

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Act 1 - *In the four bohemians' garret*

Marcello, a painter, and Rodolfo, a writer, complain of the cold. In order to keep warm, they burn the manuscript of Rodolfo's drama. Colline, the philosopher, enters shivering and disgruntled at not having been able to pawn some books. Schauvard, the musician of the group, arrives with food, wine and cigars. He explains the source of his riches: a job with an eccentric English gentleman, who ordered him to play his violin to a parrot until it died. Schauvard informs the group that they must save the food for the days ahead: tonight they will all celebrate his good fortune by dining at Cafe Momus, and he will pay. The friends are interrupted by Benoit, the landlord, who arrives to collect the rent. They flatter him and ply him with wine. In his drunkenness, he begins to boast of his amorous adventures, but when he also reveals that he is married, they thrust him from the room—without the rent payment—in comic moral indignation. Rodolfo remains alone for a moment in order to finish an article he is writing. There is a knock at the door. It is a girl who lives in another room in the building. Her candle has blown out, and she has no matches; she asks Rodolfo to light it. She is briefly overcome with faintness, and Rodolfo helps her to a chair and offers her a glass of wine. After a few minutes, she says that she is better and must go. But as she turns to leave, she realizes that she has lost her key. Rodolfo, eager to spend time with the girl, finds the key and pockets it, feigning innocence. He tells the girl of his life as a poet; she says her name is Mimi and describes her simple life as an embroiderer. Impatiently, the waiting friends call Rodolfo. He answers and turns to see Mimi bathed in moonlight. They realize that they have fallen in love.

Act 2 - *Quartier Latin*

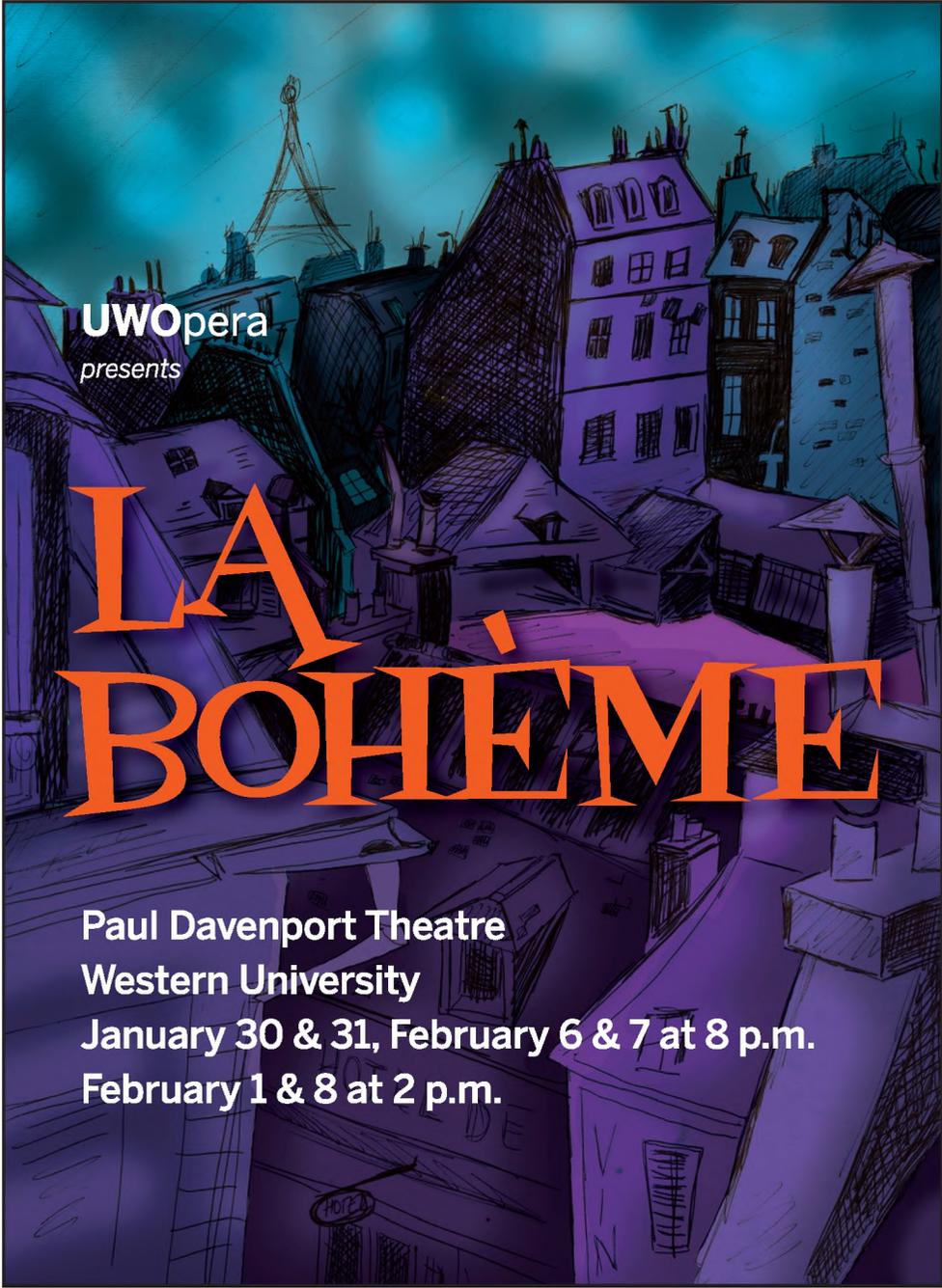
A great crowd, including children, has gathered with street sellers announcing their wares. The friends arrive; Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet from a vendor. As the men and Mimi dine at the cafe, Musetta, formerly Marcello's sweetheart, arrives with her rich admirer, Alcindoro. She sings a song hoping to reclaim Marcello's attention. The play works; at the same time, Mimi recognizes that Musetta truly loves Marcello. To be rid of Alcindoro, Musetta pretends to be suffering from a tight shoe and sends him to the shoemaker to get her shoe mended. Alcindoro leaves, and Musetta and Marcello fall rapturously into each other's arms. The friends are presented with their bill. The sly Musetta has the entire bill charged to Alcindoro. The sound of a military band is heard, and the friends leave. Alcindoro returns and the waiter hands him the bill.

Act 3 - *At the toll gate at the Barrière d'Enfer (late Feb.)* Peddlers pass through the barriers and

enter the city. Mimi appears, coughing violently. She tries to find Marcello, currently living in a little tavern where he paints signs for the innkeeper. She tells him of her hard life with Rodolfo, who abandoned her the night before, and of Rodolfo's terrible jealousy. Marcello tells her that Rodolfo is asleep inside, and expresses concern about Mimi's cough. Rodolfo wakes up and comes out looking for Marcello. Mimi hides and overhears Rodolfo first telling Marcello that he left Mimi because of her coquettishness, but finally confessing that his jealousy is a sham: he fears she is slowly being consumed by a deadly illness. Rodolfo, in his poverty, can do little to help Mimi. Out of kindness towards Mimi, Marcello tries to silence him, but she has already heard all. Her weeping and coughing reveal her presence, and Rodolfo hurries to her. Musetta's laughter is heard and Marcello goes to find out what has happened. Mimi tells Rodolfo that she is leaving him, and asks that they separate amicably but their love for one another is too strong for the pair to part. As a compromise, they agree to remain together until the spring, when the world is coming to life again and no one feels truly alone. Meanwhile, Marcello has found Musetta, and the couple quarrel fiercely about Musetta's flirtatiousness.

Act 4 - *Back in the garret (some months later)*

Marcello and Rodolfo are trying to work, though they are primarily talking about their girlfriends, who have left them and found wealthy lovers. Rodolfo has seen Musetta in a fine carriage and Marcello has seen Mimi dressed like a queen. Schauvard and Colline arrive with a very frugal dinner and all parody eating a plentiful banquet, dance together and sing, before Schauvard and Colline engage in a mock duel. Musetta suddenly appears; Mimi, who took up with a wealthy viscount after leaving Rodolfo in the spring, has left her patron. Musetta found her that day in the street, severely weakened by her illness, and Mimi begged Musetta to bring her to Rodolfo. Mimi, haggard and pale, is assisted onto a bed. Briefly, she feels as though she is recovering. Musetta, Marcello, Colline and Schauvard leave to sell their possessions in order to buy medicine. Mimi tells Rodolfo that her love for him is her whole life. To Mimi's delight, Rodolfo presents her with the pink bonnet he bought her, which he has kept as a souvenir of their love. Suddenly, Mimi is overwhelmed by a coughing fit. The others return, with a gift of a muff to warm Mimi's hands and some medicine. Mimi gently thanks Rodolfo for the muff, which she believes is a present from him, reassures him that she is better and falls asleep. As Musetta prays, Mimi dies. Schauvard realizes that Mimi has died. Rodolfo becomes aware that something is wrong. He rushes to the bed, calling Mimi's name in anguish, and weeps helplessly.



UWopera
presents

LA BOHÈME

Paul Davenport Theatre
Western University
January 30 & 31, February 6 & 7 at 8 p.m.
February 1 & 8 at 2 p.m.



**Western
Music**

Don Wright Faculty of Music

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC'S

UWOpera Workshop

presents

LA BOHÈME

Music - GIACOMO PUCCINI

Libretto - LUIGI ILLICA and GIUSEPPE GIACOSA

Stage Director - THEODORE BAERG

Music Director - ALAIN TRUDEL

CAST

	Jan. 30, Feb. 1 & 7	Jan. 31, Feb. 6 & 8
<i>Marcello</i>	Adam Harris	Chad Louwerse
<i>Rodolfo</i>	Scott Rumble	Ryan Fitzgerald
<i>Colline</i>	Clarke Ruth	Anthony Rodrigues
<i>Schaunard</i>	Adam Iannetta	Patrick Bowman
<i>Benoit</i>	Matthew Pauls	Matthew Pauls
<i>Mimi</i>	Laura Duffy (Jan 30, Feb 7) Carmen Specht (Feb 1)	Margie Bernal (Jan 31, Feb 8) Carmen Specht (Feb 6)
<i>Musetta</i>	Brianna DeSantis	Amanda Bartella
<i>Parpignol</i>	Colin Bell	Colin Bell
<i>Alcindoro</i>	Theodore Baerg	Theodore Baerg
<i>Doganiere</i>	Thomas Krasey	Thomas Krasey
<i>Sergente</i>	Adam Muir	Adam Muir

Chorus

Soprano: Kelsey Gordon, Daniela Agostino, Giulianianna Misasi, Laura Nielsen

Mezzo: Samantha Hart, Amanda Weatherall, Nicole Stocks, Andreina Diaz Salazar

Tenor: Colin Bell, Ryan Nauta, Sharang Sharma, Jonathan Mayorov

Bass: Alex Matthews, Thomas Krasey, Adam Muir, Brock Reid

Children's Chorus

Penny Argall, Miranda Brown, Ben Louwerse, Anna Turkstra, Zachary Wilson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ORCHESTRA

Alain Trudel, *Music Director*

<i>Violin I</i>	<i>Viola</i>	<i>Flute</i>	<i>French horn</i>
Mary Elizabeth Brown (Concert mistress)	Katie McBean William Annab John Wiebe	Daniele Jones Yu San Ou (piccolo)	Devon Martene Wendy Stenger
Gianna McGrath Nicole Li Kirit Mascarenhas Ori Solomon	Amber Mitchell Adrianna A Tascón	<i>Oboe</i> Phoenix Zhang	<i>Trombone</i> Nick Harris
<i>Violin II</i>	<i>Cello</i>	<i>Clarinet</i>	<i>Timpani</i> Dave Fair
Debora Remor da Silva Kelvin Mun David Lokan Tyler Mäkinen	Kevin Odorico Natalie Dawe Susana A Tascón	Ian Clarke Samantha Hotte	<i>Percussion</i> Tyse Burrows Sarah Spinks
	<i>Bass</i>	<i>Bassoon</i>	<i>Harp</i> Véronique Drozd
	Gary Jackson Petros Giannopoulos	Diane Mills	
		<i>Trumpet</i> Katie Clark Trevor Bowman	

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director – Theodore Baerg	Stage Manager – Megan Robertson
Music Director – Alain Trudel	Assistant Stage Managers – Marcel Sokalski, Stephanie Jung
Set Designer – Eric Bunnell	Theatre Manager – Louis D'Alton
Costume Design and Coordination – Julie McGill	Theatre Technician – Bryan Hart
Lighting Design – Simon Day	Properties – Eric Bunnell, Theodore Baerg, Julie McGill
Head Coach – Simone Luti	Surtitled Creator – Theodore Baerg
Repetiteurs – Natalia Skomorokhova, Caleb Mora, Samantha Lee	Surtitled Operator – Emily Roughley

OPERA COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to UWOpera's first ever production of *La Bohème*. This masterpiece by Giacomo Puccini is one of the greatest and most produced operas of all time. I am very proud of our casts and orchestra for all of the fine work they have done. Our administration, musical and technical staff in addition to our community supporters make this kind of production possible. Opera is a collaborative art form and we thank you, our community, for your continued support and presence. Enjoy the drama and don't forget our program of Operatic Favourites on March 14 and 15.

– Professor Ted Baerg

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