

GIACOMO PUCCINI

LA BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

PRODUCTION
Franco Zeffirelli

SET DESIGNER
Franco Zeffirelli

COSTUME DESIGNER
Peter J. Hall

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Gil Wechsler

REVIVAL STAGE DIRECTOR
Mirabelle Ordinaire

MARIA MANETTI SHREM
GENERAL MANAGER
Peter Gelb

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Opera in four acts

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and
Luigi Illica, based on the novel *Scènes
de la Vie de Bohème* by Henri Murger

Monday, January 8, 2024
8:00–11:05PM

The production of *La Bohème* was made
possible by a generous gift from
Mrs. Donald D. Harrington

The revival of this production is made possible by a
gift from The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial
Foundation and Viking

The Met is grateful to C. Graham Berwind, III for
sponsoring the refurbishment of the *La Bohème* sets

Throughout the 2023–24 season, the Met
continues to honor Ukraine and its brave
citizens as they fight to defend their country
and its cultural heritage.

The Metropolitan Opera

2023-24 SEASON

The 1,390th Metropolitan Opera performance of
GIACOMO PUCCINI'S

LA BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

MARCELLO
Adam Plachetka

MUSETTA
Kristina Mkhitarian

RODOLFO
Stephen Costello

CUSTOMHOUSE SERGEANT
Jonathan Scott

COLLINE
Krzysztof Bączyk

CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER
Ned Hanlon

SCHAUNARD
Rodion Pogosssov*

BENOIT
Donald Maxwell

MIMI
Elena Stikhina

PARPIGNOL
Gregory Warren

ALCINDORO
Donald Maxwell

Tonight's performances of the roles of Mimi and Rodolfo are underwritten by the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Great Singers Fund.

Monday, January 8, 2024, 8:00-11:05PM



A scene from
Puccini's *La Bohème*

C. Graham Berwind, III Chorus Master **Donald Palumbo**
Musical Preparation **Donna Racik, Lydia Brown,***

Israel Gursky, and Ksenia Leletkina

Assistant Stage Director **Sara Erde**

Associate Designer **David Reppa**

Stage Band Conductor **Joseph Lawson**

Children's Chorus Director **Anthony Piccolo**

Italian Diction Coach **Stefano Baldasseroni**

Prompter **Donna Racik**

Met Titles **Sonya Friedman**

Scenery, properties, and electrical props constructed and
painted in **Metropolitan Opera Shops**

Costumes constructed by **Metropolitan Opera Costume
Department**

Additional costumes by **Sky NYC; Madison Avenue Furs,**
New York City; and Pink Passion, Berlin

Ladies millinery by **Reggie G. Augustine**

Men's hats by **Richard Tautkus**

Wigs and makeup constructed and executed by **Metropolitan
Opera Wig and Makeup Department**

Animals supervised by **All-Tame Animals, Inc.**

This performance is made possible in part by public funds from
the **New York State Council on the Arts.**

Before the performance begins, please switch off cell phones
and other electronic devices.

* Graduate of the
Lindemann Young Artist
Development Program

Met Titles

To activate, press the red button to the right of the screen in front of
your seat and follow the instructions provided. To turn off the display,
press the red button once again. If you have questions, please ask an
usher at intermission.

Visit metopera.org.

Synopsis

Act I

Paris, in the 1830s. In their Latin Quarter garret, the near-destitute artist Marcello and poet Rodolfo try to keep warm on Christmas Eve by feeding the stove with pages from Rodolfo's latest drama. Soon, their roommates—Colline, a philosopher, and Schaunard, a musician—return. Schaunard brings food, fuel, and funds that he has collected from an eccentric nobleman. While they celebrate their unexpected fortune, the landlord, Benoit, comes to collect the rent. After getting the older man drunk, the friends urge him to tell of his flirtations, then throw him out in mock indignation at his infidelity to his wife. As the others depart to revel at the Café Momus, Rodolfo remains behind to finish an article, promising to join them later. There is another knock at the door: It is Mimì, a pretty neighbor whose candle has gone out in the stairwell. As she enters the room, she suddenly feels faint. Rodolfo gives her a sip of wine, then helps her to the door and relights her candle. Mimì realizes that she lost her key when she fainted, and as the two search for it, both candles go out. Rodolfo finds the key and slips it into his pocket. In the moonlight, he takes Mimì's hand and tells her about his dreams. She recounts her life alone in a lofty garret, embroidering flowers and waiting for the spring. Rodolfo's friends call from outside, telling him to join them. He responds that he is not alone and will be along shortly. Happy to have found each other, Mimì and Rodolfo leave, arm in arm, for the café.

Act II

Amid the shouts of street hawkers near the Café Momus, Rodolfo buys Mimì a bonnet and introduces her to his friends. They all sit down and order supper. Marcello's former sweetheart Musetta makes a noisy entrance on the arm of the elderly, but wealthy, Alcindoro. The ensuing tumult reaches its peak when, trying to gain Marcello's attention, she loudly sings the praises of her own popularity. Sending Alcindoro away to buy her a new pair of shoes, Musetta finally falls into Marcello's arms. A parade of soldiers passes by the café as the friends join the crowd of revelers.

Intermission (AT APPROXIMATELY 9:05PM)

Act III

At dawn at the Barrière d'Enfer, a toll gate on the edge of Paris, a customs official admits farm women to the city. Mimì arrives, searching for the place where Marcello and Musetta now live. When the painter appears, she tells him of her distress over Rodolfo's incessant jealousy. She says that she believes it is best

that they part. As Rodolfo emerges from the tavern, Mimi hides nearby. Rodolfo tells Marcello that he wants to separate from Mimi, blaming her flirtatiousness. Pressed for the real reason, he breaks down, saying that her illness can only grow worse in the poverty that they share. Overcome with emotion, Mimi comes forward to say goodbye to her lover. Upon hearing Musetta's laughter, Marcello runs back into the tavern. While Mimi and Rodolfo recall past happiness, Marcello returns with Musetta, quarreling about her flirting with a customer. They hurl insults at each other and part, but Mimi and Rodolfo decide to remain together until springtime.

Intermission (AT APPROXIMATELY 10:05PM)

Act IV

Months later in the garret, Rodolfo and Marcello, now separated from their lovers, reflect on their loneliness. Colline and Schaunard bring a meager meal. To lighten their spirits, the four stage a dance, which turns into a mock duel. At the height of the hilarity, Musetta bursts in with news that Mimi is outside, too weak to come upstairs. As Rodolfo runs to her aid, Musetta relates how Mimi begged to be taken to Rodolfo to die. She is made as comfortable as possible, while Musetta asks Marcello to sell her earrings for medicine and Colline goes off to pawn his overcoat. Left alone, Mimi and Rodolfo recall their meeting and their first happy days, but she is seized with violent coughing. When the others return, Musetta gives Mimi a muff to warm her hands, and Mimi slowly drifts into unconsciousness. Musetta prays for Mimi, but it is too late. The friends realize that she is dead, and Rodolfo collapses in despair.



La Bohème on Demand

Looking for more *La Bohème*? Check out **Met Opera on Demand**, our online streaming service, to enjoy outstanding performances from past Met seasons: from a classic 1977 telecast starring Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scottò—the first in the historic *Live from the Met* series—to the 2018 *Live in HD* transmission, featuring Sonya Yoncheva and Michael Fabiano. Start your seven-day free trial and explore the full catalog of nearly 850 complete performances at metoperaondemand.org.

Support for Met Opera on Demand is provided by the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation and Dorothy and Charles H. Jenkins, Jr.

Giacomo Puccini

La Bohème

Premiere: Teatro Regio, Turin, 1896

La Bohème—the passionate, timeless, indelible story of love among young artists in Paris—can stake its claim as the world’s most popular opera. It has a marvelous ability to make a powerful first impression (even to those new to opera) and to reveal previously unnoticed treasures after dozens of hearings. At first glance, *La Bohème* is the definitive depiction of the joys and sorrows of love and loss; on closer inspection, it explores the deep emotional significance hidden in the trivial things—a bonnet, an old overcoat, a chance meeting with a neighbor—that make up our everyday lives. Following the breakthrough success of *Manon Lescaut* three years earlier, *La Bohème* established Puccini as the leading Italian opera composer of his generation.

The Creators

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) was immensely popular in his own lifetime, and his mature works remain staples in the repertory of most of the world’s opera companies. His operas are celebrated for their mastery of detail, sensitivity to everyday subjects, copious melody, and economy of expression. Puccini’s librettists for *La Bohème*, Giuseppe Giacosa (1847–1906) and Luigi Illica (1857–1919), also collaborated with him on his next two operas, *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*. Giacosa, a dramatist, was responsible for the stories, and Illica, a poet, worked primarily on the words themselves. The French author Henri Murger (1822–61) drew on his own early experiences as a poor writer in Paris to pen an episodic prose novel, *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème*, which became the basis for the opera.

The Setting

The libretto sets the action in Paris, circa 1830. This is not a random setting but rather reflects the issues and concerns of a particular time and place. After the upheavals of revolution and war, French artists had lost their traditional support base of aristocracy and Church, and they were desperate for new sources of income. The rising bourgeoisie took up the burden of patronizing artists and earned their contempt in return. The story, then, centers on self-conscious youths at odds with mainstream society, feeling themselves morally superior to the rules of the bourgeoisie (specifically regarding sexual mores) and expressing their independence with affectations of speech and dress. The bohemian

ambience of this opera is clearly recognizable in any modern urban center. *La Bohème* captures this ethos in its earliest days.

The Music

Lyrical and touchingly beautiful, the score of *La Bohème* exerts a powerfully immediate emotional pull. Many of its most memorable melodies are built incrementally, with small intervals between the notes that carry the listener with them on their lyrical path. This is a distinct contrast to the grand leaps and dives on which earlier operas often depended for emotional effect. *La Bohème*'s melodic structure perfectly captures the "small people" (as Puccini called them) of the drama and the details of everyday life. The two great love arias in Act I—the tenor's "Che gelida manina" and the soprano's "Sì, mi chiamano Mimì"—seduce the listener, beginning conversationally, with great rushes of emotion seamlessly woven into more trivial expressions. In other places, small alterations to a melody can morph the meaning of a thought or an emotion. A change of tempo or orchestration transforms Musetta's famous, exuberant Act II waltz into the nostalgic, bittersweet tenor-baritone duet in Act IV, as the bohemians remember happier times. Similarly, the "Streets of Paris" theme first appears as a foreshadowing in Act I, when one of the bohemians suggests going out on the town; hits full flower in Act II, when they (and we) are actually there; and becomes a bitter, chilling memory at the beginning of Act III, when it is slowed down and re-orchestrated.

Met History

La Bohème had its Met premiere while the company was on tour in Los Angeles in 1900. Nellie Melba sang Mimì and improbably added the mad scene from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* as an encore after the final curtain (a practice that she maintained for several other performances). This production lasted until 1952, when one designed by Rolf Gerard and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, who insisted that his name be removed after a disagreement with some of the singers, replaced it. In 1977, *La Bohème* served as the first opera telecast as part of the *Live from the Met* series, starring Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scottò in a new production directed by Fabrizio Melano. The spectacular current production by Franco Zeffirelli premiered on December 14, 1981, with James Levine leading an impressive cast that included Teresa Stratas, Scottò (as Musetta), José Carreras, Richard Stilwell, and James Morris. *La Bohème* was presented at the Met in 59 consecutive seasons after its first appearance and has appeared in all but nine seasons since 1900, making it the most performed opera in company history. Having been presented more than 500 times since its premiere, Zeffirelli's staging is the most performed production in Met history.

ALSO ON STAGE



MARTY SOHL / MET OPERA

GIUSEPPE VERDI

NABUCCO

Verdi's fiery biblical drama returns in Elijah Moshinsky's epic staging, conducted by Daniele Callegari. Baritone George Gagnidze stars in the title role, alongside soprano Liudmyla Monastyrskya as the bloodthirsty Abigaille, tenor SeokJong Baek and mezzo-soprano Maria Barakova as the lovers Ismaele and Fenena, and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy as Zaccaria.

DEC 29 JAN 2, 6 mat, 10, 13, 18, 21 mat, 26

Tickets from \$25 | metopera.org

Program Note

When Giacomo Puccini decided—in the wake of his first major success, *Manon Lescaut* (1893)—to write *La Bohème*, he did so against a fascinating historical backdrop stretching back four decades. The French writer Henri Murger's 1849 drama and 1851 novel about the poor, young, artistic "bohemians" of Paris owed their popularity in part to Europe's roiling Revolutions of 1848; tales of idealistic, nonconformist youths with social reform on their minds attracted new interest in revolutionary times. Puccini might well have seen some of his own youthful Milanese days in this story as well, a reminder of the Scapigliati ("the scruffy or disheveled ones")—an important group of convention-defying painters, writers (including Verdi's collaborator Arrigo Boito), and musicians active in salon circles in the 1860s and 1870s. The story that Puccini and his librettists, Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, fashioned from Murger might seem laughably simple at first—boy meets girl, they break up, she dies—but it is made more profound by its realism, a trend of the times for which the influential Austrian critic Eduard Hanslick sharply criticized *La Bohème*. The realistic depiction of poverty, artistic striving with little chance of success, and the destruction of love by disease and lack of means: All of this puts a different sociopolitical frame around the love story. "Non basta amor!," cries Rodolfo, and lamentably, he is right. Love is not enough.

The creation of *La Bohème* began with a highly public controversy between two of the foremost opera composers of the day: Puccini and Ruggero Leoncavallo, fresh off the colossal success of *Pagliacci* (1892). In circumstances that are still mysterious, Leoncavallo was furious to discover that Puccini was working on *La Bohème*, as he too was developing an opera on the same subject. The imbroglio hit the newspapers, with Puccini writing to Milan's *Corriere della Sera* (*The Evening Courier*) on March 21, 1893, "Let him compose, and I will compose, and the public will judge." And they have: Leoncavallo's version may have been more successful at the outset, but Puccini's opera has long since outstripped that of his rival. And no wonder: It was a considerable feat to compose an opera in the wake of Wagner and late Verdi, all the more so since Puccini carefully devised his own method of composing acts in which the music never stops, as well as his own fast-paced conversational style, learning the lessons of those two giants without resorting to imitation.

The characters of Puccini's opera differ in some respects from Murger's originals, especially Mimì, who is flightier and more of a gold digger in the French than in the Italian. Puccini's lovable seamstress is a variation on a turn-of-century literary type known as the "femme fragile," or "fragile woman"; we identify Mimì as such by her delicacy, refinement, association with flowers and moonlight, pallor, and consumption. Eros and Death join hands in opera yet again. When she introduces herself to Rodolfo in "Sì, mi chiamano Mimì," she sings ecstatically of the flowers that speak to her of love and springtime, and

we hear a brief, poignant emphasis on B minor: the harmony to which she will die three acts later.

The other important female character, Musetta, is what Parisians in 1830 would have called a “lorette,” or a “good-time girl” with a string of protectors, but we are not invited to scorn or condemn her; she is too high spirited and loyal, too loving, for that. Her celebrated waltz-aria, “Quando m’en vo’,” gives us a welcome pause in the helter-skelter action of Act II, and the swirl of her skirts, the waves of sensual delight in the orchestra remind us that Puccini’s famous melodies are inseparable from their masterful orchestrations. When Musetta shrieks that her shoes are killing her (what woman would not sympathize?) in order to rid herself of her latest sugar daddy, even as Marcello is declaring his renewed love for her, we can only laugh along with such a spirited and clever creature. Her tenderness to Mimì in the final act confirms her likeability; in fact, the depiction of male and female friendship is one of the opera’s most endearing traits. And if orchestration is crucial to Puccinian melody, so too are his trademark harmonies. When he swerves suddenly from G major to A major for “O soave fanciulla” in Act I, the effect is magic, achieved through remarkably economic means.

We meet the male characters first and in a distinctive way; just as Mozart withholds the introduction of the Countess until Act II of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Puccini makes us wait for Mimì’s appearance. And just as Verdi catapults the audience into the comic maelstrom of *Falstaff* right at the start, with no orchestral prelude or scene-setting chorus, Puccini dives into Act I without throat-clearing, the four bohemians entering immediately, two by two. (Nor is this Puccini’s only reference to Verdi. The quartet at the end of Act III, with Mimì and Rodolfo bidding each other the saddest of farewells and Marcello and Musetta quarreling yet again, is a nod to the design of the Act II quartet in *Otello*.) We encounter the tempestuous painter Marcello first, his music stabbing at dotted rhythms in somewhat the same way that he stabs at his painting of the Red Sea parting, and after him, the young poet Rodolfo, whose very first strains foreshadow the lyrical tenderness of “Che gelida manina” later in the act. It is typical of Puccini to prefigure the “big tunes” to come and then repeat fragments later on to trigger memories and emotions.

The philosopher Colline and the group’s ironist-in-chief, the composer Schaunard, enter next, and it is telling that Marcello’s assertive melody comes to characterize all of the bohemians together, hippie-like in their lack of discipline, their rejection of social conventions, their hedonistic ethos, their espousal of free love, their ironic twitting of the comfortable bourgeoisie. The conversational style of this music, the declamatory chatter above a lively orchestra, the colloquialisms: This is something new on the operatic scene. We hear this sort of hectic activity again in Act II, when the string of rule-breaking

parallel chords for three trumpets in the Café Momus theme anticipate Stravinsky's Shrovetide Fair music in *Petrushka* and as the toymaker Parpignol sells his wares to music of staccato, childlike charm. Puccini makes a practice in *La Bohème* of contrasting this sort of crowd music and boisterous male banter with his distinctive, expansive lyricism, which slows time and tries, however unsuccessfully, to make love last forever. Indeed, time is of the essence in this opera, as the sands of Mimi's life and of the bohemians' youth are running out. In Act IV, Puccini underscores the gravity, the inevitability, of time's passage, and the powerlessness of memory to bring what was beautiful and bygone back, by weaving a tapestry of musical reminiscences. Here, death is not transcendence. Unlike with Violetta's otherwise similar death scene in Verdi's *La Traviata*, there is no heaven, only loss.

Puccini's score was finally completed at midnight on December 10, 1895. In the autograph manuscript, the composer wrote "lunga" ("long") with an exaggerated fermata (pause symbol) at the moment of Mimi's death and sketched a skull-and-crossbones in the left-hand margin. Whether he meant it ironically, as a tiny dash of cynicism to obviate sentimentality, we cannot know. But when Puccini tells us, the listeners, of her death—with a single eloquent B-minor chord in the orchestra, followed by the massive orchestral recurrence of Mimi's deathbed greeting to Rodolfo ("Sono andati?"), and the solemn "Addio" cadence of Colline's farewell to his overcoat—the characters', and composer's, grief becomes ours. Distance from what we see and hear is impossible to maintain. Puccini's publisher Giulio Ricordi was overjoyed when he received Puccini's masterpiece, swearing that it would make the orchestra dissolve in tears. "If this time you have not succeeded in hitting the nail squarely on the head," he wrote to the composer, "I will give up my profession and sell salami."

—Susan Youens

Susan Youens is the J. W. Van Gorkom Professor of Music at the University of Notre Dame and has written eight books on the music of Franz Schubert and Hugo Wolf.

ALSO ON STAGE



PAOLA KUDACKI/MET OPERA

GEORGES BIZET

CARMEN

NEW PRODUCTION

Dazzling young mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina stars in a modern-day new production by Carrie Cracknell that reinvigorates one of opera's most powerful works. Tenor Piotr Beczala co-stars as Don José, with soprano Angel Blue as Micaëla and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen as Escamillo. Daniele Rustioni conducts Bizet's heart-pounding score.

DEC 31 JAN 3, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 27 mat

Tickets from \$25 | metopera.org

The Cast



Marco Armiliato

CONDUCTOR (GENOA, ITALY)

THIS SEASON *La Bohème* and *Turandot* at the Met; *Don Pasquale*, *La Bohème*, and *Simon Boccanegra* at the Vienna State Opera; *La Rondine*, Verdi's Requiem, and *Andrea Chénier* in Zurich; *Turandot* at the Paris Opera; *Aida* at the Bavarian State Opera; and concerts with the Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo and Orchestra dell'Accademia Teatro alla Scala.

MET APPEARANCES Since his 1998 debut leading *La Bohème*, he has conducted nearly 500 performances of 27 operas, including *Fedora*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Macbeth*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Aida*, *Anna Bolena*, *La Sonnambula*, *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Ernani*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *La Fille du Régiment*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He appears regularly at the Vienna State Opera, where he has led *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Aida*, *Andrea Chénier*, *La Traviata*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Otello*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Turandot*, and *Manon Lescaut*, among many others. Recent performances also include *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* in concert at the Salzburg Festival; *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, and *Aida* in Verona; *Andrea Chénier* at La Scala and in Monte Carlo; *Macbeth* in Naples; and *Tosca* at Staatsoper Berlin.



Kristina Mkhitarian

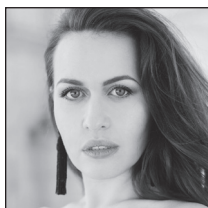
SOPRANO (NOVOROSIYSK, RUSSIA)

THIS SEASON Musetta in *La Bohème* at the Met; Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* in Barcelona; Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Liù in *Turandot*, and Micaëla in *Carmen* at the Vienna State Opera; a recital at London's Wigmore Hall; Zemfira in Rachmaninoff's *Aleko* and the title role of Rachmaninoff's *Francesca da Rimini* in concert with the Munich Radio Orchestra; and Violetta in *La Traviata* at the Paris Opera.

MET APPEARANCES Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* (debut, 2018).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Violetta at Covent Garden, Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre, and the Vienna State Opera; the title role of *Maria Stuarda* and Liù at Dutch National Opera; and Leïla in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* in Geneva. She has also sung the title role of *Alcina* in Nancy; Hébé/Emilie/Zima in Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes* in Geneva; Violetta in Zurich, Oman, Rome, Basel, and at Palm Beach Opera, the Bavarian State Opera, and the Deutsche Oper Berlin; Armida in *Rinaldo* and Violetta at the Glyndebourne Festival; Micaëla at Covent Garden; Gilda in *Rigoletto* in Hamburg and at Opera Australia; Medora in Verdi's *Il Corsaro* in Valencia; and Marfa in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride* at the Bolshoi Theatre.

The Cast CONTINUED



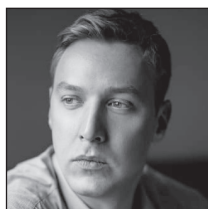
Elena Stikhina

SOPRANO (LESNOY, RUSSIA)

THIS SEASON Mimi in *La Bohème* and Leonora in *La Forza del Destino* at the Met; Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; the title roles of *Salome* and *Tosca* at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre; Lisa in *The Queen of Spades* in concert with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra; Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*, the title role of *Suor Angelica*, and *Tosca* at the Vienna State Opera; *Suor Angelica* at Dutch National Opera; Giorgetta and *Suor Angelica* in Turin; and concerts with the Athens State Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and at the Salzburg Festival.

MET APPEARANCES Elsa in *Lohengrin*, *Tosca*, and *Suor Angelica* (debut, 2018).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Since 2014, she has been a principal artist of the Mariinsky Theatre's Primorsky Stage, and in 2017, she became a member of the Mariinsky Opera Company, where she has sung Maria in *Mazepa*, Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, Lisa, Senta in *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser*, the title role of *Aida*, Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, and Brünnhilde in *Siegfried*, among many others. She has also appeared at the Paris Opera, Covent Garden, Bavarian State Opera, Staatsoper Berlin, La Scala, and Finnish National Opera, among others.



Krzysztof Bączyk

BASS (POZNAŃ, POLAND)

THIS SEASON Colline in *La Bohème* at the Met, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Hamburg, and Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and Wurm in *Luisa Miller* in Naples.

MET APPEARANCES The King in *Aida* (debut, 2023) and Colline.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Figaro at the Salzburg Festival, with Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, and in Wrocław; Giorgio in *I Puritani* in concert with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris; Wurm in Cologne; Oroveso in *Norma* in concert with Ensemble Resonanz and at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence; Ferrando in *Il Trovatore* in Barcelona; Lorenzo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* and Leporello at the Paris Opera; Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* in Rouen and at Covent Garden; Leporello at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre; Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and Colline in Madrid; and Wurm at the Glyndebourne Festival. He has also sung Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, and the Priest / Prison Officer in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* at the Paris Opera; Angelotti, Zuniga in *Carmen*, and the King in Verona; Don Basilio at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Colline in Bilbao; and Masetto in concert with the NDR Radiophilharmonie.



Stephen Costello

TENOR (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA)

THIS SEASON Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at the Met, in Padua and Rovigo, and in concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra; Don José in *Carmen* at the Bavarian State Opera; and Verdi's Requiem in Zurich.

MET APPEARANCES Rodolfo, the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*, Percy in *Anna Bolena*, Camille de Rosillon in *The Merry Widow*, and Edgardo and Arturo (debut, 2007) in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Rodolfo in Tokyo and Naples, the title role of *Roberto Devereux* in Zurich, the title role of *Don Carlo* at the Bavarian State Opera, Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and the title role of *Faust* at the Vienna State Opera, Alfredo at Covent Garden and the Bavarian State Opera, and Don José at Cincinnati Opera. He has also sung the Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon* at the Paris Opera; Rodolfo in Hamburg, Dresden, and Madrid; the Duke of Mantua at the Bregenz Festival, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Canadian Opera Company; Alfredo in Verona and Hamburg; Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* in Tokyo; Don José at the Dallas Opera; and Fernand in Donizetti's *La Favorite* in Barcelona.



Donald Maxwell

BARITONE (PERTH, SCOTLAND)

THIS SEASON Benoit/Alcindoro in *La Bohème* at the Met.

MET APPEARANCES Hortensius in *La Fille du Régiment* (debut, 2008) and Benoit/Alcindoro.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include the Second Priest in *Die Zauberflöte*, Hortensius, and Alcindoro at Covent Garden; the Notary in *Don Pasquale* with Random Opera Company; the Sacristan in *Tosca* and Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino* at Welsh National Opera, and Hanezò in Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz* in concert at Scottish Opera. He has also sung Dai Greatcoat in the world premiere of Iain Bell's *In Parenthesis* at Welsh National Opera, the Sacristan at Covent Garden, Alfred Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* in Paris, Swallow in *Peter Grimes* in Zurich, Sancho Panza in Massenet's *Don Quichotte* with Chelsea Opera Group, Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* at English National Opera, and Dr. Bloom in Olga Neuwirth's *American Lulu* at the Bregenz Festival and Edinburgh International Festival. He has appeared at La Scala, the Vienna State Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the Wexford Festival, and the Glyndebourne Festival, among others.



Adam Plachetka

BASS-BARITONE (PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC)

THIS SEASON Marcello in *La Bohème* at the Met, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Vienna State Opera, Kalina in Smetana's *Tajemství* and a concert at Prague's National Theater, and concerts with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala.

MET APPEARANCES Leporello and Masetto (debut, 2015) in *Don Giovanni*, Captain Balstrode in *Peter Grimes*, Garibaldo in *Rodelinda*, the Count and Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, and Sgt. Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Přemysl ze Stadic in Smetana's *Libuše*, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, the Count, and Vladislav in Smetana's *Dalibor* in Prague; Valens in Handel's *Theodora* in concert at London's Barbican Centre; the Count at Houston Grand Opera; and Mustafà in *L'Italiana in Algeri* at La Scala. He has also sung Dr. Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Alidoro in *La Cenerentola*, Leporello, Dr. Dulcamara in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Chorèbe in *Les Troyens*, and Riccardo in *I Puritani* at the Vienna State Opera; Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Alidoro at the Paris Opera; and Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Salzburg Festival.



Rodion Pogossov

BARITONE (MOSCOW, RUSSIA)

THIS SEASON Schaunard in *La Bohème* at the Met, Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino* at Covent Garden, Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Fauré's Requiem with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, and Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Glyndebourne Festival.

MET APPEARANCES Schaunard, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Figaro and Fiorello in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* and *The Magic Flute*, and the Herald in *A Celebration of Giuseppe Verdi* (debut, 2001).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances includes Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Cincinnati Opera and in Turin, Jaroslav Prus in *The Makropulos Case* in Malmö, Marcello in *La Bohème* at Welsh National Opera and Cincinnati Opera, Sgt. Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Seattle Opera, Guglielmo at the Festival dei Due Mondi, Prince Yeletsky in *The Queen of Spades* in Barcelona, and Dandini in *La Cenerentola* at LA Opera. He has also appeared at the Bavarian State Opera, National Opera of Chile, Norwegian National Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and in Graz, Brussels, Hamburg, and Paris, among others. He is a graduate of the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.