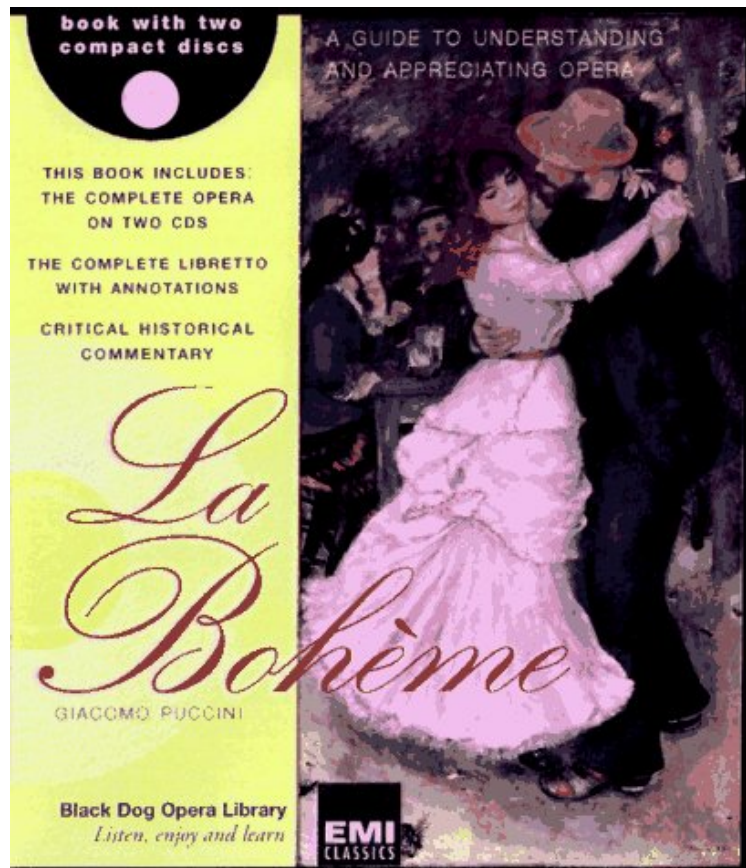


(Library ebook) La Bohme (Black Dog Opera Library)

## La Bohme (Black Dog Opera Library)

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**From Brand: Black Dog Leventhal Publishers : La Bohme (Black Dog Opera Library)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised La Bohme (Black Dog Opera Library):

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The Black Dog Music Library presents Giacomo Puccini's La Bohme, featuring Nicolai Gedda, Mirella Freni, and

Mario Sereni and the Coro e Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, under the direction of Thomas Schippers. An Angel/EMI compact disc set, accompanied by the complete libretto with unabridged English translations and minute-by-minute commentary and information on the composer, the music, and the performance.

.com Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, a bittersweet story of love and loss among the youthful Bohemians of Paris's Left Bank, has long been a major portal to lyric theater. Countless operatic novices have been won over by its seductive combination of ravishing tunes and a classic, tragic love story: boy meets girl, boy wins girl, boy loses girl, girl dies. *La Bohème* is one of those seemingly foolproof operas that can survive any number of performance disasters, from dreadful directorial concepts to bad casting and abysmal conducting, and still come out all right. The story of the little seamstress Mimi; her lover, the poet Rodolfo; and the painter Marcello and his inflammatory relationship with Musetta, a lady of negotiable virtue, has staying power that is lifted by Puccini's melodic gift. In the Black Dog Opera Library we have a useful new tool for operatic education. *La Bohème*, like the rest of the volumes in the Library, offers a good-looking, well-made book with an informative introductory essay about the composer and the work, lots of pictures, and a complete libretto in Italian and English. There is even a complete recording of the opera, featuring a cast of name singers. In this particular case, the recording is the 1963 EMI/Angel version that was remastered in 1991. The Italian soprano Mirella Freni--surely the outstanding Mimi of our time--sings irresistibly; she is well-matched by the strong Rodolfo of the great Swedish tenor Nicolai Gedda and the macho Marcello of Mario Sereni. One unfortunate weakness of this set is that the names of the other performers aren't given, and they ought to be. One will have to check a guide to recordings to discover that Mariella Adani is the Musetta, Ferruccio Mazzoli enacts the touching Colline, and Mario Basiola Jr. is Schaunard. All are energetically conducted by the late Thomas Schippers. "A madly brilliant reimagining" \* \* \* \*The Times" "This is Puccini without a safety net and it works" \* \* \* \*Evening Standard" "Transfers effortlessly from 1830s Paris to contemporary London... in Norton-Hale's canny translation, the words and notes both make their mark this is about as real as verismo gets. The Guardian" "A riotous coup de thre that fizzles with fun and fabulousness... *A Bohème* quite unlike any other - \* \* \* \* "The Metro" "Robin Norton-Hales sharp, demotic translation... seems set fair to bring Puccini's indestructible masterpiece to many more punters, opera fans and neophytes alike... charted with an immediacy that one does not always get in a larger house... intensely affecting" \* \* \* \* "Evening Standard