



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS
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**MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS THE MOST
ROMANTIC OPERA OF ALL TIME, *LA BOHÈME*
APRIL 5, 8, & 11, 2014**

THEY'RE YOUNG, IN LOVE, AND IN PARIS

Manitoba Opera presents Puccini's beloved *La Bohème*, considered the most romantic opera of all time, at the Centennial Concert Hall, Saturday, April 5 (8 pm), Tuesday, April 8 (7 pm), and Friday, April 11 (8 pm).

La Bohème is the timeless coming-of-age story of young love and loss set against a background of poverty in the bohemian Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1830s. The exuberant passion of youth erupts as four young artists live and love with all their hearts and discover that painting, poetry, and philosophy are just reflections of life, not life itself. The award-winning rock musical *Rent* is based on the story of *La Bohème* which is in turn, was based on Henri Murger's novel *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème*.

Giacomo Puccini, one of the most popular of all operatic composers, combined the heartbreaking story of *La Bohème* with soaring, unforgettable melodies including Rodolfo's "Che gelida manina" (What a cold little hand); Mimi's "Sì, mi chiamano Mimi" (Yes, they call me Mimi); Rodolfo and Mimi's duet "O soave fanciulla" (Oh lovely girl); and Musetta's waltz song "Quando me'n vo" (When I go along).

The Story:

In a cold artists' attic on Christmas Eve, a bohemian poet falls in love with a shy seamstress. When Mimi takes ill, Rodolfo leaves her in the hope that she'll find a wealthy suitor who can afford to heal her. But before spring can come to Paris, they learn that love is stronger than any medicine.

The Artists:

Making her Manitoba Opera debut is American soprano **Danielle Pastin** as the sweet seamstress Mimi. Singing the role of Rodolfo, her boyfriend, is American tenor **Eric Fennell**, also making his MO debut. Winnipeg soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz**, who appeared last season as the High Priestess in *Aida* and in 2011 as Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, returns this time as the tempestuous Musetta. In his MO debut will be American baritone **Keith Phares** as Marcello, the painter who tries to keep up with her. Canadian bass-baritone **Giles Tomkins** will sing Colline, the philosopher and Saskatchewan baritone **Peter McGillivray** will take on Schaunard, the musician. Both are making Manitoba Opera debuts. Winnipeg bass-baritone **David Watson** will be singing both Benoit the landlord and Alcindoro, an admirer of Musetta.

2. Manitoba Opera presents *La Bohème* April 5, 8, 11, 2014

The production is directed by **Brian Deedrick** (also directed *Aida* in 2013), with **Daniel Lipton** conducting the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** and **Manitoba Opera Chorus**.

The sets and props are provided by Edmonton Opera (Wolfram Skalicki, designer) and costumes are from Malabar Ltd. Toronto. Lighting design is by **Bill Williams**.

La Bohème will be sung in Italian, with English translations projected above the stage.

For tickets and more information, go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca or call the Manitoba Opera Box Office at 204-944-8824. Senior, student and youth discounts are available.

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