

Approximate timings

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm, opera begins at 7.30pm

Act I 30 minutes

Act II 20 minutes

Interval

Act III 30 minutes

Act IV 30 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.00pm

There will be short pauses after Act I and after Act III, please remain seated.

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2017/18 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2017

THE NUTCRACKER TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017

RIGOLETTO TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018

TOSCA WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018

THE WINTER'S TALE WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018

CARMEN TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018

BERNSTEIN CENTENARY TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

MACBETH WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

MANON THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

SWAN LAKE TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

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ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA OLIVER MEARS

LA BOHÈME

OPERA IN FOUR ACTS

MUSIC **GIACOMO PUCCINI**

LIBRETTO **GIUSEPPE GIACOSA AND LUIGI ILLICA**

AFTER HENRI MURGER'S NOVEL SCÈNES DE LA VIE DE BOHÈME

CONDUCTOR **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

DIRECTOR **RICHARD JONES**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **ELAINE KIDD**

DESIGNER **STEWART LAING**

LIGHTING DESIGNER **MIMI JORDAN SHERIN**

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR **SARAH FAHIE**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER **VASKO VASSILEV**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY
RHODRI HUW

LIVE FROM THE
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017, 7.15PM

Synopsis

Act I

An attic in the Latin Quarter of Paris, Christmas Eve

Rodolfo and Marcello complain about the bitter cold. They burn the manuscript of Rodolfo's latest play and they and their friend Colline enjoy the brief warmth.

Schaunard arrives with wood, food and wine that he has earned working for an eccentric Englishman. The friends plan to go and eat in the Latin Quarter but are interrupted by Benoît, their landlord, who demands the rent. They offer him wine and, when Benoît boasts of his sexual prowess, pretend outrage and push him out.

Marcello, Colline and Schaunard head off, leaving Rodolfo to finish an article. A girl knocks at the door and asks for a light for her candle. As she is leaving it flickers out again and she realizes that she has lost her key. Rodolfo's candle also goes out as they search for it. Rodolfo tells the girl about his life as a poet. She tells him her name, Mimì, and describes her life as an embroiderer. Schaunard, Colline and Marcello shout up to Rodolfo to hurry. Mimì asks if she may join them at the Café Momus, and the lovers leave together.

Act II

The Latin Quarter

Rodolfo and Mimì wander through the Christmas Eve crowds. Rodolfo introduces Mimì to his friends. As they sit down to supper, Marcello's ex-girlfriend Musetta appears with Alcindoro, her rich admirer. Musetta decides to seduce Marcello and launches into a song. She then complains of a painful foot, and dispatches Alcindoro to buy new shoes. She and the bohemians quickly depart, leaving Alcindoro with both their bills.

Interval

Act III

Outside the Barrière d'Enfer

Workers arrive at the city gates. Mimì meets Marcello outside a tavern. When she learns that Rodolfo is there she becomes agitated, and tells Marcello that Rodolfo's jealousy is destroying their relationship. She hides as Rodolfo appears.

Rodolfo tells Marcello that Mimì's flirtatious behaviour has incensed him. But soon he reveals the real reason for their separation: she is very ill and he is too poor to help her. They hear Mimì crying and coughing. Rodolfo hurries to her, while Marcello, suspicious of Musetta's flirtatious laughter, hurries back into the inn. While Marcello and Musetta quarrel and separate, Rodolfo and Mimì decide to postpone their separation until the spring.

Act IV

The attic, autumn

Marcello and Rodolfo pretend not to miss their former girlfriends but admit that they do. Schaunard and Colline arrive with bread and a herring and the four eat and amuse each other.

Suddenly Musetta enters. She has brought Mimì, who is desperately ill: Musetta explains that Mimì has begged to be taken to Rodolfo. Mimì rallies and greets the friends. Musetta instructs Marcello to sell her earrings to pay for medicine and a doctor. Colline leaves with Schaunard to pawn his coat. Mimì, alone with Rodolfo, expresses her boundless love for him, and the lovers reminisce about their first meeting. The others return with a muff and medicine, promising that a doctor will come – but Mimì dies unnoticed while they are preparing her medicine.

Cast

MARCELLO
A PAINTER

MARIUSZ KWIECIEŃ

RODOLFO
A POET

MICHAEL FABIANO

COLLINE
A PHILOSOPHER

LUCA TITTOTO

SCHAUNARD
A MUSICIAN

FLORIAN SEMPEY

BENOÎT

JEREMY WHITE

MIMÌ

NICOLE CAR

PARPIGNOL
A TOYSELLER

ANDREW MACNAIR

MUSETTA

SIMONA MIHAI

ALCINDORO
A STATE COUNCILLOR

WYN PENCARREG

CUSTOMS OFFICER

JOHN MORRISSEY

SERGEANT

THOMAS BARNARD

CHRISTMAS EVE REVELLERS, BOHEMIANS, WAITERS,
STREET SWEEPERS, MILKMAIDS, PEASANT WOMEN