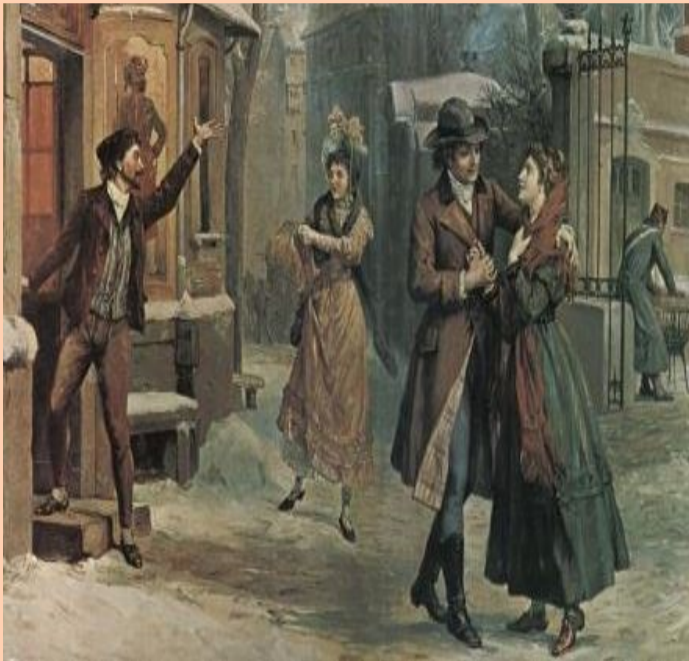


# PUCCINI'S *La Bohème*

by Elizabeth Handley



This introductory lecture is designed to prepare audiences for performances of this popular, much-loved opera. A thorough background is provided: the concept of opera is defined and the ingredients (musical components) explained. Puccini is placed into historical context and the work itself placed within the context of Puccini's life and work.

Puccini's unique musical style and characteristics is explained, including his use of signature tunes to represent the main characters, and how these tunes are manipulated in accordance with events in the story as it unfolds. Using ample musical illustrations, the plot is outlined and the main characters introduced. In conclusion there is a summary of Puccini's significance, his innovations, and the important influence he exerted on the process of operatic composition and presentation.

**Elizabeth** taught practical music, played the harpsichord and flute in various Baroque ensembles, and sang in Richard Cock's Johannesburg Choir. She was a programme compiler and music producer at the SABC, and then assistant to an impresario organising the concert tours of overseas artists throughout southern Africa. Before relocating to Sweden, she presented pre-concert talks for the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. For many years she has been teaching musical history and appreciation to adults, first in South Africa, and now also in Stockholm and London. She is an independent lecturer for The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS), United Kingdom. She currently tutors English in Stockholm and is the editor of her own online culture-travel magazine.

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**17.30–19.30**

**LTI Kramer Building,**

**Middle Campus, UCT**

**R220 (full fee); R110 (staff); R55 (student)**

*\* As a partially self-funding entity, we are obliged to charge a small fee for extension lectures. These are fixed at Summer School rates.*