Liz Lang, soprano with Howard Watkins, piano

Friday, October 15 at 7:00pm EDT

FINALE: Until We Meet Again

Saturday, October 16 at 7:00pm EDT

We hope you enjoyed tonight's stream! You can support SVF artists by [donating here](#).

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A Note from the Director

Although *La Bohème* is surely the most popular opera in the international repertory it often tends to be performed sloppily and inaccurately. In this production, Andrew Bisantz, the singers and I have tried hard to respect Puccini's very specific expressive, dynamic and rhythmic instructions as faithfully as possible. The collective title is significant - there are six principal characters whose stories should be given equal weight. Five of them are would-be artists deeply affected by the presence (and eventually death) in their midst of a sixth, Mimi, who is a real artist but does not know it. Poverty and illness cast long shadows - one should remember that tuberculosis in the nineteenth century, like AIDS in the 1980's, was incurable. Because the action could really occur at any time or in any place we have chosen to forego local color and picturesque details and dress the characters in modern clothes. Hopefully, *La Bohème*, like all great works of art, will stimulate your minds, touch your hearts, and expand your horizons.

– Fabrizio Melano

Synopsis

Act I. On Christmas Eve, a group of bohemians living in Paris are barely surviving the harsh winter. They keep warm by feeding their stove with pages from the poet Rodolfo's latest poem. When Schaunard the musician arrives with funds from his latest commission, the group celebrate their good fortune. They all head out to celebrate but Rodolfo stays behind. Whilst alone, his neighbor Mimi knocks at the door asking for a light, as hers has gone out and she cannot find her way in the dark. Rodolfo, instantly infatuated, invites her to the café and they leave together.

Act II. On a busy street in the Latin Quarter, Rodolfo and Mimi join the rest of the group at Café Momus. The painter Marcello spots his ex-lover Musetta with her wealthy admirer Alcindoro, though it is clear she has grown bored with him. Longing to return to Marcello, she sings a risqué song in order to get his attention. Musetta then orders Alcindoro away and steals a chance to fall into Marcello's arms.

Act III. Months later, Rodolfo and Mimi, though now a couple, are weathering tough times. Rodolfo is driven to despair by Mimi's illness, which he fears is slowly killing her. Knowing that he can do nothing to help in the abject poverty in which they live, he has taken to being jealous and unkind in order to drive her away. When Mimi discovers this, she confronts Rodolfo and the two agree to separate but are unable to do so right away. They agree to wait until spring. Musetta and Marcello also separate, much less amicably, after a fierce argument.

Act IV. Spring has come and gone, and Rodolfo and Mimi have separated. Marcello tells Rodolfo that Mimi has since started seeing a wealthy viscount and is living like a queen. However, Musetta arrives later that day with a desperately ill Mimi, who she found wandering the streets. Together they help her to bed and each rush off to sell their belongings for medicine. Rodolfo and Mimi both declare their love for each other. Mimi is overwhelmed with a violent coughing fit, after which she drifts off to sleep. Shortly after, Schaunard announces that she has died and Rodolfo weeps by her side.

Synopsis courtesy of Opera North