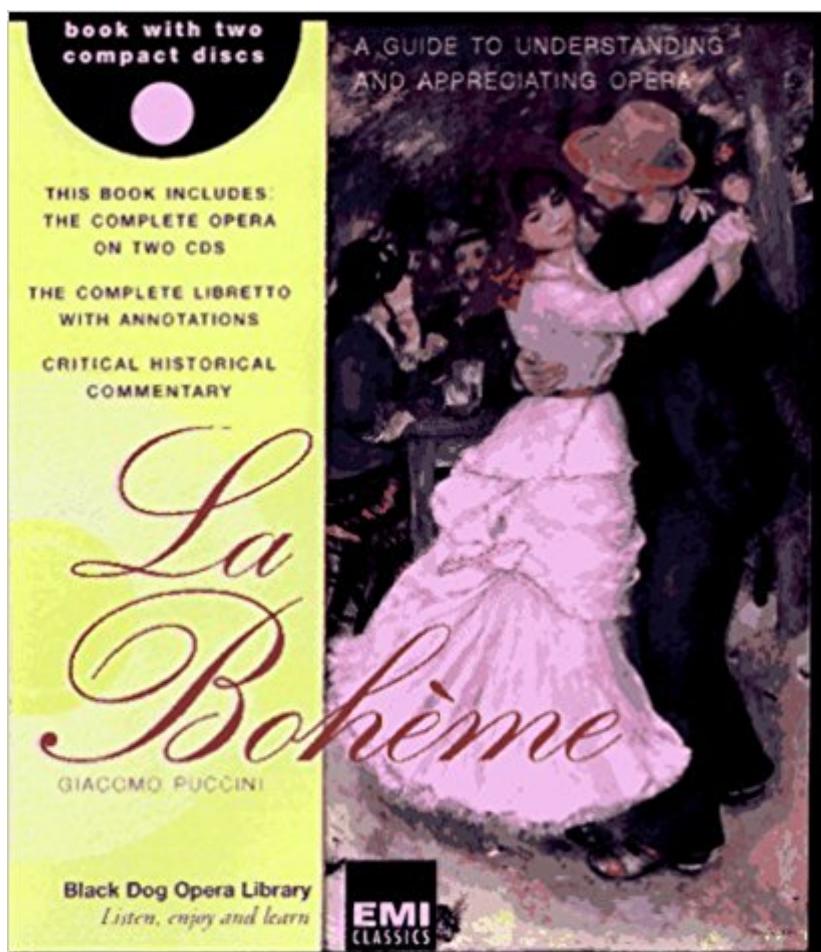


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La Bohème (Black Dog Opera Library)



Synopsis

The Black Dog Music Library presents Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, featuring Nicolai Gedda, Mirella Freni, and Mario Sereni and the Coro e Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, under the direction of Thomas Schippers. An Angel/EMI compact disc set, accompanied by the complete libretto with unabridged English translations and minute-by-minute commentary and information on the composer, the music, and the performance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, a bittersweet story of love and loss among the youthful Bohemians of Paris's Left Bank, has long been a major portal to lyric theater. Countless operatic novices have been won over by its seductive combination of ravishing tunes and a classic, tragic love story: boy meets girl, boy wins girl, boy loses girl, girl dies. *La Bohème* is one of those seemingly foolproof operas that can survive any number of performance disasters, from dreadful directorial concepts to bad casting and abysmal conducting, and still come out all right. The story of the little seamstress Mimi; her lover, the poet Rodolfo; and the painter Marcello and his inflammatory relationship with Musetta, a lady of negotiable virtue, has staying power that is lifted by Puccini's melodic gift. In the Black Dog Opera Library we have a useful new tool for operatic education. *La Bohème*, like the rest of the volumes in the Library, offers a good-looking, well-made book with an informative introductory essay about the composer and the work, lots of pictures, and a complete libretto in

Italian and English. There is even a complete recording of the opera, featuring a cast of name singers. In this particular case, the recording is the 1963 EMI/Angel version that was remastered in 1991. The Italian soprano Mirella Freni--surely the outstanding Mimi of our time--sings irresistibly; she is well-matched by the strong Rodolfo of the great Swedish tenor Nicolai Gedda and the macho Marcello of Mario Sereni. One unfortunate weakness of this set is that the names of the other performers aren't given, and they ought to be. One will have to check a guide to recordings to discover that Mariella Adani is the Musetta, Ferruccio Mazzoli enacts the touching Colline, and Mario Basiola Jr. is Schaunard. All are energetically conducted by the late Thomas Schippers.

"A madly brilliant reimaging" * * * *•¹The Times"This is Puccini without a safety net and it works" * * * *•¹Evening Standard"Transfers effortlessly from 1830s Paris to contemporary London... in Norton-Hale's canny translation, the words and notes both make their mark … this is about as real as verismo gets.â •¹The Guardian"A riotous coup de thÃ©âtre that fizzes with fun and fabulousness... A BohÃ©me quite unlike any other - * * * *•¹The Metro"Robin Norton-Haleâ™s sharp, demotic translation... seems set fair to bring Pucciniâ™s indestructible masterpiece to many more punters, opera fans and neophytes alike...charted with an immediacy that one does not always get in a larger house...intensely affecting•¹* * * *•¹Evening Standard"A madly brilliant reimaging" * * * *â •The Times "This is Puccini without a safety net and it works" * * * *â •Evening Standard"Transfers effortlessly from 1830s Paris to contemporary London... in Norton-Hale's canny translation, the words and notes both make their mark â | this is about as real as verismo gets.â •The Guardian"A riotous coup de thÃ©âtre that fizzes with fun and fabulousness... A BohÃ©me quite unlike any other - * * * *â •The Metro"Robin Norton-Haleâ™s sharp, demotic translation... seems set fair to bring Pucciniâ™s indestructible masterpiece to many more punters, opera fans and neophytes alike...charted with an immediacy that one does not always get in a larger house...intensely affectingâ •* * * *â •Evening Standard --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is likely as big of a published full score of *La Boheme* you're going to get for purchase, but like all of the Ricordi scores of this type edition, it's a little on the small side to actually conduct from comfortably. I usually take these scores to the printers and get them blown up to B4 size - then it works fine. This is what you need, though - Ricordi edition. The paper quality is better - heavier - as of late: this is the 2nd identical score of *Boheme* I've purchased in the last few years and my previous copy had practically translucent paper - the copy I just purchased is just fine. No idea as to

price, though - I needed it fast, found it here and bought it, without shopping around.

I bought this for my daughter. It's precisely what she was looking for, and the price was reasonable. The item arrived promptly. Thanks!

Very nice edition. Delivered in Brazil in three days.

Fast deliver.good quality of paper.This is Great Music.The only problem is it is hard to find english version of this opera.

It is very well presented, I prefer to carry the full score when I sing, but sometimes they are way too big to carry around. This book is the exception, you can carry it with ease.

I bought this book and CD set a few years ago to learn the opera LA BOHEME. The beautifully illustrated book includes a history of the opera and of Puccini's career, a clearly printed libretto in Italian and English, and information on the conductor and the principal singers. The recording is a fine one, dominated by the partnership of Nicolai Gedda and Mirella Freni as Rodolfo and Mimi. Gedda has a firm, pure tenor and a delightful sense of humor too often missing from portrayals of Rodolfo. I also like his sad sigh in the last act just before Mimi dies: it's a refreshing change from the outright weeping usually heard at this point in the opera. Freni lights up the performance with her luminous, youthful lyric soprano. The supporting cast are all-Italian and make a good team, and Maestro Thomas Schippers paces the opera nicely. This book and CD set is a wonderful bargain for anyone wanting to learn LA BOHEME. Check out the other Black Dog Opera Library sets, too.

Looking for a good, moderately priced recording of "Boheme"? This is it. Schipper's conducts a delightfully theatrical performance. The young Freni is ideal: fresh and touching as Mimi should be. Gedda has a lighter, more youthful sound than Pavarotti or Bjoerling, and makes an excellent match for Freni. Good stereo sound. Excellent supporting cast: Sereni a charming, youthful Marcello. Other sets have great casts and great conductors (and you may want to augment your collection with Beecham's classic recording and Kleiber's live La Scala performance, but this one is a perfect introductory "Boheme", with its user-friendly book and libretto. Beautiful.

Having found opera intimidating I was looking for something to help me understand and appreciate

the genre. This book exceeded all expectations. I intend to acquire the entire series.

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