

MEDIA RELEASE

23 July 2025

Experience the passion and heartbreak of first love and loss in *La Bohème*



Opera Australia's winter season finale will see the return of internationally renowned director, Gale Edward's widely acclaimed production of Giacomo Puccini's adored *La Bohème*, to the Joan Sutherland Theatre stage.

This heartbreakingly beautiful opera of love persevering throughout life's hardships has been moving audiences around the world for generations and has inspired countless modern interpretations from *Rent* to *Moulin Rouge*.

Its all-consuming uplifting and enchanting music soars, exposing the emotions behind the magic of love at first sight, the bitterness of jealousy and the agony of loss that words alone cannot express.

Award-winning director Danielle Maas takes on her first revival production for Opera Australia, bringing to life Edwards' glittering reimagining of the original bohemian love story. Audiences will be transported to the dazzling fishnets and fairy lights world of 1930s Berlin, marvellously created by a dynamic team including lighting designer John Rayment and costume designer Julie Lynch.

Audiences new to opera and those who have enjoyed the beauty of *La Bohème* will marvel at the talent of this season's cast. Australian Chinese tenor Kang Wang reprises his celebrated portrayal of Rodolfo, alongside soprano Olivia Cranwell who shines as Mimi, award-winning Australian American soprano Rachelle Durkin as Musetta and Opera Australia principal baritone Luke Gabbedy as Marcello. German-born conductor Erina Yashima will make her Opera Australia debut to lead the Opera Australia Orchestra followed by OA's Chorus Master Paul Fitzsimon later in the season.

With its glorious music and universal themes of love, friendship and loss, *La Bohème* is a story that transcends time and place, making it enticing for opera fans and easily accessible for newcomers, providing a wonderful opportunity to showcase the beauty of opera to all.

23 August – 20 September | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Creatives

Conductor **Erina Yashima** (23 Aug – 16 Sep), **Paul Fitzsimon** (18 – 20 Sep)

Director **Gale Edwards**

Revival Director **Danielle Maas**

Costume Designer **Julie Lynch**

Lighting Designer **John Rayment**

Cast

Mimi **Olivia Cranwell**

Rodolfo **Kang Wang** (23 Aug – 16 Sep), **Iain Henderson** (18 & 20 Sep)

Musetta **Rachelle Durkin**

Marcello **Luke Gabbedy**

Schaunard **Shane Lawrence**

Colline **David Parkin**

Benoit/Alcindoro **Andrew Moran**

Officer **Clifford Plumpton**

Sergeant **Malcom Ede**

Parpignol **Benjamin Rasheed**

Opera Australia Chorus

Opera Australia Orchestra

Media enquiries

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Performance information**Evenings at 7.30pm**

Aug 23, 25, 28, 30

Sep 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18

Saturday Matinee at 12.30pm

Sep 6, 20

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles and Simplified Chinese surtitles.

This production contains partial nudity.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
(02) 9318 8200

www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
Sydney Opera House**