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

MIMÌ
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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