

OPERA EXPLAINED

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of the major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

An Introduction to... PUCCINI *La Bohème*

written by **Thomson Smillie**
narrated by **David Timson**

La Bohème is one of three operas – the others are *Carmen* and *Aida* – believed to be the most popular ever written. In the case of *La Bohème* the reason is that it virtually defines the term ‘romantic’. The poignant story of Mimi and Rodolfo is told in music of such tender beauty, allied, as always, to Puccini’s intuition of what works in the theatre, resulting in an opera that readily appeals to our emotions and senses.

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