



Bohème Out of the Box

Rodolfo, a poet
Marcello, a painter
Schaunard, a musician
Colline, a philosopher

Mimi, a seamstress & their neighbor
Benoît, their landlord

Musetta, a singer & Marcello's former girlfriend
Alcindoro, her new suitor

**For artist information, translations
in English and Spanish, and more,
scan this code:**



Bohème Out of The Box is performed without an intermission, with a running time of approximately 75 minutes.

The story deals with a group of artists and friends living communally and the struggle to make ends meet. And the romantic yet bittersweet love story between Rodolfo and Mimi.

It's Christmas Eve. Rodolfo and Marcello, a painter, complain about the bitter winter cold. Having run out of wood for the stove, they decide to burn Rodolfo's latest play to keep warm. They are joined by Colline and Schaunard, who brings unexpected food, wine, wood, and money. Their landlord, the greedy Benoit, arrives to collect the three months of rent they owe. They quickly devise a trick to avoid paying the rent and kick Benoit out of the house. Schaunard suggests they celebrate by going to the new hotspot in town, Momus, but Rodolfo chooses to stay behind to finish an article he's working on.

Mimi, an upstairs neighbor, knocks at the door after her candle goes out. Rodolfo invites her in, and she faints briefly (she is seriously ill). As Mimi starts to leave, she realizes she has also lost her keys. While they search the room, their hands touch, and suddenly they develop an attraction. Rodolfo tells Mimi about his work as a poet and his dreams. In turn, she tells him of her quiet and reserved life as a seamstress. They declare their love for each other and leave to join Rodolfo's friends at Momus. On the way, Rodolfo buys Mimi a pink hat before introducing her to his friends.

Marcello's former girlfriend, Musetta, makes a grand entrance, followed by her wealthy new lover Alcindoro. Marcello ignores her but Musetta is determined to get his attention. She taunts Marcello mercilessly and sends Alcindoro away on a pretext, before falling into Marcello's arms. They make up and go away together. Mimi and Rodolfo decide to also return home, and it seems that happiness is in store for them.

Several weeks have gone by and Mimi's health has worsened. She and Rodolfo have been fighting a lot and their relationship has soured. Rodolfo leaves abruptly and stumbles upon his friend Marcello. Rodolfo confesses his real feelings: he knows Mimi is dying, and he has no means to help her. He is consumed with guilt and doesn't know what to do. Mimi accidentally overhears their conversation and is discovered by Rodolfo. Mimi declares their liaison is over but that she has no animosity against him. Rodolfo tries hard to persuade her against leaving and, eventually, they decide to wait until spring arrives to part.

A couple of months have passed. Nobody has heard from Mimi, and everybody is worried. The friends attempt to forget reality by goofing around but, just as their fun gets going, Musetta bursts in. Mimi is with her and is dying. They all rush to comfort Mimi, and Musetta and Marcello leave to buy medicine and find a doctor. Mimi and Rodolfo reaffirm their love. Amid the general sorrow and concern, Mimi dies. An inconsolable Rodolfo cries out her name.

Synopsis by Jose Maria Condemi. Illustration by Brian Stauffer.

