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EXTRA DATES ADDED TO *LA BOHÈME*

**Seattle Opera Adds May 18 and 20
To Run of *La Bohème***

**Twelve Performances Scheduled
Due to High Demand**

Seattle—Seattle Opera announced today that it will present two additional performances of Puccini's *La Bohème*, on May 18, 7:30 p.m., and May 20, 2:00 p.m., due to high demand for this popular opera. The opera is scheduled to open on May 5, 2007, and will now run for 12 performances.

Puccini's lush melodies and the tender love story of *La Bohème* have inspired such contemporary shows as *Rent* and the recent Baz Luhrmann Broadway production. Seattle Opera's production uses a traditional 19th-century Parisian setting with the beautifully detailed period costumes of Tony-Award-winning designer Martin Pakledinez.

"I am delighted that we are able to add two additional performances of *La Bohème*," said Alvin Alexander Henry, Seattle Opera's Director of Marketing and Communications. "We were sold out earlier this season with our production of *Don Giovanni*, and did not want anyone to miss *Bohème*, one of the world's most popular operas—one that's perfect for the entire family."

Tickets for these two additional performances will go on sale to Seattle Opera subscribers on April 15 and to the general public on April 22. Tickets for all performances of *La Bohème* are \$51 to \$141. Tickets are available from the Seattle Opera Ticket Office 206.389.7676 or www.seattleopera.org.

Italian soprano Nuccia Focile will sing Mimì on May 18, opposite Australian tenor Rosario La Spina as Rodolfo. On May 20, German soprano Gun-Brit Barkmin sings Mimì opposite American tenor Scott Piper.

Seattle Opera's production of *La Bohème* runs May 5 through May 20 for twelve performances at McCaw Hall. For further information, see www.seattleopera.org.

LA BOHÈME

Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

12 Performances: May 5, 6m, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13m, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20m, 2007
(Best seating available May 8, May 15, May 18, and May 20)

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes including two intermissions
Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Premiere: Turin, Teatro Regio, February 1, 1896

Previous Seattle Opera Presentations: September 1965, September 1971, May 1979, March 1985, September 1991, May 1998

Tickets: \$51 to \$141

Seattle Opera Ticket Office: 206.389.7676/800.426.1619

Online Orders: www.seattleopera.org

Artists:

Rodolfo: Rosario La Spina†/Scott Piper*†
Mimì: Nuccia Focile/Gun-Brit Barkmin*†
Marcello: Philip Cutlip/Michael Todd Simpson*
Colline: Deyan Vatchkov†/Ashraf Sewailam*†
Schaunard: Jeremy Kelly†/Marcus DeLoach*†
Musetta: Karen Driscoll/Margarita De Arellano*†
Benoit: Tony Dillon†
Alcindoro: Tony Dillon†
Parpignol: Noah Baetge
Custom-House Officer: Dan Aarthun
Sergeant: Craig Grayson†

Conductor: Vjekoslav Sutej
Stage Director: Jose Maria Condemi
Set Designer: Pier Luigi Pizzi†
Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz
Lighting Designer: Thomas C. Hase
Hair and Makeup Designer: Joyce Degenfelder
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

Sets: Lyric Opera of Chicago

Costumes: Seattle Opera

* On May 6, 8, 11, 13, 20, 2007 only

† Company Debut

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About Seattle Opera

Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. The company is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances, especially the Opera's interpretations of the works of Richard Wagner. Seattle Opera's Wagner tradition began under the leadership of the company's founding general director, Glynn Ross, and has continued since 1983 under General Director Speight Jenkins. Since 1975, Seattle Opera has presented 35 cycles of the *Ring* (three different productions), in addition to acclaimed productions of all the other major operas in the Wagner canon. Seattle Opera has achieved the highest per capita attendance of any major opera company in the United States, and draws opera-goers from four continents, nineteen countries, and forty-nine states.

Nuccia Focile's performances are made possible by generous financial support from the James and Sherry Raisbeck Singers' Endowment. Production Sponsors: Bruce R. and Jolene M. McCaw, 4Culture, PONCHO, and an Anonymous friend of Seattle Opera. The sets of this production of *La Bohème* are owned by the Lyric Opera of Chicago and are a generous and deeply appreciated gift from the late James C. Hemphill.

Noah Baetge, Jeremy Kelly, and Michael Todd Simpson are former members of Seattle Opera Young Artists.

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