

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

*For Immediate Release*

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## Pittsburgh Opera presents *La bohème* March 28 – April 5

*Experience is  
Everything  
2008-2009  
Season*

- What:** Giacomo Puccini's opera [\*La bohème\*](#)
- Where:** Benedum Center for the Performing Arts  
7th Street and Penn Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh
- When:** Saturday, March 28, 8:00 PM    Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 PM  
Friday, April 3, 8:00 PM            Sunday, April 5, 2:00 PM
- Run Time:** 2 hours, 30 minutes, including 2 intermissions.
- Language:** Sung in Italian with English titles projected above the stage.
- Tickets:** Start at \$16. Call 412- 456-6666 for more information  
or visit [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

**Pittsburgh, PA...** [Pittsburgh Opera](#) presents Giacomo Puccini's opera [\*La bohème\*](#) at the Benedum Center March 28 – April 5. Perhaps the world's most beloved opera, *La bohème* tells the story of young lovers Rodolfo and Mimì, living the true Bohemian life, with a little help from their friends. Pittsburgh Opera's traditional production evokes Victorian Paris, with a lavish set and rich costumes, and a lush Romantic orchestra with Music Director [Antony Walker](#) conducting.

Leading the cast are soprano Pamela Armstrong as Mimì and tenor Frank Lopardo as Rodolfo. Miss Armstrong last sang with Pittsburgh Opera as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*,

*(more)*

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2002 and has since sung with many of the major European and U.S. opera houses. She is a frequently seen as Violetta in *La Traviata*, the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Elvira in *I Puritani*. Also appearing regularly at the major opera houses, Mr. Lopardo, a familiar figure on the Pittsburgh Opera stage, was last heard here as Pinkerton in 2007's *Madama Butterfly* and The Duke in 2005's *Rigoletto*. Lopardo is known for his portrayals of Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, and Alfredo in *La Traviata*, as well as his frequent concert appearances.

In her company debut, Rhoslyn Jones, a 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Semi-Finalist, appears as Musetta; she most recently made a role and company debut as Tatiana in Vancouver Opera's November production of *Eugene Onegin*. David Adam Moore returns to Pittsburgh Opera as Marcello in a role debut; Pittsburgh Opera audiences will recall that he memorably replaced Nathan Gunn in two shows of the 2007 production of *Billy Budd*. Kevin Glavin also joins the cast in the dual role of Benoit/Alcindoro; his most recent appearance with Pittsburgh Opera was as Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*, 2007. Rounding out the cast are Resident Artists Jonathan Beyer as Schaunard, Liam Moran as the philosopher Colline, and Dean Kokanos as toy vendor Parpignol.

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Crystal M. Manich makes her stage directing debut with Pittsburgh Opera for *La bohème*, after serving as Assistant Director for the past several seasons, and most recently for its October 2008 *Samson & Dalila*. Miss Manich is also an artistic director of Opera Omnia in New York City. Music Director Antony Walker returns after opening Washington Concert Opera's 2008-09 season with *Maria Padilla* in November, and conducting Vancouver Opera's *Carmen* in last month.

*La bohème* opens Saturday, March 28 and continues March 31, April 3, and April 5. Tickets start at \$16. Call 412-456-6666 or visit [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org). Operagoers are encouraged to remember the less fortunate in Pittsburgh by donating gently-used adult-sized clothing to benefit [Three Rivers Youth](#), an organization assisting homeless young adults, much like the fictional characters of *La bohème*. Collections will be taken at each performance of *La bohème* at the Benedum Center and at the Pittsburgh Opera offices in the Strip District.

This production is generously sponsored by PPG Industries.

Pittsburgh Opera 2008-2009 season sponsors include:  
PNC Foundation (Opening Night Sponsor)  
BNY Mellon (Friday Night Sponsor)  
WYEP, WOED, and WSHH, media sponsors

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## Cast and Conductors

(cast is listed in order of vocal appearance)

Marcello	David Adam Moore	baritone
Rodolfo	Frank Lopardo	tenor
Colline	Liam Moran*	bass
Schaunard	Jonathan Beyer*	baritone
Benoit	Kevin Glavin	bass
Mimi	Pamela Armstrong	soprano
Parpignol	Dean Kokanos*	tenor
Alcindoro	Kevin Glavin	bass
Musetta	Rhoslyn Jones+	soprano

Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Crystal M. Manich
Set Designer	Michael Yeargan
Costume Designer	Zach Brown
Lighting Designer	Cindy Limauro
Hair & Makeup Designer	James Geier
Head of Music/	
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Aaron Miller
Stage Manager	Christine Schott

+ Pittsburgh Opera Debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

## Facts About *La bohème*

Premiered February 1, 1896, at the Teatro Regio in Turin, Italy, with Arturo Toscanini conducting.

(more)

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## Related Events

### Clothing Drive to benefit Three Rivers Youth

Bring gently-used adult-sized clothing to benefit Three Rivers Youth, an organization assisting homeless young adults, much like the fictional characters of *La bohème*. Collections will be taken at all performances of *La bohème*, as well as at the Pittsburgh Opera offices. Call 412-281-0912, x 262 for more information.

### **Pittsburgh Opera Preview on WOED-FM 89.3**

Saturday, March 21 at 12:30 PM and Friday, March 27 at 7:00 PM  
An in-depth introduction to the singers, music and production of *La bohème*.

### **Brown Bag Opera concerts**

March 7, 14, 21, 28, all at noon

Pittsburgh Opera, 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District

Free and open to the public, these half-hour concerts featuring the Resident Artists are a highlight of a shopping day in the Strip. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch or order from **il mercato**. For more information, call 412-281-0912, x 227.

### **Bohemian Rhapsody**

Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera, 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District

A party for young professionals, *Bohemian Rhapsody* features Colter Smith and La Bicicleta Blanca playing gypsy jazz, bossa nova, and maybe a little opera, too. There's food and drink, and dance lessons by C. Christopher Roth and Steel City Ballroom. Admission is \$35; tickets are available at 412-281-0912, x 213 or online at [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

### **Opera Straight Up**

Friday, April 3, starting at *La bohème* at 8:00 PM. Young professionals won't find a better entertainment deal: Opera Straight Up is \$35 for the Friday evening performance of *La bohème* plus an afterparty at Bossa Nova. Tickets at 412-281-0912, x 216 or online at [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

### **Free Pre-Opera Talks**

One hour before each performance in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Join Pittsburgh Opera's Manager of Education Programs, Kristin Gatch, for an introduction to *La bohème*. Free of charge to all ticketholders; no reservations necessary.

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*[Pittsburgh Opera](#), now celebrating its 70th season, is one of America's leading opera companies. It produces a range of programs, from mainstage productions to free community concerts to intimate cabarets. Pittsburgh Opera's internationally renowned resident artist program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars. More than 20,000 students, families and educators participate in Pittsburgh Opera educational events annually. The company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space is housed in a 140-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District.*

## **2008-2009 Season**

[Samson & Dalila](#) by Camille Saint-Saëns – October 18, 21, 24, 26, 2008

[The Grapes of Wrath](#) by Ricky Ian Gordon – November 15, 18, 21, 23, 2008

[Don Pasquale](#) by Gaetano Donizetti – February 7, 10, 13, 15, 2009

[La Bohème](#) by Giacomo Puccini – March 28, 31, April 3, 5, 2009

[The Italian Girl in Algiers](#) (L'italiana in Algeri) by Gioachino Rossini – May 2, 5, 8, 10, 2009

*Subscriptions for as little as \$41. Single tickets for as little as \$16. For ticket information visit our website [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) or call (412) 281-0912*

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