

La bohème

La bohème is Puccini's fourth opera, his most lyrical and best-loved. It has it all: love, sentiment and death and paints a wonderful scene of street life and icy Parisian dawns. This is Puccini at his most romantic and charming.

La bohème - Insight Evening

When first staged audiences were taken aback by this picture of contemporary lowlife and, comically and unbelievably, the papers said 'not stimulating enough to be heard often'. Want to know more? All will be revealed by OAB's music director in this illustrated talk featuring some of the cast as he blazes a trail through the opera's history. A 'must-see' evening in preparation for our performances in July!

Le villi

Puccini's first opera *Le Villi* or to give it its English title *The Witch Dancers* was hurriedly completed for a competition and was unplaced. However, his own teacher, Ponchielli, saw the potential in his student's work and arranged for it to be performed at the Teatro Del Verme in Milan in 1884.

It is a work of powerful melodies and dramatic choruses and within it we can hear the influences of Verdi and Wagner as Puccini works to establish his own musical identity.

Opera at Bearwood is presenting a concert performance of this opera using a rare English translation from 1897, and this is possibly a first performance since then. It is the simple story of Roberto who leaves his betrothed Anna to claim an inherited fortune with a promise to return, only to break her heart by squandering it on good living. She dies of a broken heart but is avenged by the witch-dancers when Roberto returns to find her, only to meet his own death in a furious dance. This is a night not to be missed.

You are cordially invited to picnic 'Glyndebourne-style' in the picturesque grounds of Bearwood College (designated area only please) from 5pm every evening, prior to curtain-up.

There are concessions for those aged 60 and over, for children, and for bookings of 10 or more seats.

Send with cheque made payable to *Opera at Bearwood* to Alan Williams, OAB Box Office, 10 Stowmarket Close, Lower Earley Reading, RG6 3UA. Box Office 0118 926 2394 Email: alan@operaatbearwood.org.uk Website: www.operaatbearwood.org.uk

If you don't include postage we will hold the tickets for you at the box office for collection.

Notes: You may pay by card by phoning the box office.

* To qualify for a free child seat each child must be accompanied by two adults.

Please enter below

Your phone number:

To reduce our costs we invite you to add your email address

Email:

Your name and address for return of tickets

Day & Date	Price	No.	Value
Insight evening Thursday 7 June	all seats £15.00		
Performance Tuesday 10 July	£19.00		
	Concession £15.00		
Performance Wednesday 11 July	£19.00		
Le villi Thursday 12 July	No concessions		
	£10.00		
Performance Friday 13 July	£19.00		
Performance Saturday 14 July	£19.00		
Children under 16 *	Free		
Concession for 10 or more	Cheapest price seat		Deduct £
	Postage		£0.60
	Total		