

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera's production of Puccini's *La bohème* opens March 6

**Twin-cast spectacular — James Valenti and Ellie Dehn;
Adam Diegel and Jennifer Black**

- What:** Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.* Sunday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m.+
Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.* Wednesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.+
Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m.* Friday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.+
Saturday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.* Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m.+
- Tickets:** \$20–\$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669,
9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Monday–Friday or purchase online at mnopera.org.

Minneapolis, MN—Minnesota Opera is pleased to remount its popular 1996 production of Puccini's *La bohème*. Considered the world's favorite opera, this heartwarming love story inspired *Rent* and is the quintessential portrait of romance, high-spirited friendship and the idealistic pursuit of love and art.

"There is no mystery why *La bohème* returns to opera stages around the world," said **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DALE JOHNSON**. "Puccini captures the love and ardor of youth and reminds us all of the first time we fell in love. This is a perfect opera – there is not a wasted note in the rich, impassioned score."

JAMES VALENTI* and **ELLIE DEHN***, who lit up the stage in the 2008 *Romeo and Juliet*, reunite in one cast, while **ADAM DIEGEL+** and **JENNIFER BLACK+** make their company debuts leading the other in this twin-cast spectacular. **HYUNG YUN*** and **PETER BARRETT+** share the role of Marcello, and **KARIN WOLVERTON*** (*Rusalka*) and **NAOMI ISABEL RUIZ+** alternate as Musetta. The beloved Minnesota Opera production is lovingly reimagined by director **JUSTIN WAY**. **EMMANUEL JOEL-HORNAK** conducts the Minnesota Opera Orchestra in his company debut.

continued ...

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Emmanuel Joel-Hornak
Stage Director	Justin Way
Original Set Designer	Robert Brill
Set and Lighting Designer	Marcus Dilliard
Costume Designer	Jennifer Caprio

THE CAST

Rodolfo, <i>a poet</i>	James Valenti*
	Adam Diegel+
Mimi, <i>a seamstress</i>	Ellie Dehn*
	Jennifer Black+
Marcello, <i>a painter</i>	Hyung Yun*
	Peter Barrett+
Musetta, <i>a belle of the Latin Quarter</i>	Karin Wolverton*
	Naomi Isabel Ruiz+
Colline, <i>a philosopher</i>	Jonathan Kimple*
	Rodolfo Nieto+
Schaunard, <i>a musician</i>	Jeffrey Madison*
	Michael Nyby+
Benoit, <i>the landlord</i>	Ben Crickenberger
Parpignol, <i>a toy vender</i>	Brad Benoit
Alcindoro, <i>Musetta's wealthy admirer</i>	Ben Johnson

To learn more about *La bohème* ...

Please visit our website at mnopera.org or consider the opportunities listed below. On the website you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, education program information, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

Tempo presents: {behind the} Bohemian Scenes

Join Tempo Friday, February 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. for a salon-inspired conversation with the stars of Minnesota Opera's *La bohème*, including **JAMES VALENTI**. Featuring: hors d'oeuvres courtesy Joe's Garage, hosted bar, Gypsy Jazz by **PARISOTA HOT CLUB**, portrait sittings by **KONSTANTIN BERKOVSKI**, a collection of art by local visual artists, period-inspired fashion by local designer **SAMANTHA REI** of Blasphemina's Closet and neo-Victorian jewelry by **KRISTIN BERWALD** of Bionic Unicorn. \$5 Tempo Members/\$10 Non-members. Call 612.333.6669 to purchase tickets.

Adult Education Class

A class devoted to *La bohème* will be held on Monday, February 22, 2010, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street in the Minneapolis Warehouse District. **DANIEL FREEMAN**, lecturer at the University of Minnesota, will discuss the tragic lovers' journey through the harshness of reality. Call 612.333.6669, or purchase tickets online at mnopera.org.

Opera Insights

One hour before show time, Artistic Director **DALE JOHNSON** and artistic staffers present Opera Insights – free, fun and informative 30-minute sessions held prior to each performance in Ordway Center's mezzanine lobby.

La bohème is presented by Target.

The 2009–2010 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by The Private Client Reserve at U.S. Bank.

The Minnesota Opera's mission is to produce opera and opera education programs at the highest artistic level that inspire and entertain our audiences and enrich the cultural life of our community.