

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**operamission will present ‘Puccini’s *La Bohème*: Assembly Required’ at the Gershwin Hotel in New York, August 16-28, 2011.**

NEW YORK, New York (July 29, 2011) - ‘Puccini’s *La Bohème*: Assembly Required,’ an interactive opera event, will be presented by **operamission** and Neke Carson at the **Gershwin Hotel** on **Tuesday, August 16; Sunday, August 21; Tuesday, August 23; and Sunday, August 28**, all at 7:00 PM. This unique four-part series will afford audiences an insider’s glance into the music, the drama, the romance, and the magic of Giacomo Puccini’s beloved masterpiece, as well as a first-hand glimpse at the challenges of opera production.

Each evening of ‘Assembly Required’ will offer an in-depth exploration of a single act of *La Bohème* under the expert guidance of three hosts. **Jennifer Peterson**, director of **operamission**, will conduct a full orchestra, unrehearsed, assembled on the spot, with a cast of internationally-acclaimed singers.

Dramaturg **Cori Ellison** and Stage Directors **Eric Einhorn** (Act I - August 16), **Jonathon Field** (Acts II & III - August 21 & 23), and **Marc Verzatt** (Act IV - August 28) will join Ms. Peterson in guiding the orchestra, singers, and audience through the intriguing procedure of ‘assembling’ this classic Italian opera. Audiences are encouraged to attend any or all of the four sessions.

The sessions will be videostreamed live, inviting the element of live observation and critique via classical music bloggers and twittering journalists. **operamission** encourages observers, both in person and online, to make use of musical scores, electronic devices such as laptops and smartphones, live social media networks and non-flash photography. The resulting live miniseries will suggest the spontaneity of a master class, with the added stimulus of the entire production team being the focus. The educational angle is heightened by the participation of a vibrant operatic community in this intensive and detailed process.

‘Puccini’s *La Bohème*: Assembly Required’ will showcase a ‘tag-team’ style cast of acclaimed international operatic artists including sopranos **Roseanne Ackerley** (Mimi, Acts I & II), **Sharin Apostolou** (Musetta, Act II), **Kerri Marcinko** (Mimi, Acts III & IV), and **Caroline Worra** (Musetta, Acts III & IV); tenors **Glenn Seven Allen** (Rodolfo, Act I), and **Ryan MacPherson** (Rodolfo, Acts II-IV); baritones **James Bobick** (Marcello, Act III), **Gregory Gerbrandt** (Marcello, Act IV), **David Adam Moore** (Marcello, Act I), **Kenneth Overton** (Marcello, Act II), and **Michael Weyandt** (Schaunard); and basses **Ryan Allen** (Alcindoro), **Kevin Burdette** (Colline, Act IV), **Cory Clines** (Colline, Acts I & II), and **Lawrence Long** (Benoit).

**operamission**, bringing the art ‘from the composer to the audience,’ has established its artistic presence in the New York classical music scene with twelve presentations since March 2009. Presenting opera both of today and the past, **operamission**’s productions have ranged from concerts of Handel opera with period instruments, to cabaret, to fully-staged operatic world premieres. The groundbreaking presentation of ‘*Così fan tutte*: Some Assembly Required’ in August 2010 put the troupe on the map with its dynamic format, enriching audience awareness of opera as an accessible and vivid genre.

The Gershwin Hotel is located at 7 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street in New York. General admission is \$10, tickets available at the door.

### Contact:

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