

THE FLORENTINE OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS:

Bronzeville Bohème for Schools



The
Florentine
Opera

The vibrant and financially self-sustaining Bronzeville neighborhood (Milwaukee's sixth ward), of the 40's and 50's, was home to many African Americans who migrated North for employment. These families and businesses worked hard to support themselves and build community during the era of Jim Crow laws and redlining. Bronzeville provided everything for a fresh start: gainful employment, a home, a bank, church, parks, markets, schools, and entertainment. It was a city within the city.

It's this Bronzeville that is the stage for our re-imagined Puccini' classic. This tragic story of Rodolpho and his love Mimi explores themes of friendship, love, poverty, artistic expression, and loss. This opera is best known for gorgeous melody, humor, and the life cycle of love. Our stage director, Sheri Williams Pannell, grew up in Bronzeville. She brings this story to life in a half-hour story for younger audiences.



"As a native of Milwaukee who loves celebrating her hometown, this is a project for which I was created!"

SHERI
WILLIAMS
PANNELL



THE PUCCINI PASSPORT

To create a true curriculum around the show, we have created videos that discuss the history and significance of Milwaukee's Bronzeville neighborhood, as well as a look behind the scenes into the making of the production.

You will meet Director and Writer Sheri Williams Pannell, who grew up in Bronzeville, and learn about the great history of the neighborhood and how the amazing community thrived despite the segregation and redlining of the era.

Explore our great singers performing the arias and ensembles that are used in the show, including a special clip of Cab Calloway.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Interested in a live Q&A with the performers?

Please contact our Education & Community Engagement Manager, John Stumpff, at jstumpff@florentineopera.org

Learn more at florentineopera.org/operaforschools