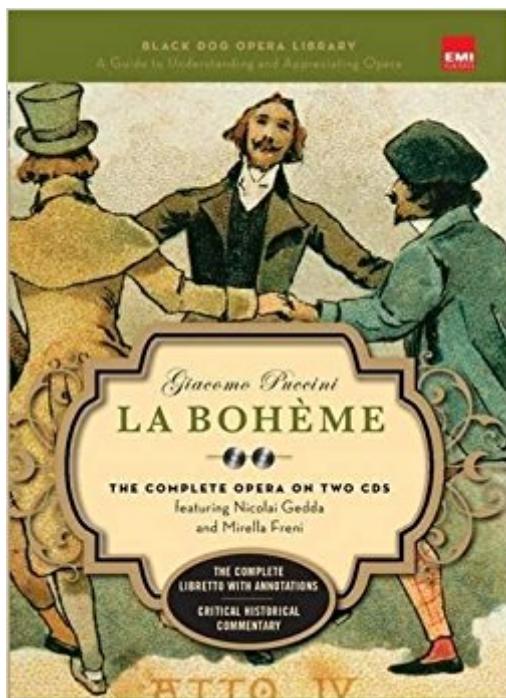


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# La Boheme (Book And CD's): Black Dog Opera Library



## Synopsis

The Black Dog Opera Library is the best, easiest and most informative and budget-friendly way to enjoy four of the greatest operas of all time. Finally available again, and packaged with gorgeous new covers, each book in the library includes the complete opera on 2 CDs, featuring world-class performances and orchestras; the complete libretto, plus its English translation; an exciting history of the opera; a biography of the composer; a synopsis of the story, broken down by act and scene; and dozens of photographs and drawings depicting performances, singers, sets, costumes, and more. *La Bohème* features Nicolai Gedda and Mirella Freni, with Thomas Schippers conducting the *Orchestra e Coro del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma*. Also available: *Carmen* features Grace Bumbry, Jon Vickers, Mirella Freni, and Kostas Paskalis, with Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducting the *Orchestra of the Théâtre National de l'Opéra*. *La Traviata* features Beverly Sills, Nicolai Gedda, and Rolando Panerai, with Aldo Ceccato conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; *The Marriage of Figaro* features Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Heather Harper, Judith Blegen, Geraint Evans, Teresa Berganza, and Birgit Nilsson, with Daniel Barenboim conducting the English Chamber Orchestra. Listen. Enjoy. Learn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tosca is an opera in three acts by Giacomo Puccini based on the Victorien Sardou's dramatic play *La Tosca*. *Tosca* is dramatic and beautiful. To this day it is one of the most frequently performed

operas.

I bought this book and CD set years ago to learn the opera *LA BOHEME*. The beautifully illustrated book includes a history of the opera and of Puccini's career, a clearly printed and annotated libretto in Italian and English, and information on the conductor and the principal singers. The 1963 recording is a fine one, dominated by the partnership of Nicolai Gedda and Mirella Freni as Rodolfo and Mimi. Gedda has a pure, even tenor and a delightful sense of humor too often missing from portrayals of Rodolfo. I also like his sad sigh in the last act just before Mimi dies: it's a refreshing change from the outright weeping usually heard at this point in the opera. Freni lights up the performance with her luminous, youthful lyric soprano. The supporting cast is all-Italian and makes a good team. However, only Ferruccio Mazzoli as a Colline sympathetic in his Coat Song really stands out; despite his fine baritone, Mario Sereni does not project Marcello's humor and compassion as strongly as I would like. Maestro Thomas Schippers paces the opera nicely. This book and CD set is a wonderful bargain for anyone wanting to learn *LA BOHEME*. Check out the other Black Dog Opera Library sets, too.

I found this opera guide very succinct and helpful in understanding some of the intricate details of this opera. As a novice in opera I loved how it explains historical facts about the composer and librettists; it provides the timing sequence when reading through the Libretto so that you know exactly what is happening at any distinct time period during the opera. There are also notes on each main aria to help the listener understand the underlying meaning of some of the events and phrases used. In addition, it highlights some of its famous performers over the past decades. I will definitely enjoy seeing this opera much more because there is so much more to appreciate than just the performance itself! I plan on collecting the rest of this series for other operas as well. An additional positive accolade is the price for this little treasure.

A great story about a great people. Must see.

My wife and I are relatively new to opera fans. We now own many DVD's from our favorite operas productions. The Black Dog Opera books are outstanding. They allow you to learn a lot more about a particular opera, its composer, the libretto and to appreciate that much more the music. I think they are a must to anyone who likes opera, will like to learn more about opera or wants to add to their enjoyment of opera. They are a great way to introduce specially young people to opera.

Short synopsis of the storyline, history of the creation of the piece and a great recorded version of the opera

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