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Corissa Bussian, Darrius Morton, Siena Forest and Tony Potts star in LA BOHÈME

THEATER LATTÉ DA ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR THEIR RE-IMAGINED STAGING OF THE BELOVED OPERA *LA BOHÈME*

Peter Rothstein's award-winning production of Puccini's beloved opera comes to the intimate Ritz Theater.

The cast of *LA BOHÈME* features Bergan Baker, Corissa Bussian, Siena Forest, Bradley Greenwald, Anna Hashizume, Katherine Henly, Darrius Morton, Rodolfo Nieto,

Morrow Piper, James Plante, Tony Potts, Noah Scharback, Justin Spenner, Philip Takemura, Christian Thurston, and Amy Wolf.

**Performances begin March 11 and run thru April 26, 2020 at the Ritz Theater
Opening Night March 14, 2020**

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) Theater Latté Da today announced the cast of LA BOHÈME, the beloved Puccini opera re-imagined by Peter Rothstein and orchestrator Joseph Schlefke. The production brings together rising stars in the opera world along with favorite performers from the Twin Cities music scene. Among the top 5 operas performed around the globe, LA BOHÈME features music by **Giacomo Puccini** and libretto by **Luigi Illica** and **Giuseppe Giacosa**. The production is directed by Theater Latté Da Artistic Director **Peter Rothstein** with Music Direction by **Eric McEnaney** and features a new orchestration by **Joseph Schlefke**.

LA BOHÈME will run March 11 – April 26, 2020 at the Ritz Theater. Preview performances are March 11-13. Single tickets start at \$33. Group, student, and other discounts are available. Tickets are on sale now through the box office at 612.339.3003 or online at Latteda.org. Post-show discussions and access services (ASL/AD performances) are available on select dates and by request.

This passionate, timeless tale of love among young artists in Paris, can stake its claim as the world's most popular opera, and inspired the long-running Broadway box office smash hit, RENT. Theater Latté Da brings Peter Rothstein's innovative, award-winning staging to the intimate Ritz Theater for the first time. LA BOHÈME premiered at the Teatro Regio in Turin, Italy, on February 1, 1896. A group of friends are living a bohemian life in Paris and trying to make their livings creating art. Despite a tragic ending, the story celebrates love in the face of adversity.

Initially set in Paris during the 1830s, Rothstein's production moves the action roughly 100 years later during the Nazi occupation of Paris. Rothstein states, "When I began to think about re-imagining LA BOHÈME, I quickly decided that moving the story out of Paris would be sacrilege, but there is very little in the opera that is specific to time. Moving the action roughly a century later provided a specificity for me and my collaborators, making the story

about a group of artists all the more tangible, emotional and powerful.”

First presented to Twin Cities audiences in 2005 with a celebrated run at the Loring Playhouse, the production featured a new orchestration by Joseph Schlefke, capturing the sound of a Paris café or street band. The instrumentation includes accordion, guitar, piano, violin, clarinet and flute. Audiences and critics praised the production as “moving” and “exquisite” resulting in an Ivey Award win, the first for Theater Latté Da in the award ceremony’s inaugural year. The production was remounted in 2007 with a sold-out run at the Southern Theater.

Peter Rothstein directs LA BOHÈME and shares, “I am thrilled to return to my favorite opera and the unique opportunity to tell this particular story in an intimate space such as the Ritz Theater.”

The cast of LA BOHÈME features **Bergan Baker, Corissa Bussian, Siena Forest, Bradley Greenwald, Anna Hashizume, Katherine Henly, Darrius Morton, Rodolfo Nieto, Morrow Piper, James Plante, Tony Potts, Noah Scharback, Justin Spenner, Philip Takemura, Christian Thurston, and Amy Wolf.**

The creative team for LA BOHÈME includes **Peter Rothstein** (director), **Eric McEnaney** (music director), **Michael Hoover** (scenic designer), **Rich Hamson** (costume designer), **Paul Bigot** (hair and makeup designer) **Grant E. Merges** (lighting designer), **Abbee Warmboe** (properties design), **Elissa Adams** (dramaturg), and **Tiffany K. Orr** (production stage manager).

Theater Latté Da is an award-winning Twin Cities musical theater company that combines music and story to illuminate the breadth and depth of the human experience. The company seeks to create new connections between story, music, artist, and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater. www.latteda.org

FACT SHEET:

LA BOHÈME

Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Luigi Illica and Guisepppe Giacosa
New orchestration by Joseph Schlefke

Directed by Peter Rothstein
Music Direction by Eric McEnaney

This passionate, timeless, and indelible story of love among young artists in Paris, can stake its claim as the world's most popular opera. Theater Latté Da brings Peter Rothstein's innovative, award-winning staging to the intimate Ritz Theater. Lyrical and touchingly beautiful, *La Bohème* is the definitive depiction of the joys and sorrows of love and loss, and a celebration of art in the face of adversity.

Featuring Siena Forest and Corissa Bussian as Mimi, Darrius Morton and James Plante as Rodolfo, Bergen Baker and Katherine Henly as Musetta, Tony Potts and Christian Thurston as Marcello, along with Justin Spenner, Rodolfo Nieto, Bradley Greenwald, Amy Wolf, Anna Hashizume, Phillip Takemura, Noah Scharback, and Morrow Piper.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles projected above the stage.

Dates: Wednesday, March 11 – Sunday, April 26, 2020

Venue: Ritz Theater, 345 13th Avenue NE, Minneapolis MN 55413

Tickets start at \$33 and are on sale now.

Group, student, and other discounts are available.