



SACRAMENTO OPERA NEWS RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO OPERA

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SACRAMENTO OPERA PRESENTS *LA BOHEME*

MAY 8, 10, AND 12, 2009

(Sacramento, CA 1/30/09) **Sacramento Opera presents Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, 1301 L Street, Sacramento, Friday, May 8, 2009 at 8 pm; Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 2 pm; and Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:30 pm.** *La Bohème* is an opera in four acts, with music by Giacomo Puccini and libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica. This Sacramento Opera production is sung in Italian with projected English supertitles. For more information, visit www.sacopera.org. **For tickets, call 916.808.5181 or visit www.tickets.com. Single tickets are \$15 to \$115.**

Part of the inspiration for the popular Broadway musical, *Rent*, and the film *Moonstruck*, *La Bohème* follows the story of young bohemians living in Paris, a poet, a painter, a musician, and a philosopher who long for a deeper connection to society, to one another, and in the case of the poet Rodolfo, to the beautiful but frail seamstress, Mimi. This opera features some of the greatest arias and music in the repertoire. Presenting **Adam Flowers** as Rodolfo, **NaGuanda Nobles** as Mimi, **Nicolai Janitzky** as Marcello, **Chris Clayton** as Schaunard, **Tom Corbeil** as Colline, and **Rochelle Bard** as Musetta. All shows feature the **Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra**, Sacramento Opera Artistic Director and Conductor, **Timm Rolek**, and the **Sacramento Opera Chorus**. **Chuck Hudson** is the stage director.

Northern California native **Adam Flowers** (Rodolfo) recently made his company debut for Houston's Opera in the Heights as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* in October of 2008. Tenor Mr. Flowers performed the role of Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Musashino Kokkaido in Tokyo, Japan. He made his company debut with Hawaii Opera Theatre in the role of Tybalt in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* in February of 2008. Mr. Flowers reprised the role of Rodolfo in Opera Idaho's production of *La Bohème* in October 2007. He performed the role of Camille de Rosillon in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* at West Bay Opera in May and June of 2007. Mr. Flowers completed his musical training at San Jose State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts and currently studies with Deborah Benedict at her studio in Corte Madera, California.

Soprano **NaGuanda Nobles** (Mimi) began singing within the supportive walls of her home church. As a member of the Georgia Mass Choir, she performed in the film *The Preacher's Wife*. Although she was born in Tallahassee, Florida, Mrs. Nobles attended high school in

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Thomasville, Georgia, where she began her classical training. A Florida State University (FSU) graduate, she received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in voice performance. In fall 2003, Mrs. Nobles made her professional debut on the Austin Lyric Opera's stage in the role of Liú in *Turandot*, under the baton of Maestro Peter Bay. In the spring of 2005, Mrs. Nobles made her Pensacola Opera debut performing Clara in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. She joined the Pittsburgh Opera Center in Fall 2005 and performed in performances of *Rigoletto* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Later in the season, she performed the role of Atalanta in the Opera Center's production of Handel's *Xerxes*. In 2007, she performed Papagena in the Pittsburgh Opera's *Die Zauberflöte*. In 2008, Mrs. Nobles was awarded first place in the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition, the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition in its inaugural year, and was also named the 2008 Shreveport Opera's Singer of the Year. Also in 2008, she made her Dayton Opera debut, performing the role of Liu in Puccini's *Turandot*.

Last seen in the Sacramento Opera's "Arias, Overtures, & Arabesques" concert, baritone **Nicolai Janitzky** (Marcello) is a native of California. He recently appeared with San Diego Opera in their productions of *Boris Godunov*, *La Traviata*, and *Katya Kabanova*. As an apprentice artist with Santa Fe Opera, he took on the title role in *Eugene Onegin* on short notice to high critical acclaim. Other roles he has sung include the title role in *Pélleas et Mélisande*, Valentin in *Faust*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Marcello in *La Bohème*. He is also an active recitalist, and has performed in such venues as Carnegie (Weill) Hall in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Cleveland Institute of Music Art Song Festival. He has studied at the Yale University Opera Program and the Music Academy of the West. This season he had his debut with the San Francisco Opera as Shchelkalov in *Boris Godunov*, will perform Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with Opera Idaho, and the Santa Barbara Grand Opera production of *L'elisir d'amore* (Belcore).

Soprano **Rochelle Bard** (Musetta), recently won First Place in the Classical Singer Competition. She was also winner in the George London Foundation Competition, the Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards (San Francisco), and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition. Subsequently, she had her Lincoln Center debut in Alice Tully Hall at the annual Puccini Gala. Upcoming performances include the title role in *The Merry Widow* with the Altamura/Caruso Foundation and the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Opera Idaho. Ms. Bard will also debut with Boston Lyric Opera as the Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* this season. Recently, Ms. Bard was an acclaimed success as Micaela in *Carmen* with Ash Lawn Opera, as well as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, Violetta in *La Traviata* and Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* with Opera San José. Ms. Bard is originally from Massachusetts where she received a BA in Biology Premed from the College of the Holy Cross. She was trained as a pianist and accompanied singers before finding her own classical voice. She received her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance with Academic Honors from the New England Conservatory of Music.

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Based in New York City, **Chuck Hudson** (Stage Director) has directed opera productions at major international companies including Minnesota Opera, Cape Town Opera (South Africa), Florida Grand Opera, Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera Center, Wolf Trap Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Sacramento Opera, Opera Cleveland, Opera Santa Barbara, Caramoor Opera, Berkshire Opera, Piedmont Opera, Connecticut Opera, and Shreveport Opera, among others. He has directed award winning theatre productions in New York and regionally, including The Pearl Theatre, Chester Theater, The Children's Theatre Festival of Houston, New City Theatre, and Chicago's Fox Valley Shakespeare Festival. He is a co-creator of Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, a national Post-Conservatory Level Training Program, where he directed productions as well as created and instructed specialized classes on Acting and Movement for singers. He was a professor at the University of Houston School of Theatre, at Cornish College of the Arts and is an annual Adjunct Faculty Artist at North Carolina School of the Arts Theatre Department and Fletcher Opera Institute. In 2008, Mr. Hudson was a guest professor of Advanced Acting at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and will be a Guest Stage Director at Indiana University Opera Theatre in 2009. For 7 years Mr. Hudson was Artistic Director of Seattle's The Immediate Theatre: a physically based company committed to the creation of visually exciting dramatic works. Mr. Hudson's specialty in movement comes from a background in gymnastics as well as being one of three Americans to have received a diploma from the Marcel Marceau International School of Mimedrama in Paris. He is the only American to be appointed to teach at Marceau's School, and he performed with Marceau on his 1991 European Tour and in Klaus Kinski's film *Paganini*. Mr. Hudson also studied at the Paris School for Theatrical Fencing and was awarded an Honorary Diploma from the French Academy of Arms. He last directed *The Barber of Seville* and *The Turn of the Screw* for the Sacramento Opera.

Joe & Dee Hartzog are Production Sponsors of *La Bohème*.

The Sacramento Opera's 2008-2009 Season is sponsored by the generosity of the James Irvine Foundation, Raley's Family of Fine Stores, Barbara K. Jackson, and the County and City of Sacramento's Cultural Arts Award administered by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

The mission of the Sacramento Opera is to produce outstanding opera, to develop and cultivate a wider public interest in opera and its allied arts, and to further music education in the region.

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