

Puccini LA BOHEME

Realism, humor help LA BOHEME succeed

"SCHENECTADY – Teatro Lirico d'Europa's production of Puccini's **LA BOHEME** on Sunday night at Proctor's Theatre was one of the most spontaneous performances seen in a long time. Artistic director Giorgio Lalov got his singers to communicate with each other in a realistic and often lighthearted fashion rather than just have them focus on projecting their voices. To be sure, all the singers were strong and the two female leads, Elena Razgulyieva as Mimi and Larissa Yudina as Musetta, had big voices that soared. It was a pleasure to watch the *opera* unfold. It also helped that the supertitles often had humor that made the capacity crowd laugh. The camaraderie of the four men seemed real and they all sang well together. Baritone Ilia Pavlov as Shaunard and bass Mikhail Kolelishvili as Colline each had substantial arias. Kolelishvili's aria in the final act was especially smooth and resonant. As lovers, Gonzalez and Razgulyieva had a sweet chemistry and their voices blended well. Razgulyieva's voice was clear, strong and gained strength as she went up. Her top notes were often thrilling. Because she also took her time in her arias and made the orchestra follow her, listeners could

savor Puccini's melodies better. Gonzalez sometimes let loose when he hit his many top notes but other times he seemed to be holding back. He was fervently convincing when he needed to be, though. Yudina stole more than Marcello's heart. Dressed in a beautiful black dress and tossing her blond curls, she was a charismatic and marvelous coquette with a voice to match. Her famous aria in the second act was a highlight. The chorus also did nicely. Vailntin Topencharov conceived appropriate sets and costumes were in a green, white and plum palette. The back scrim's scene was especially evocative of a cold winter storm. The orchestra was enthusiastic and supportive."

THE DAILY GAZETTE - Geraldine Freedman

Teatro Lirico LA BOHEME in Durham, NH

"The performance of LA BOHEME was fantastic. The ovation went on for quite some time. Our audience especially loved Mimi and Rodolfo. As usual, the crew was great to work with. We really appreciate having your company come to UNH. Thank you again."

Mary De Turk – Johnson Theatre

University of New Hampshire – Durham, NH

LA BOHEME – Opera Done Just Right - Portland, ME

"PCA Great performances has brought Teatro Lirico D'Europa to Merrill Auditorium often enough so that the company has earned a good reputation. The audience was in excess of 1,700 including 2 rows of obstructed view seats. This particular road show was even better than Teatro Lirico's usually highly professional standard, and drew a long standing ovation. What made this production stand out was its emotional realism. Everything contributed to the emotional effect – the stark wintery scenery, the costumes, the acting, the well played score with full orchestra, even the choreography, which contrasted the clownish antics of the four friends with the unfolding tragedy. As Mimi, Elena Razgulyieva was simply outstanding in this role. She has a glorious voice that she can modulate to the exact tone appropriate to the scene. She is one of the few to play Mimi who leave no doubt about why Rodolfo should fall in love at first sight. Tenor Evgeny Akimov as Rodolfo was excellent. He is also a good actor and his interactions with Mimi were entirely believable. Musetta, Liubov Metodieva and Marcello, Vladimir Samsonov was also well sung and acted-light, humored and with a caring undertone. Even the walk on roles made a significant contribution to the atmosphere."

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD – Christopher Hyde

PALM DESERT OPERA GUILD

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa brought a meat-and potatoes version of **LA BOHEME** to a sold out McCallum Theatre Sunday. As Rodolfo, Evgeni Akimov gave a stalwart performance that rattled the rafters with his pure tone and fine enunciation. His top range was thrilling. This is a tenor whose voice soars with spine-tingling fortitude. Olga Cherisheva's Mimi proved fully capable of the role's high tessitura demands. Marina Viskvorkina was radiant in the irresistible "Musetta's Waltz" gliding over the high tones with enviable dexterity and leading the chorus to a festive ending. The supporting cast was equally adept. Viacheslav Pochapsky's deep bass gave a dramatic heft to the philosopher Colline. Marcello was sung with robust fervor by Vladimir Samsunov. The chorus has always delivered a satisfying sound and conductor Krassimir Topolov kept the tempi zipping along in this production that brought a standing ovation from the sated audience."

THE DESERT SUN – Jeff Britton

LA BOHEME A Stunning Success - University Park, IL

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa had a stunning success Saturday evening with a production of Puccini's **LA BOHEME** that would have satisfied the most ardent opera fan. Here was a production in a classic style with solid acting and depth of sound, both of which

stirred the musical soul of an audience so intensely satisfied. Artistic director Giorgio Lalov has the gift of "assemblage d'art". Veselina Vasileva's Mimi was outstanding from the start with clarity and pitch "to die for" coupled with a fragile image created from inner strength. Vladimir Samsonov's Marcello was totally convincing and his detachment/attachment with the Musetta, Liubov Metodieva, a conflicted siren in her own right with a voice to match. The last scene, wonderfully staged and powerfully sung, brought the production to a pinnacle. The chorus sang very well. Super-titles, as ever, helpful, were especially well done and excellently timed. Musetta was outlandishly stunning in act 2. Kudos to Hristo Sarafov, who comically played Benoit and Alcindoro as well as to Viacheslav Pochapsky who played a strong, philosophical Colline. November 2005 will witness the return of Teatro Lirico D'Europa to the Center for the Performing Arts. We cannot wait."

THE STAR (Chicago Heights) – D. K. Luksetich

DAYTONA BEACH SYMPHONY SOCIETY - BOHEME

“**LA BOHEME** was a **WONDERFUL** night in Daytona Beach. The theater was packed and everyone **LOVED** the opera. It was a major triumph!!!! People were crying with the emotional impact of the wonderful singers. Not only were the voices spectacular, but also the acting was superb. Kudos to you all. Thank you, thank you

for a perfect evening. Daytona Beach is a happier place thanks to Teatro Lirico.”

Carolina Anderson, GM – Daytona Beach Symphony Society

Daytona LA BOHEME

“We just had a lovely after-performance visit with Giorgio and lead singers. LA BOHEME was a fantastic performance! We loved the singers, their acting, everything about it. We had about 600 kids there, and they were eating it up. How about that for the next generation of opera buffs!!! We had a full house and it was such a great success. Mimi's voice was amazing, Musetta of course stole the show with her great voice and antics, and Rodolfo was wonderful not only for his voice, but he was such a fine actor as well. We are just so grateful to have had your company here. Thanks go out to you and Giorgio for all of the dedicated work you have put into bringing good opera out to where we are. It was wonderful!!!!”

Nancy and Dallas – Daytona Beach Symphony Society

LA BOHEME – Clearwater Florida

“Wonderful reaction to the show (LA BOHEME) on Saturday eve, especially for Mimi (Melliangee Perez). A number of standing ovations and wonderful comments as people were leaving the

theatre. Another wonderful Teatro Lirico experience!”

Robert Freedman, RUTH ECKERD HALL, Clearwater, FL

BOHEME - Walfield Concerts

“We loved **LA BOHEME!** Mimi’s voice was perfect for her role and Musetta wowed all the young people at the pre-concert talk. Elena did a great job with the talk and was so personable. Everyone was so gracious. We look forward to having you here again.”

Regards!" *Maureen, Susan and Don*

Warfield Concerts Committee

SAINT LOUIS BOHEME

“The performance (of **LA BOHEME**) was wonderful and enjoyed by all that attended. The company received a standing ovation that lasted for at least four minutes!!!!”

John Cattanach, GM

Touhill Performing Arts Center - St. Louis, MO

Dark, deadly, tragic, but LA BOHEME is for lovers - Saint Louis, MO

"LA BOHEME was performed at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. by Teatro Lirico D'Europa. And an excellent performance this touring company presented. Encore, encore, encore. Where to start a very, positive review is difficult. It is a tragedy about talented, but broke, starving and dying French artists in the 1800s. But the main theme in this opera is amour, or love. These singers communicated this greatest of emotions excellently throughout the entire performance. The orchestra, conducted by Krassimir Topolov, produced the greatest of music while never drowning out the vocalists. The sets were crisp and clean, even though they move with the opera company as they travel. It felt very much as if Paris was in St. Louis at the Touhill PAC. The costumes were first rate in every respect. The "hellcat" Musetta's flaming red dress in the beginning set her apart from every character on the stage. Mimi's green dress, although weathered, fit her character to a "T." And the male starving artist's clothing made you feel as if you were in Paris in the 1800s."

THE CURRENT, St. Louis, MO –Matthew B. Haunted

Jaw-dropping performances from an outstanding cast send this LA BOHEME into the stratosphere! BOSTON

“The Boston audience at Friday evening’s performance of Puccini’s **LA BOHEME** at Emerson’s Cutler Majestic theater were treated to what one rarely sees in a performance, jaw — dropping perfection, and I use that description decisively. This cast, this show, was simply astounding, led by an indefatigable and extraordinarily talented cast of three regulars with this company: award winning tenor Orlin Goranov, singing the role of Rodolfo, Russian soprano Elena Razgylaeva, singing the role of the fated Mimi, and Bulgarian soprano, Snejana Dramcheva, singing the role of the flirtatious Musetta, a part that she sang and acted with extraordinary depth and understanding. Vocal heights were smashed, superb acting and stage presence were the order of the evening and all, especially the audience, which was clearly captivated and this reviewer who was truly impressed, had an all around hypnotic night. Kudos, also to an outstanding ensemble cast, as well: Marian Jovanovsky, singing the role of Marcello, Plamen Dimitrov, singing the role of Schaunard, Konstantine Videv, singing the role of Colline, and the underrated and uniformly solid (and getting better) performance of Hristo Sarafov, singing the role of Alcindoro and Benoit — marvelous and wonderfully talented cast all. The performing company, Teatro Lirico D’Europa, formed in 1988, is now on its eleventh major tour of

the United States and going stronger than ever.”

OPERAON:LINE.US – Paul Walkowski

“I loved it (**LA BOHEME**) in **BOSTON** Loved it! Loved it! I got multiple chills from the gorgeous voices – I never tire of **LA BOHEME**. I wish you much success with it this weekend. I meant to tell you too, that I heard your ad on WCRB many many times...Thank you again, and please let me know when you'll be in Boston/New England, as I would like to take you both to dinner!”

Richard Bojko, GM – Opera New Hampshire

NEW LONCON, CT - BOHEME

"Teatro Lirico d'Europa presented a very well stage-directed, well sung **LA BOHEME** at the Garde Arts Center, New London, Connecticut. Artistic and stage director, and set and costume designer Giorgio Lalov gave us a compelling dramatic and comic rendering, with plausible, motivated characterization. For example, Musetta's "Quando m'en vo" did not have her going "soletta per la via" as just a diva singing her aria but cozying up to several men in the Momus crowd, giving Alcindoro and Marcello cause for alarm--the best staging I've seen of Musetta's Waltz. Character interaction,

especially between Rodolfo and Mimi, was always at play with no stand-and-deliver. The unit set had at center a pair of large windows for the garret flat which became doors for Cafe Momus and the Act III tavern, for which they opened. Orlovskaya's pure, round-voiced column of soprano sound projected very well in Mimi's arias and the Act II ensemble. She is tall and attractive, and she related nicely to Bulgarian Orlin Gorlanov's also well-projected Rodolfo. Bulgarian soprano, Stanislava Ivanova's Musetta was clear-voiced and appropriately lyric. She looked beautiful in the black dress for Act II and the pink one in Acts III and IV. " *OPERA L - John Deredita*

Wilkes-Barre, PA BOHEME

"LA BOHEME went very well, thank you! The quality of the performance was excellent!"

Scott Seltzer, Programming Director

F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts

BOHEME - Cedar City, Utah

"LA BOHEME was great! We had a good house. Giorgio is so great to work with and a real delight. It is as if we have been friends forever. We talked about MADAMA BUTTERFLY for next year. It would again be in the month of February. Thanks for everything!"

David Nyman – Heritage Theatre, Cedar City, Utah

Vilar Center BOHEME

“LA BOHEME and The OPERA GALA was outstanding, I believe the best ever! It was wonderful having selections from three diverse operas. All of the singers were good but the sopranos were particularly good this night. BOHEME was very well received. Several comments about how the company just continues to get better each year.”

Kris Sabel, ALBERTO VILAR CENTER, Beaver Creek CO

Palmetto Opera LA BOHEME

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa has done it again! Another big success for Palmetto Opera and opera lovers in South Carolina. LA BOHEME was a stunning performance! The pairing of the incredible voices of tenor, Simon Kyung Lee (Rodolfo) and soprano, Olga Orlovskaya (Mimi) was sensational. The supporting soloists of Teatro Lirico rounded out an amazing cast. Conductor, Krassimir Topolov was as usual, excellent. The packed house and continuous standing ovation made it clear that Saturday night was a night to be remembered.

Thank you!!!!" *Kathy Newman, Chairman of Palmetto Opera*

REVIEW – PALMETTO OPERA - LA BOHEME

LA BOHEME is one of the most popular operas of all-time. The 1898 Puccini creation wins people over with its subject matter as much as its musical acumen. It tells the tale of bohemian artists living in near-poverty in Paris, and—when they aren't tricking their landlord into forgetting their rent or sticking rich benefactors with the dinner check—they are desperately engaged in matters of the heart.

Teatro Lirico D'Europa's production of **LA BOHEME** presented by Palmetto Opera—kept the focus cleanly on the four leads. Tenor Simon Kyung Lee as Rodolfo with Soprano Olga Orlovskaya as Mimi, and Baritone Dobromir Momekov playing Marcello to Soprano Stanislava Ivanova's Musetta. Lee and Orlovskaya played up their early, tentative flirtations in Act I admirably, and both sang with verve and gusto throughout the night, an absolute must for the tortuousness love affair to resound deeply with their audience. Momekov and Ivanova were also quite good playing the more tempestuous and irascible foil to the opera's leads. Momekov's baritone was particularly splendid in the large hall, and Ivanova was capable of instilling Musetta with all of the hot-headed poise that her character requires.

The professionalism of the company and the rollercoaster drama of the story itself won the day. If there's a comical element to these big, powerful voices sitting next to moments of great vulnerability or physical ailment, even that kind of works. Emotions are often outsized next to the often mundane realities

of the world, which is why opera, over so many other musical forms, seems best at getting to the core of the basic emotions that seem to govern us all.”

THE JASPER GUILD - Columbia, SC - Kyle Petersen

LA BOHEME - Chicago

"Mimi!" The moment Rodolfo shouted out, anguished and painful—moved the audience to tears. When the curtain came down, the audience responded with a long, standing ovation. It was the first time a full-scale opera was ever presented at The Pickwick Theatre as well as for Korean Community. Teatro Lirico D'Europa presented a traditional, full-throated, emotional performance with a great international cast, orchestra and chorus including a children's chorus. The main cast was exceptional. Rodolfo (Korean Tenor Simon Lee) sang with a vibrato and high notes reminding one of Jusse Bjorling (one of the great tenors in the 20 century) and made a great appearance on the stage. Mimi, soprano Olga Orlovskaya sang dramatically with great breath control. Rodolfo and Mimi tell the story of a heart breaking romance. The other couple presented wit seasoned with a sense of humor. Soprano, Stanislava Ivanova and baritone, Dobromir Momekov showed great vocal skill. Previously most of events in the Chicago Korean Community have been only popular music and

some classical concerts but did not arrive to show the great elegance and high culture of the classical field. This **LA BOHEME** brought a magical evening, and officially presented for the first time, a full-scale production of opera performed with a stunning response from audience. We hope to see many more of Teatro Lirico D'Europa's productions in the future!"

Myong Lim, KOREA DAILY NEWS, Chicago

LA BOHEME - Park Ridge, IL

"**LA BOHEME** was simply magnificent!! Thank you for making it possible to put a full-scale opera in our community for the first time. Many of the audience members said that they didn't believe this was possible and they were very happy. We look forward to seeing you next year!"

*Grace IM, GM and Event Director - Pickwick Theatre,
Park Ridge, Illinois*

LA BOHEME - Saint Charles

"A splendid performance of **LA BOHEME** this evening at the Arcada Theatre...an opera written in the 1800s and still incredibly relevant in 2015! Really, this international presentation of **LA BOHEME** will rival any other show we have had here at The

Arcada...INCREDIBLE! See you next season. Bravo!!"

Ron Onesti, President — Arcada Theatre, St. Charles, Illinois —

Bravo to this magical performance LA BOHEME - Ft. Myers, FL

"Ft. Myers Community Concerts' second successful program following the dazzling opening concert of The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Pinchas Zukerman on Jan. 16 was a sparkling performance of Puccini's opera **LA BOHEME** performed by Teatro Lirico D'Europa. For those of you who might not be aware of this unique opera company, here are some background notes. Teatro Lirico D'Europa was created in 1988 by the late Yves Josse, a French arts promoter and Bulgarian opera singer who made his debut at Teatro alla Scala, Milan, at age 25 while participating in Scala's famous international training for young singers. The collaboration between Josse and Lalov was a huge success in a very short time, resulting in tours with over 250 performances a season throughout France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Sicily and Portugal at 180 different venues. Lalov created the sets and costumes for the productions and organized the chorus and orchestra in Bulgaria, central Europe and the United States. Josse booked the performances from his office in Paris. From the beginning the company established itself as highly competent, and

the unusual multinational chemistry proved to be very popular. Teatro Lirico D'Europa has now completed over 4,000 performances worldwide, including 14 consecutive seasons in the USA. This is the opera company's 16th season in the US with performances of La Boheme, Carmen and concert performances of great moments in Italian opera from Broadway to opera. Bottom line this is a small but mighty opera company. The company of La Boheme was true to form with an international cast: I cannot even imagine what rehearsals are like with an international cast like that. Puccini's great opera about talented, broke, starving and dying French artists in 1840s Paris, the opera is still and always will be a paean of amour. Puccini writes love in terms of music that touches and sometimes breaks your heart. The singing was wonderful, it all worked, making the Community Concerts' version **LA BOHEME** as magical as ever. Nothing can ever top the incredible Puccini score, which always works its enchantment on me; and though it was the very first opera I ever viewed at the Old Metropolitan Opera House at age 8, I wept then as I did last Wednesday night. As a matter of fact, the waterworks start every time (and there have been many) I get to hear this incredible music. The orchestra and its conductor played richly and fully, the leading artists were quite wonderful as was the singing chorus; as a matter of fact the entire production was an

affirmation of the reviews this terrific company receives; which state that this is a highly competent company, and the unusual multinational operatic talent along with the chemistry of this talented company has proven to be extremely popular with audiences, both European and American. If last week's performance of **LA BOHEME** was any example, our Fort Myers audience gave Teatro Lirico D'Europa a four-star standing ovation, to which I can only add Bravo! Yeah! and Hip-Hip Hurray!"

Marsha Wagner, Island Reporter – CAPTIVA CURRENT

SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ISLANDER

Performance at Barbara Mann Hall, Ft. Myers, FL

PANAMA CITY, FL BOHEME

"The audience cheered the performance of the cast of **LA BOHEME** last night at the Marina Civic Center. I saw several folks with tears in their eyes after the final scene-- ample testimony of the compelling acting ability of the principal performers. Cheers to Simon Kyung (Rudolfo), Olga Orlovskaya (Mimi) and Stanislava Ivanova (Musetta) for their powerful vocal performances. As I remarked to the gathering at the post opera reception, their voices rank along with the best that can be heard at the most prestigious opera houses in the world. Our gratitude to Teatro Lirico for bringing this wonderful production to Panama City."

Bob Borich, Talent Chairman

Panama City (FL) Music Association

LA BOHEME - Miramar, FL

"LA BOHEME was awesome and well attended! The audience loved it!"

*Joyce Maddox, Operations Manager
Miramar Cultural Center / ArtsPark Miramar, FL*

OPERA NEW HAMPSHIRE - LA BOHEME

"LA BOHEME was WONDERFUL! A great crowd. Thank you for everything!"

Faith Wilson, Executive Director — Opera NH

LA BOHEME - Ft. Myers, FL

"LA BOHEME was wonderful! Our audience loved it! One of the best opera performances you've ever brought us! We are looking forward to winter 2016 with Verdi's AIDA!"

Mary Lee Mann - Barbara Mann Hall, Ft. Myers, FL

Theater is Transforming the City - New Bedford, MA

"The popular Teatro Lirico D'Europa's Puccini's LA BOHEME was a magnificent performance presented to a large and appreciative audience whose thunderous standing applause was a well-deserved tribute to this outstanding operatic production."

THE STANDARD TIMES — Ronald Souza