



**PRESS RELEASE**

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20 March 2017

## **PUCCINI'S *LA BOHÈME* CLOSES SCOTTISH OPERA'S 2016/17 SEASON IN STYLE**

Renowned director/designer team **Renaud Doucet** and **André Barbe** return to Scottish Opera in May with a new production of Giacomo Puccini's ravishing classic, *La bohème*.

Set in the flea markets of Paris, the production is inspired by the Jazz Age of Josephine Baker, and is full of **Renaud Doucet** and **André Barbe's** trademark colour, character and style. It opens in Glasgow before touring to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness.

Scottish Opera Music Director, **Stuart Stratford**, conducts **Hye–Youn Lee** as the fated Mimi, and **Luis Gomes**, winner of 2015's Grand Prize at Verbier Festival Academy, as Rodolfo. Joining them are **David Stout** as Marcello, **Jeanine De Bique** as Musetta, **Božidar Smiljanić** as Schaunard, **Damien Pass** as Colline and **Jonathan Best** as Alcindoro/Benoît.

Director **Renaud Doucet** and designer **André Barbe** said: 'The story of *La bohème* is one we can all relate to. It seemed important to us to explore the theme of illness since, as a society, we

are all under the weather at the moment and in need of healing. The flea market setting represents a little bit of what we are up against today – we seem to live life too fast and, through antiques, people get a sense of going back to a less hectic time. This opera is not about nostalgia – *La bohème* is not a museum piece – the story is timeless.’

**Alex Reedijk**, Scottish Opera’s General Director added: ‘*La bohème* is always an audience favourite, with beautiful music and heart-wrenching tragedy. Renaud and André create engaging, colourful and gorgeous productions that bring the emotions of the characters to the fore. I love their setting of the production in 1920’s Paris and all the images that conjures up – it’s romantic, yet also illuminates the contrast between the wealthy and the aspirations of those still trapped in post World War One poverty, and that gives a particular truthfulness to their vision.’

Audiences have the chance to attend *La bohème* Unwrapped, free one-hour tasters delving further in to the show and how it was created, as well as Pre-show Talks. Those who are visually impaired can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have live commentary that describes the action on stage without compromising the music.

Scottish Opera is also staging two dementia friendly performances of *La bohème*: one at Theatre Royal Glasgow on 13 May, and one in collaboration with Festival Theatre Edinburgh on 3 June. These specially abridged performances have a running time of one hour 45 minutes including an interval, and are carefully designed to make the theatrical experience more accessible to people living with dementia.

*La bohème* is supported by The Scottish Opera Syndicate and Scottish Opera’s ‘Play a Supporting Role’ appeal.

-ENDS-

[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)

You can follow Scottish Opera on Twitter and Instagram @**ScottishOpera**

[Cast List](#)

Mimi	<b>Hye-Youn Lee &amp; Nadine Livingston (16 May, 8, 13 June)</b>
Rodolfo	<b>Luis Gomes &amp; Christopher Turner (16 May, 8, 13 June)</b>
Marcello	<b>David Stout</b>
Musetta	<b>Jeanine De Bique</b>
Schaunard	<b>Božidar Smiljanić</b>
Colline	<b>Damien Pass</b>
Alcindoro/Benoît	<b>Jonathan Best</b>

### Creative Team

Conductor	<b>Stuart Stratford &amp; Derek Clark (25, 27 May)</b>
Director	<b>Renaud Doucet</b>
Designer	<b>André Barbe</b>
Lighting	<b>Guy Simard</b>

### Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA**

Tue 9 May, 7.15pm

Fri 12 May, 7.15pm

Sat 13 May, 3pm (Dementia Friendly performance)

Sun 14 May, 4pm

Tue 16 May, 7.15pm

Thu 18 Mat, 7.15pm

Sat 20 May, 7.15pm

Free events

*La bohème*, Unwrapped

Thu 11 May, 6pm

*La bohème*, Pre-show Talk

Sat 20 Mar, 6pm

*La bohème*, Touch Tour

Sun 14 May, 2.45pm

*La bohème*, Audio-described performance

Sun 14 May, 4pm

*La bohème*, Children's Unwrapped

Fri 12 May, 1pm

**His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL**

Thu 25 May, 7.15pm

Sat 27 May, 7.15pm

Free events

*La bohème*, Unwrapped

Fri 26 May, 6pm

*La bohème*, Pre-show Talk

Sat 27 May, 6pm

*La bohème*, Touch Tour

Sat 27 May, 6pm

*La bohème*, Audio-described performance

Sat 27 May, 7.15pm

*La bohème*, Children's Unwrapped

Fri 26 May, 1pm

**Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT**

Wed 31 May, 7.15pm

Sat 3 Jun, 3pm (Dementia Friendly performance)

Sun 4 Jun, 4pm

Tue 6 Jun, 7.15pm

Thu 8 Jun, 7.15pm

Sat 10 Jun, 7.15pm

Free events

*La bohème*, Unwrapped

Thu 1 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Pre-show Talk

Sat 10 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Touch Tour

Sat 10 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Audio-described performance

Sun 10 Jun, 7.15pm

*La bohème*, Children's Unwrapped

Thu 1 Jun, 1pm

**Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA**

Tue 13 Jun, 7.15pm

Thu 15 Jun, 7.15pm

Sat 17 Jun, 7.15pm

Free events

*La bohème*, Unwrapped

Wed 14 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Pre-show Talk

Sat 17 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Touch Tour

Sat 17 Jun, 6pm

*La bohème*, Audio-described performance

Sat 17 Jun, 7.15pm

*La bohème*, Children's Unwrapped

Wed 14 Jun, 1pm

## Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and free *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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