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The Jacksonville Symphony Presents *La Bohème* as Its Most Sensational Production of the Season

Jacksonville, FL: Opera makes its grand return to Jacoby Symphony Hall on April 29th at 7:30 p.m. and May 1st at 3:00 p.m. with Giacomo Puccini's beloved *La Bohème*.

"It's an opera one can't resist. The story of love and loss is so powerful, and the music so immediately arresting and gripping that it's hard not to be profoundly moved. I know our audience in Jacksonville will fall deeply in love with it," said Courtney Lewis, Music Director of the Jacksonville Symphony.

The production features the renowned musicians of the Jacksonville Symphony and a cast comprised of esteemed names in the opera world such as Danielle Talamantes, Andrew Owens, Gabrielle Reyes and Zachary Nelson.

Also joining the Symphony is award-winning Metropolitan Opera Stage Director Gregory Keller who has produced opera and theater productions across the United States, including 26 seasons with the Metropolitan Opera.

"It's an international cast, and many members have performed at the world's great opera houses. Nearly all have performed their respective roles many times in many houses. Gabriella Reyes, our Musetta, performed the role this season at The Metropolitan Opera in New York, directed by our stage director, Gregory Keller," said Lewis. "We truly are bringing world-class talent to this very special Jacksonville Symphony production."

La Bohème has been one of the most cherished operas worldwide since its debut in 1896 for the way it combines the genres of romance and coming-to-age. The hit 1990s musical *Rent* is based off of Puccini's *La Bohème*, with many of the characters and plot elements being drawn from the opera.

The Symphony distinguishes its revival through several, customized design features including being "Symphonically-staged," a term coined by the Symphony, where musicians will be seen playing on an elevated space built around the onstage orchestra instead of performing in the pit.

The Jacksonville Symphony's production of *La Bohème* is sponsored by the DuBow Family Foundation.

Though Puccini's original rendition was set in Paris, France, during the 1800s, Keller sets the Symphony's stage to 1970s' New York City using a Studio-54 style and three, 30-foot-tall screens that vividly project scenic elements.

"*La Bohème* is clearly and simply a masterpiece," said Keller. "Even though we are moving it to a contemporary period, it speaks of messages that are simply timeless through breathtaking and powerful music. Falling in love for the first time is one story the world will always know."

Members of the cast, creative team and musicians can be made available for interviews either virtually or in person. The Symphony welcomes photographers and videographers to capture b-roll and photography that will highlight the event.

For questions or to schedule requests, please reach out to Sara Albertelli at SAlbertelli@jaxsymphony.org or 904.354.1479.

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit JaxSymphony.org, like them at facebook.com/JaxSymphony; follow them on [@jaxsymphony](https://instagram.com/jaxsymphony), on Instagram at [JaxSymphony](https://youtube.com/JacksonvilleSymphony) and on YouTube at [JacksonvilleSymphony](https://youtube.com/JacksonvilleSymphony).

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