



GIACOMO PUCCINI

# LA BOHÈME

18, 20, 23, 25 September 2021  
Carlisle Memorial Church, Belfast



NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
OPERA

## "LA BOHÈME" - GIACOMO PUCCINI

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## CAST

### NOAH STEWART (Rodolfo)

American tenor Noah Stewart is one of opera's most sought after international performers. His musical journey began in Harlem before graduating from the Juilliard School and becoming a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow. In 2012, he made history in the UK topping the classical charts with his debut album 'Noah', released by DECCA. He also made his Royal Opera debut that same year as Hassan in *Miss Fortune*. He has toured in the UK with the John Wilson Orchestra and as a solo artist. Noah has performed in three BBC Proms concerts as well as being named a BBC Music Ambassador and made his broadcasting debut at The Cardiff Singer of the World on the BBC.



Noah has sung widely in both the US and UK. North American highlights include Macduff and T. Morris Chester in the World Premiere of John Adam's *Appomattox*; *Faust* with Atlanta Opera; Cavaradossi, Ismaele, Pinkerton, Nadir and Rodolfo for Michigan Opera Theater; Rodolfo with Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, New Orleans Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Memphis and with the Orlando Philharmonic; Narraboth at the Arizona Opera and Radames at the Glimmerglass Festival. In concert, highlights include Verdi's Requiem at the Civic Opera House in Chicago; and Mozart's Requiem and Bach's Magnificat at Carnegie Hall.

Outside US, highlights include: *Cavaradossi* with the National Resiopera; Don Jose in Gothenburg, South Africa, at the Royal Albert Hall and with Scottish Opera; Osaka (*Iris*) with Opera Holland Park, and Pinkerton at Covent Garden and with Opera North. He also performed in Peter Sellars' critically acclaimed production of Purcell *The Indian Queen* at the Bolshoi Opera, English National Opera, Teatro Real Madrid and Opera Perm.

### GEMMA SUMMERFIELD (Mimi)

British soprano Gemma Summerfield was awarded First Prize at the 2019 Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino, First Prize and the Song Prize at the 2015 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, the Jean Meikle Prize for a Duo at the 2017 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition, and is the holder of the Susan Chilcott Award for Singers. She was a finalist in the Concours Musical International de Montréal and the inaugural Glyndebourne Opera Cup.



Recent and upcoming highlights include Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* (her debut at Opéra national du Rhin); Nannetta *Falstaff* and Pamina in Sir Thomas Allen's production of *The Magic Flute* (Scottish Opera); Pamina *The Magic Flute* and cover Michal Saul (Glyndebourne Festival Opera); Paula Jordan in the European premiere of William Bolcom's *Dinner at Eight* (Wexford Festival Opera); cover title role *Rodelinda* (English National Opera); and concert performances with the RPO, the OAE, the Hallé, and at Wigmore Hall.

### YURIY YURCHUK (Marcello)

Ukrainian baritone Yuriy Yurchuk was a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden from 2014-16, and a Royal Opera Principal from 2016-17. His roles for The Royal Opera include Marcello *La bohème*, Blazes *The Lighthouse*, Germano *La Scala di Seta*, Angelotti *Tosca*, Dumas *Andrea Chénier*, Prince Yamadori *Madama Butterfly*, Mandarin *Turandot*, Baron Douphol *La traviata*, Flemish Deputy *Don Carlo*, Johann Werther, Schlemil *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, and various roles in *The Nose*.



Recent and upcoming highlights include Marcello *La bohème* (Opera North); Lescaut Manon, Ping *Turandot* and Marcello *La bohème* (Opernhaus Zürich); Count Rodolfo in Foroni's *Margherita* (Wexford Festival Opera); title role *Eugene Onegin* (Ukraine National Opera); and house debuts at Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels and New National Theatre Tokyo.

Competition successes include prizes at Queen Sonja International Singing Competition (Norway), Montserrat Caballe International Singing Competition (Spain), and Ottavio Ziino International Singing Competition (Rome).

### EMMA MORWOOD (Musetta)

Belfast born Emma Morwood studied at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was a major award winner. Now based in Scotland, Emma sings regularly with many of Europe's finest orchestras and conductors.



Recent opera performances include the role of Costanza in Vivaldi's *Griselda* with Irish National Opera and the Irish Baroque Orchestra (IBO); Amore and Minerva in *The Return of Ulysses* (Monteverdi) with Opera Collective Ireland; Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* with Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) Previews; Pamina in *The Magic Flute* (Opera Theatre Company); and Mimi in *La bohème* (EIF previews). Concert highlights include *The Magic of Christmas* with the Ulster Orchestra; Handel's *Messiah* with the IBO; Berg's *Sieben frühe lieder* at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow; Barber's *Knoxville: 1915* (Meadows Chamber Orchestra); and Verdi *Requiem* (Edinburgh Royal Choral Union).

### GRAEME DANBY (Benoît/Alcindoro)

Graeme Danby is widely recognised as one of Britain's finest character basses. For the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, he has sung: Billy Jackrabbit; Charrington (1984); Gonzalo (*The Tempest*); Second Armed Man; Casino Manager (*The Gambler*) and il Sacristano. For English National Opera, he has sung roles including: Bartolo; Basilio; Collatinus; Dulcamara; Quince; Pistol; Pooh-Bah; Ribbing; Sacristan; Sarastro; Snug and Somnus in more than 1000 appearances with the company. Further UK engagements include Opera North, Garsington Festival, Glyndebourne Festival, Buxton Festival, Opera North and Scottish Opera. International engagements include: Teatro Liceu, De Vlaamse Opera, Opéra de Rouen, Salzburger Landestheater; Opera National du Rhin Strasbourg, Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Palau Reina Sofia, Valencia and at the Teatro Sao Carlos in Lisbon. Recent engagements include: Irish National Opera, Israeli Opera, LA Philharmonic and the Neue Oper Friborg in Paris.



### AARON O'HARE (Schaunard)

Irish baritone Aaron O'Hare completed his BMus (Hons) at the University of Ulster, and went on to complete an MMus at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Matthew Best, having been awarded the ABRSM Entrance Scholarship. Aaron won the Northern Ireland Opera 'Voice of 2015' competition during their Festival of Voice and is also a recipient of the BBC NI and Arts Council NI 'Young Musician's Platform Award'.



Aaron has worked with leading companies in Ireland and England, including NI Opera, Irish National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera Holland Park, The Grange Festival and Buxton Festival Opera. He joined Garsington Opera's Alvarez Young Artist's programme in 2016 and was a member of the Opera Holland Park Young Artists in 2018. Aaron played Mike in John Adam's *I was looking at the Ceiling and then I saw the Sky* for the Opera Lyon studio last year and is currently an Associate Artist at Welsh National Opera where he sang March Hare/White Knight in Will Todd's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* this summer. In 2022, he will sing Stárek *Jenůfa* for WNO and will also cover the title role in *Don Giovanni*.

### EDMUND DANON (Colline)

Edmund studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Mark Wildman and Iain Ledingham and was a 2017/18 National Opera Studio young artist supported by the Glyndebourne New Generation Programme, and Peter and Helen Blumer.



Operatic roles have included Andrei in the premiere of Bolton's *Litvinenko* at Grange Park Opera, Demetrius in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Nevill Holt, Eddy in Turnage's *Greek* at the Arcola Theatre, and Oberon in Purcell's *Fairy Queen* at Waterperry. Work for other companies has included Lakai in *Ariadne auf Naxos* for the Glyndebourne Festival, the Tsar in Weill's *Der Zar Lässt Sich Photographieren*, Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutte*, and Dandini in *La Cenerentola*.

On the concert platform, engagements have included Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Bach's *St John* and *Matthew Passions*, and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*.

## OWEN LUCAS (Parpignol)

Owen Lucas is a Tenor based in Northern Ireland. Originally studying the oboe at RWCM, Owen has gone on to develop his passion for singing. He has been fortunate to be involved in the Glyndebourne Academy (2019), The Associate Artists of Northern Ireland Opera (2020) and sings regularly with St Anne's Cathedral Choir, where recently he was the soloist for the choir's performance of Stainer's Crucifixion. He recently competed at the Dublin Feis where he won the Tenor Solo section.



## DIANA ENNIS (Costume Designer)

Diana has been designing costumes for stage and screen for over a decade. Her recent Film credits are 'Nightride' filmed in Belfast over lockdown for 'Villagefilms' directed by Stephen Fingleton premiering this September. She has just completed filming on 'Silverpoint' for Zodiac kids/BBC and last year designed the costumes for NOVA JONES for JAM Media / BBC which airs this month. She has designed the costumes for numerous theatre productions in Belfast, current projects include, 'Grimms Fairytales' for Cahoots NI dir. Paul McEaney, and 'THAW' for replay productions dir. Andrew Stanford. Previous 2021 productions include Costume design - commissioned dance piece 'Turnaround' - Maiden Voyage - choreographer Jen Rooney. Set design - 'Dancing at the Disco at the End of the World' - Replay - dir. Janice Kerroghan. Set and costume design - 'Immaculate' - Tinderbox - dir. Patrick O'Reilly



# CREATIVE TEAM

## CAMERON MENZIES (Director)

Award-winning director Cameron Menzies joined Northern Ireland Opera in November 2020 mid-way through the pandemic. His career encompasses opera, theatre, music theatre, cabaret and film-making and his work has been seen throughout Australia, United Kingdom, Europe, South Africa, Japan and China. He has worked for Shakespeare's Globe, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Diva Opera UK, Opera Australia, Victorian Opera, Short Black Opera Company, Malthouse Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra & Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He is a Helpmann and Green Room Nominated director and awards include the Berlin New Music Opera award (2011), Bayreuth Opera Award for Opera Foundation Australia and a Sydney Award in 2016 for the best direction of *Pecan Summer* Australia's first Indigenous Opera. Recent credits include the short feature film: *Old Friends and Other Days*, 50th Anniversary National Australian tour of *HAIR The Original Tribal Rock Musical*, *Sister Act The Musical* at The Vaults UK, *Fluid and Under the Covers* starring Courtney Act, *Lucia di Lammermoor* UK and Australia, *Yma Sumac: The Peruvian Songbird* starring Ali McGregor, *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Bohème Die Sieben Todsünden* by Brecht/Weill starring Meow Meow and Strauss' *Salome* at the Palais Theatre. He has directed the world premieres of *Pecan Summer*, *Redfern*, *The Selfish Giant*, *CONTACT! A Netball Opera*, *The Grumpiest Boy in the World*.



## KEVIN TREACY (Lighting Designer)

Kevin is an international lighting designer in opera, theatre and dance. He is delighted to be returning to NI Opera.



For NI Opera: *The Bear*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Tosca*, *Radamisto*, *Così fan tutte*; *L'Elisir d'Amore* (with Den Norske Opera/Opera Theatre Company); *Agrippina* (with IYO); *Turn of the Screw*, (with Buxton Festival/Kolobov Novaya Theatre, Moscow); *Orpheus in the Underworld* (with Scottish Opera), *Macbeth* (with WNO), *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Turn of the Screw*, *The Magic Flute* (Nevill Holt) *Die Entführung aus dem Seraglio*, *Albert Herring* (Grange Festival); *Die Fledermaus* (Wermland Opera); *Faramondo* (Handel Festspiele, Göttingen); *Iolanta* (Operosa).

Theatre: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Lyric Hammersmith/Chichester Festival Theatre); *Killology* (Royal Court/Sherman Theatre); *Bird* (Royal Exchange/Sherman Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Weir*, *The Doll's House*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Sherman Theatre); *Unfaithful* (Traverse Theatre); *Love Billy* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *The Seafarer* (Perth Theatre/Lyric Theatre, Belfast) *The Shawshank Redemption* (Wyndhams Theatre, London/Gaiety Theatre, Dublin/Edinburgh Festival) and many others.

## REBECCA LANG (Conductor)

German-Australian conductor Rebecca Lang is one of the most versatile and vivacious artists of her generation. Ms Lang has held several positions as Conductor & Coach at theatres including Theater am Potsdamer Platz Berlin, Theater des Westens Berlin, Deutsches Theater Munich, Raimund Theater Vienna, Landestheater Flensburg, Theater Hof, Landestheater Linz, Festspielhaus Bregenz. Career highlights include Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* [Staatsoper Hamburg], Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* & Massenet's *Cendrillon* [Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne] & Stravinsky's *L'Oiseau de Feu* [Hamburger Symphoniker]. Musical Theatre highlights include *Evita*, *My Fair Lady*, *Hinterm Horizont*, *Ich War Noch Niemals In New York* & *The Rocky Horror Show*. Before accepting the Director of Music post at Leuphana University, Rebecca Lang conducted Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* and Verdi's *La Traviata* in Berlin's independent theatre scene. In 2018 Ms Lang's collaborative instrumental ensemble, the *Kreuzberger Kamerata* performed the world premiere of Cyrus Meurant's *Herakleitos* [Laeiszhalle Hamburg].



## CLAIRE MORRISSEY (Set Designer)

Frasier Hickland  
Matthew Quinn

Repetiteur  
Assistant to the Conductor  
(NI Opera Studio)  
Assistant to the Choreographer  
(NI Opera Studio)

Michael McEvoy

Pádraig Ó Duinnín  
Rory Harkin  
Eoin Lennon  
Paul Rooney  
Shane Tumilty  
Triangle Productions  
Jim and David Carson  
Bev Craig

Production Manager  
Chief Electrician  
Lighting Programmer  
Lighting Technician  
Lighting Technician  
Set Build  
Master Carpenter  
Scenic Painter

## JENNIFER ROONEY (Choreographer)

Northern Irish choreographer Jennifer Rooney trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance has worked throughout the UK and Ireland for over twenty years. She brings an eclectic mix of dance styles to her work. Choreography includes, *Old Friends and Other Days* (Film NI Opera), *Kiss Me Kate* (NI Opera), *A Christmas Carol* (The MAC); *Die Fledermaus* (NI Opera, Grand Opera House); *The Miami Showband Story* (Irish tour); *Derry Girls* (series 2); *Our House* (Greenwich Theatre); *The Elves and the Shoemaker* (Cahoots NI, The MAC); *Good Vibrations* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *A Man of High Renown* (music video); *The Hostage* (Jackson's Lane Theatre, London); *The Assistant's Revenge* (Cahoots NI, Irish tour); *Gutted* (Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury); *Much Ado about Nothing* (The Handlebards); *Gulliver's Travels* (Lyric Theatre). Work as associate movement director, *Truth* (Helen Chadwick Co. UK Tour); *Once* (The Olympia Theatre, Dublin and Charlotte Theatre, Seoul, South Korea); *Resident Movement Director*, *Once* (Phoenix Theatre, London)



Lydia Skrentny  
Zara Jackson

Deputy Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
(NI Opera Studio)  
Assistant Stage Manager

Deirbhile Larkin

Nuala Campbell  
Jeanette Tumilty

Hair and Makeup Supervisor  
Costume Supervisor

Pauline Matthew

Surtitles

## CHORUS

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### SOPRANOS

Petra Wells, Mary McCabe, Susan Shepherd

### MEZZO-SOPRANOS

Erin Kennedy (NI Opera Studio), Naomi Cantley, Tara Greene

### TENORS

Owen Lucas (NI Opera Studio), Mark Tilley, David Corr

### BARITONES

Noel Thompson, Ryan Garnham, Paul McQuillan

## DANCERS

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Jenny Long (Bohemian Dancer), Michael McEvoy,  
Katie Vaughn, Molly Vaughn

## ORCHESTRA

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### 1ST VIOLIN

Zuzanna Edmunds  
Alys Jackson  
Thomas Jackson  
Danny McCann-Williams  
Ioana Petcu-Colan

### 2ND VIOLIN

Ailbhe Clancy  
Niamh McGowan  
Nicholas Rippon  
Katherine Sung

### VIOLA

Aoife Magee  
John Murphy

### CELLO

Rosalie Curlett  
Sian Hetherington  
Andrew Nesbitt

### DOUBLE BASS

Roger McCann

### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Aisling Agnew  
Andrew Douglas

### OBOE

Erwin Shaw

### CLARINET

Damian Frame  
Gillian McCutcheon

### BASSOON

Alanna MacFarlane

### HORN

Caoime Glavin  
Peter Mullen

### TRUMPET

Phil Ferguson  
Paul Young

### TROMBONE

Paul Frost

### TIMPANI

Kieran Leonard

### PERCUSSION

Ronan McKee  
Sam Staunton

### HARP

Richard Allen

### ACCORDION

Ken Whelan

## NI OPERA

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### CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Cameron Menzies

### GENERAL MANAGER

Cliona Donnelly

### MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Julia O'Hara

### ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR

Lynda Thompson-Spack

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Caolan Keaveney

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Connlaodh McDonagh

### BOOKKEEPER

Anne Scollay

### PRESS AND MEDIA

Diana Whitehead, Fourth Wall PR

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The Harrison Chambers of Distinction  
Philipp Lang  
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Winemark  
Boxed Up Belfast  
Richard McBride  
Sean Rafferty



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