

"La Bohème" á la Russe and the Puccini Politics of Late Nineteenth-Century Russia

Haldey, Olga . Opera Journal Vol. 37, Iss. 4, (Dec 2004): 3-19.

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

The production history of Giacomo Puccini's opera "La Bohème" in late nineteenth-century Russia is examined. Haldey notes that in Russia, several aspects of the work's reception were related to its style of music, while perhaps more significantly, some aspects "were conditioned by the idiosyncrasies of the local theater market rattled by a radical shift in aesthetic and cultural politics of the country." The opera was premiered in Russia by the Moscow Private Opera on January 12, 1897. The premiere, sponsored and directed by Savva Mamontov, attracted much critical interest. However, the reviews were devastating, and the three groups of operatic critics - conservatives, nationalists, and modernists - all panned the work. Audience interest gradually drowned out negative criticism and ticket sales increased. Reviewers then began focusing on Mamontov's staging instead of criticizing inadequacies of the score.

FULL TEXT

DETAILS

Location:	Russia
Narrow subject:	Russian opera performance, Opera history, Production history, Premieres, Opera directors & producers, Reviews, Opera criticism, Audiences, Failure, Success, Aesthetics, Culture
Broad subject:	Opera-Productions, Performing Arts History
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