

March 1, 2017

*Opera San José Presents Puccini's Beloved****La bohème***

What: *La bohème* is a passionate story of love among young artists in Paris. Mimi spends her days embroidering and her evenings longing for springtime. Literally in search of light, a match for her only candle, she instead finds happiness and friendship with a band of impoverished bohemians – a handsome poet, a philosopher, a painter, and a musician. Briefly, Mimi and Rodolfo make a place of love for themselves, until poverty prevails. Based on the lives of bohemians, including Puccini himself, *La bohème* rings true.

La bohème will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Run-time is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes. Opera San José presents six performances of this beloved opera, opening in San José's California Theatre on April 15, 2017, closing April 30, 2017. The California Theatre is at 345 S. First Street in downtown San José.

Tickets: Tickets are available by phone, online, and at the Opera San José Box Office at 2149 Paragon Drive in San José. Prices range from \$10 for students, ages 25 and younger with a current student ID, and \$56 to \$176 for adults. Box office phone: 408-437-4450 or go to operasj.org.

Who: Composer: Giacomo Puccini
Librettists: Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
Conductor: Joseph Marcheso
Stage Director: Michael Shell
Set Designer: Kim A. Tolman
Costume Director: Alyssa Oania
Lighting Designer: Pamila Z. Gray
Wigs/Makeup: Christina Martin
Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master: Andrew Whitfield

Cast:

Mimi	Sylvie Lee •
Rodolfo	Kirk Dougherty •
Mussetta	Vanessa Becerra
Marcello	Mathew Hanscom •
Schaunard	Brian James Myer •
Colline	Colin Ramsey •
Benoit	Carl King

• Principal artist in the resident company

Dates: April 15, 16m, 20, 23m, 28, 30m

Time: "m" indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm

Location: California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street (between San Carlos and San Salvador), San José, CA

La bohème Preview: April 4, 2017 at 12 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 East Fernando Street, Beethoven Center, 5th floor, downtown San José; Free vocal preview with members of the cast. For information, call 408-437-4450.

Introduction to Opera: General Director Larry Hancock will present a free 45-minute talk to ticket holders about the opera at the California Theatre before each performance of *La bohème*. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

Press Room: www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room

To learn more about *La bohème*, please visit operasj.org

About Opera San José

Opera San José, performing at the beautiful California Theatre in downtown San José, is a professional, regional opera company that is unique in the United States. Maintaining a resident company of principal artists, Opera San José specializes in showcasing the finest young professional singers in the nation. In addition to mainstage performances, Opera San José maintains extensive educational programs in schools and in the community at large, and offers preview lectures and Introduction to Opera talks for all mainstage productions.

###