

## **La Bohème**

### Act 1

Around 1830, in Paris, France, there are four Bohemians, the poet Rodolfo, the painter Marcello, the musician Schaunard, and the philosopher Colline in an old attic. They are poor, but happy. On the night of Christmas Eve, they all intend to go to a bar, but Rodolfo has not finished writing his poem yet. Rodolfo promises to join them soon, and the others leave.

A neighbor, Mimi, knocks on Rodolfo's door, and she asks him to light her candle for her. But, Rodolfo's candle goes out, too. At the moment, Mimi accidentally drops her key. When the two search for it in the dark, they touch each other's hand and instantly fall in love.

### Act 2

Amid shouts of street hawkers, Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet near the Café Momus before introducing her to his friends. They all sit down and order supper. A toy vendor, Parpignol, passes by, besieged by children. Marcello's former lover, Musetta, enters ostentatiously on the arm of the elderly, wealthy Alcindoro. Trying to regain the painter's attention, she sings a waltz about her popularity. Complaining that her shoe pinches, Musetta sends Alcindoro to fetch a new pair, then falls into Marcello's arms. Joining a group of marching soldiers, the Bohemians leave Alcindoro to face the bill when he returns.

### Act 3

The next year, in February, Mimi visits Musetta and Marcello. Mimi consults Musetta about Rodolfo who is recently cold to her. Then, Rodolfo visits Marcello. Mimi hides at once. Rodolfo says to Marcello, "I love Mimi, but she has tuberculosis. I am poor, and I can't buy any medicine for her, and can't take care of her. I should say goodbye to her." Then, Rodolfo notices Mimi. They love each other, but they decide to choose to live separately.

### Act 4

After some time, the four poor Bohemians live happily as usual. Musetta runs into their room with the dying Mimi. Mimi really wants to die at Rodolfo's side. His friends go out to come up with the money to buy medicine for her. Rodolfo and Mimi remember the time they enjoyed together before. When their friends come back, Mimi takes her last breath. Rodolfo shouts Mimi's name, and breaks down crying.