

Opera Funtime



PRESENTS GIACOMO PUCCINI'S

LA BOHÈME

Opera Funtime Collection

The Abduction from the Seraglio.....	Mozart
Aida.....	Verdi
The Barber of Seville	Rossini
La bohème	Puccini
Carmen.....	Bizet
La Cenerentola	Rossini
Così fan tutte.....	Mozart
Cristoforo Colombo	Franchetti
Don Giovanni.....	Mozart
Faust.....	Gounod
Die Fledermaus	J. Strauss
Hansel and Gretel.....	Humperdinck
Idomeneo.....	Mozart
Madame Butterfly	Puccini
The Magic Flute	Mozart
The Marriage of Figaro.....	Mozart
Otello	Verdi
Pagliacci.....	Leoncavallo
Rigoletto.....	Verdi
Roméo et Juliette.....	Gounod
The Tales of Hoffmann	Offenbach
Tosca	Puccini
La traviata.....	Verdi
Turandot	Puccini

Copyright ©1985 and 2007 by Young Patronesses of the Opera, Inc. (YPO)

All rights reserved by YPO, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission from YPO, Inc. For information and additional copies write Opera Funtime, c/o YPO, Inc., at Florida Grand Opera, Doral Center 8390 NW 25th Street, Miami, FL 33122

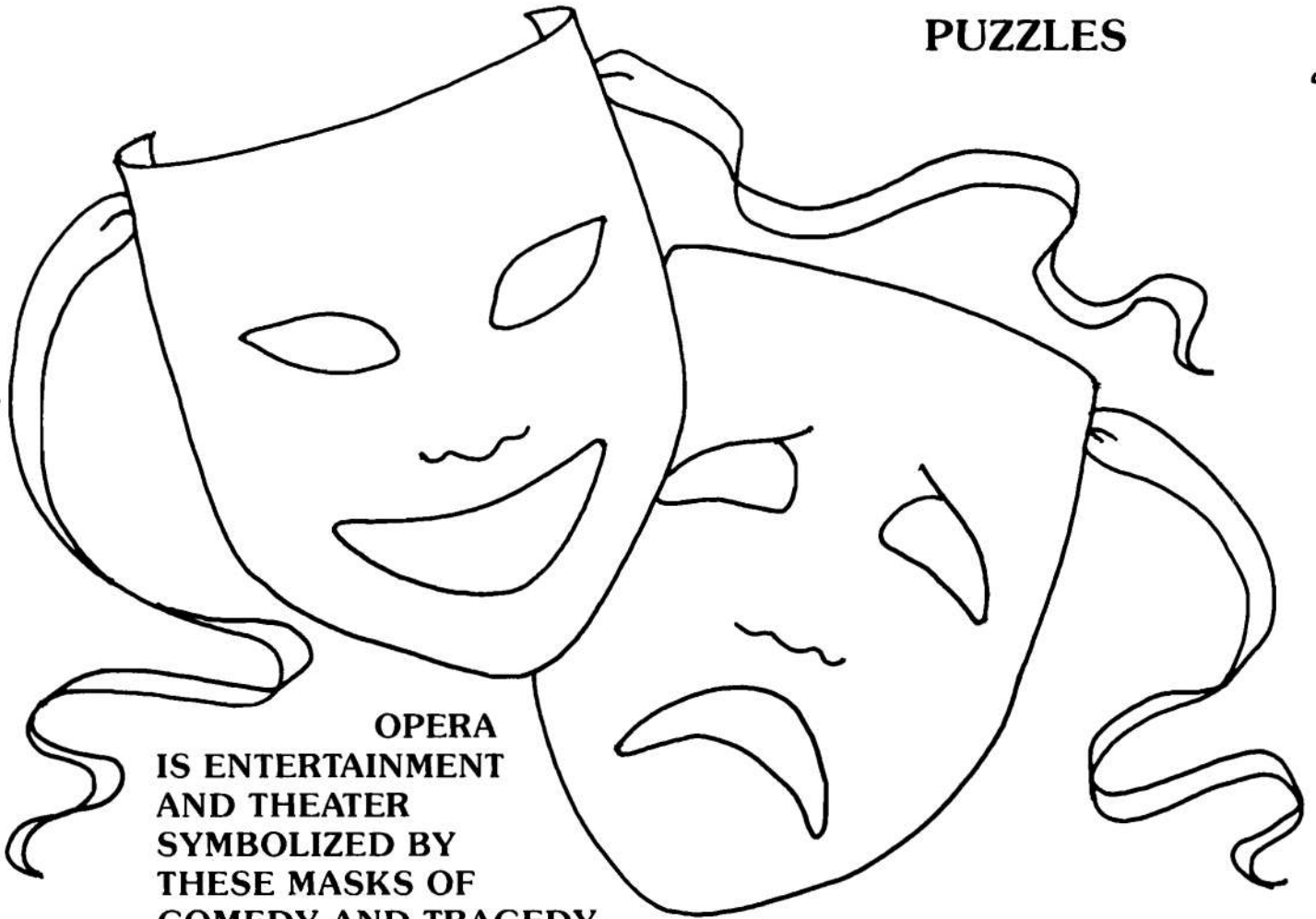
Funding is provided by YPO and The Junior Opera Guild (JOG)

ISBN 978-0-9785364-3-6

ISBN 0-9785364-3-6

A CHILDREN'S INTRODUCTION TO OPERA

**FEATURING MUSIC • DRAMA • COLORING
TRIVIA • POETRY • GAMES
HIDDEN OBJECTS
PUZZLES**



**OPERA
IS ENTERTAINMENT
AND THEATER
SYMBOLIZED BY
THESE MASKS OF
COMEDY AND TRAGEDY**

Illustrated by Valerie Mydske and produced by the following members of the Education Committee of the Young Patronesses of the Opera:

Roberta Rymer Balfe, Susan Becker, Elaine Brockhouse, Maria Carbonell, Mary Immer, Susanne Kayyali, Jacquelin Major, Louise Todaro, Linda Wellenhofer, and Michele Wiseheart.

Each page has a "key" Trivia question for you to answer or work out.

1

GIACOMO PUCCINI

(1858-1924)



"I am only going to write for the theater," said Puccini when he was eighteen years old. He and his friends had walked twenty miles from Lucca, his home town, to Pisa, Italy, to see Verdi's opera *Aïda*. He was deeply moved by the experience.

He went to Milan, the opera capital of Italy, and lived the arty, Bohemian life of a poor but talented student. He once pawned his only coat to take a girl to dinner.

La Bohème is one of Puccini's most famous operas. When asked to write for an Italian opera house, he adapted a story by Henri Murger about the Bohemian life in Paris around 1830. His characters followed the life style he himself had experienced as a young student in Milan.

Puccini engaged two librettists. Luigi Illica wrote the colorful scenario (outline of the play action). Guiseppe Giacosa wrote the verse. Puccini worked with them for two years to make sure the lines were perfect. Then for the next eight months he worked on composing the music to go with the words.

Puccini became famous in his own lifetime with the success of not only *La Bohème*, but of many other popular operas including *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot*. His marvelous ability to translate a story into musical drama did indeed make him a "Man of the Theater."

2

Find thirty 3 and 4-letter words in the composer's name.

THE MAN AND HIS OPERA

PARIS *
SETTING FOR LA BOHÈME

FRANCE

PREMIER
OF LA BOHÈME
1896

* MILAN

WHERE PUCCINI STUDIED
1880—1883

* TURIN

PUCCINI BORN — 1858

* LUCCA

* PISA

SAW AÏDA
1876

ITALY



Puccini with Giacosa and Illica,
his Librettists

(1) Who wrote the scenario? (2) Who wrote the
verse? (3) Who wrote the music for *La Bohème*?

3

THE CAST OF



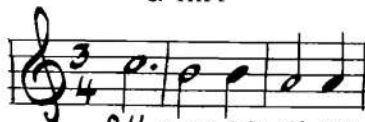
RODOLFO
a poet



I am a po-et



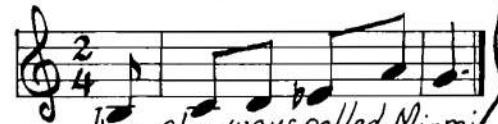
MUSETTA
a flirt



All eyes are on me



MIMI
a seamstress



I'm al-ways called Mi-mi



These musical captions are taken directly from the Vocal Score.

4

How old was Puccini when he decided to become a composer of operas?

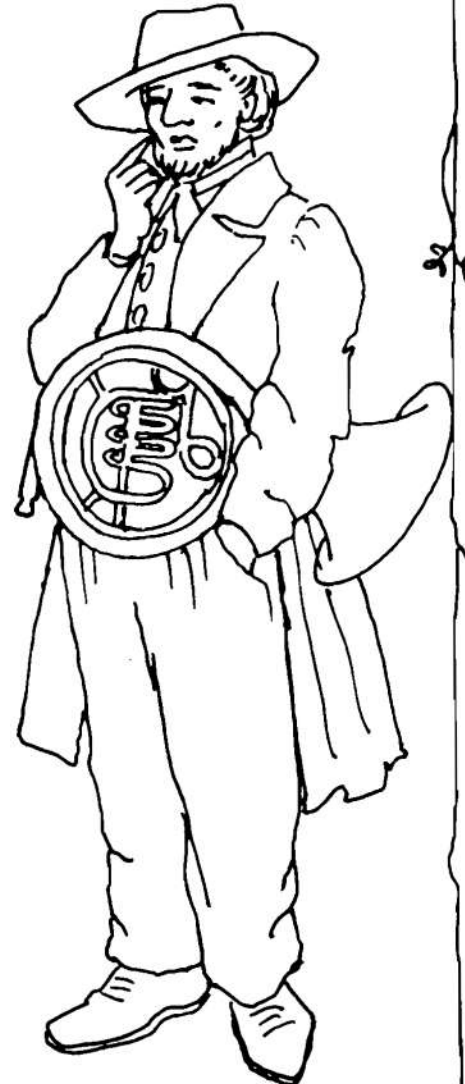
CHARACTERS



COLLINE
a philosopher
"Look at this rare
book!"



MARCELLO
an artist
"Whatever made me paint
this picture of the
Red Sea today?"



SCHAUNARD
a musician
"Listen! That
horn's off key!"

These excerpts are taken directly
from the actor's lines in the Libretto.



Which book do the singers study to learn their
parts?



ACT I

The scene is a cold attic studio room,
 A poet and painter, alone in their gloom.
 With so little money, and nothing to eat,
 Rodolfo is burning his papers for heat!

BOHEMIAN THEME:

Allegro vivace (fast, lively)



6

Find the key which Mimi lost.

Two roommates, Colline and Schaunard, help them out;
With food, fuel, and money they party and shout!
When the landlord Benoit comes to ask for their rent,
They ply him with wine and don't give him a cent!

When everyone leaves for the Café Momus,
Rodolfo tries writing, but finds it no use.
The beautiful Mimi appears at his door
(to relight her candle) and faints on his floor!

MIMI:

Andante lento (moderately slow)



RODOLFO:

Andante sostenuto (slow, sustained)



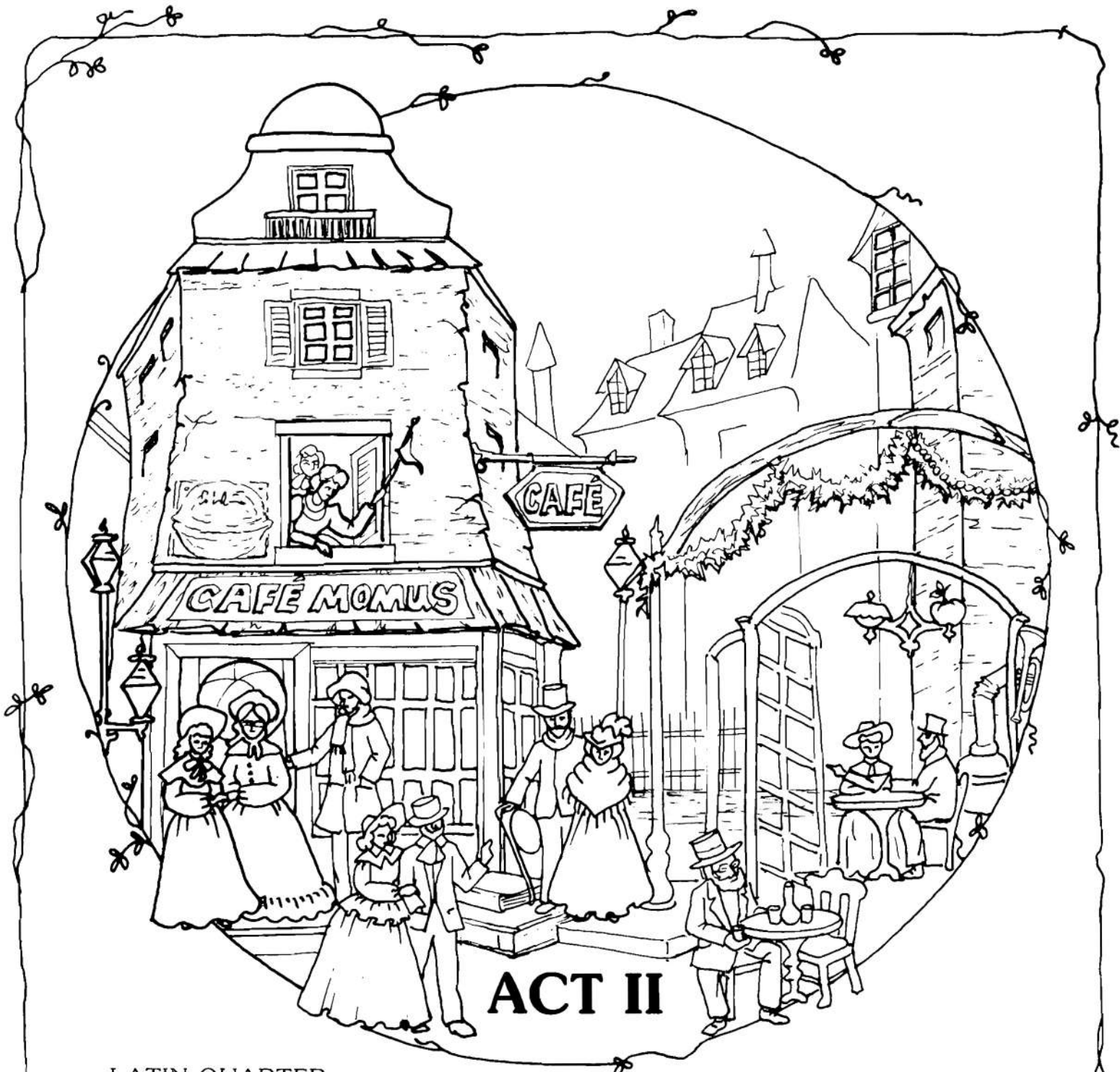
Together they search for the key she can't find;
Their candles go out; and their hearts are entwined!
By moonlight they sing of their past lonely lives,
Then go from the attic with stars in their eyes.

LOVE DUET I:



What is Mimi's real name?

7



ACT II

LATIN QUARTER:
Allegro focolo (fast, with spirit)



In the bright "Latin Quarter" the old buddies meet
For fun and excitement and good things to eat.
They talk, and they shop, and they laugh time away,
And then sit down for supper outside the café.

8

Find a hidden trumpet, an apple, a ball, a banana,
a necklace, an egg, a book, and a nut.

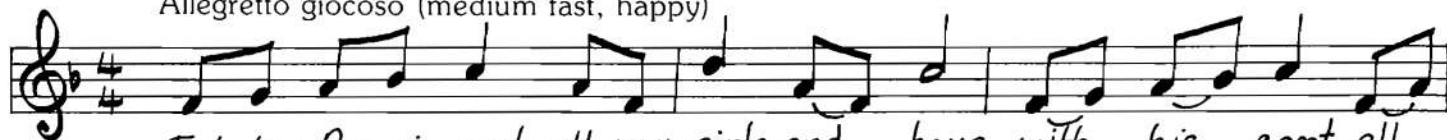


Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet in town;
 After meeting his friends the proud couple sit down.
 Around them are frolicking lasses and boys
 On the heels of the vendor, who's selling them toys.



PARPIGNOL:

Allegretto giocoso (medium fast, happy)

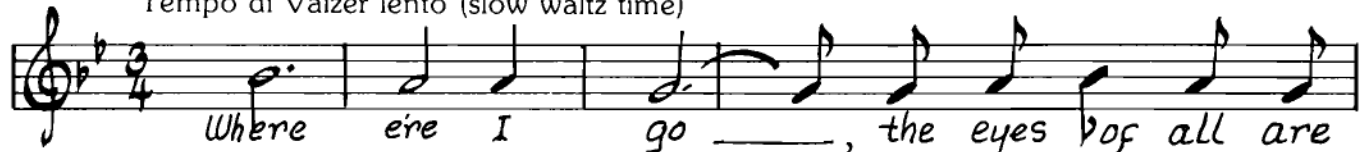


The naughty Musetta, Marcello's old flame,
 Arrives with a man, Alcindoro by name.
 She sends Alcindoro to buy her a shoe
 So that she, by her singing, Marcello might woo!

What present did Rodolfo give to Mimi?

MUSETTA'S WALTZ:

Tempo di Valzer lento (slow waltz time)



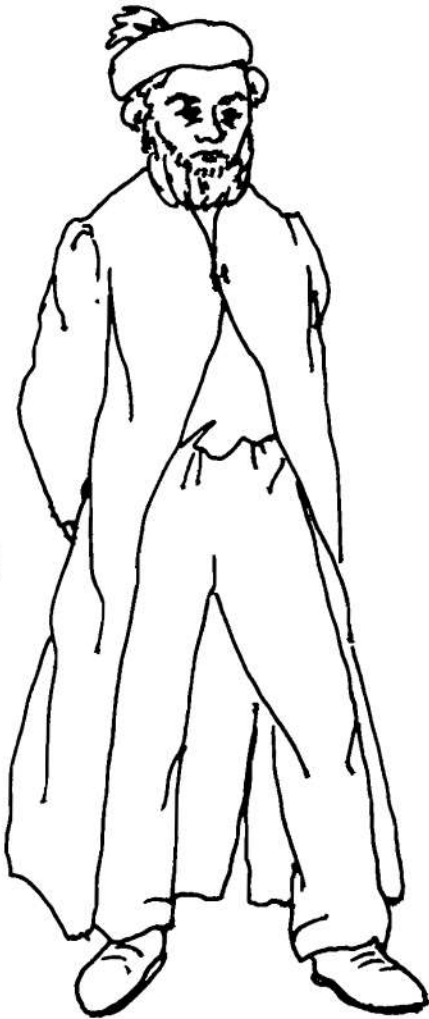
Alcindoro returns, but the friends have long gone;
The sound of the troops marching by drew them on.
They've left the old man with a pair of new shoes
And a bill to be paid for their supper and booze!

MILITARY MARCH:

Alla marcia (like a march)



Here are three additional
CHARACTERS
from Acts I and II



BENOIT
a landlord
(Bass)



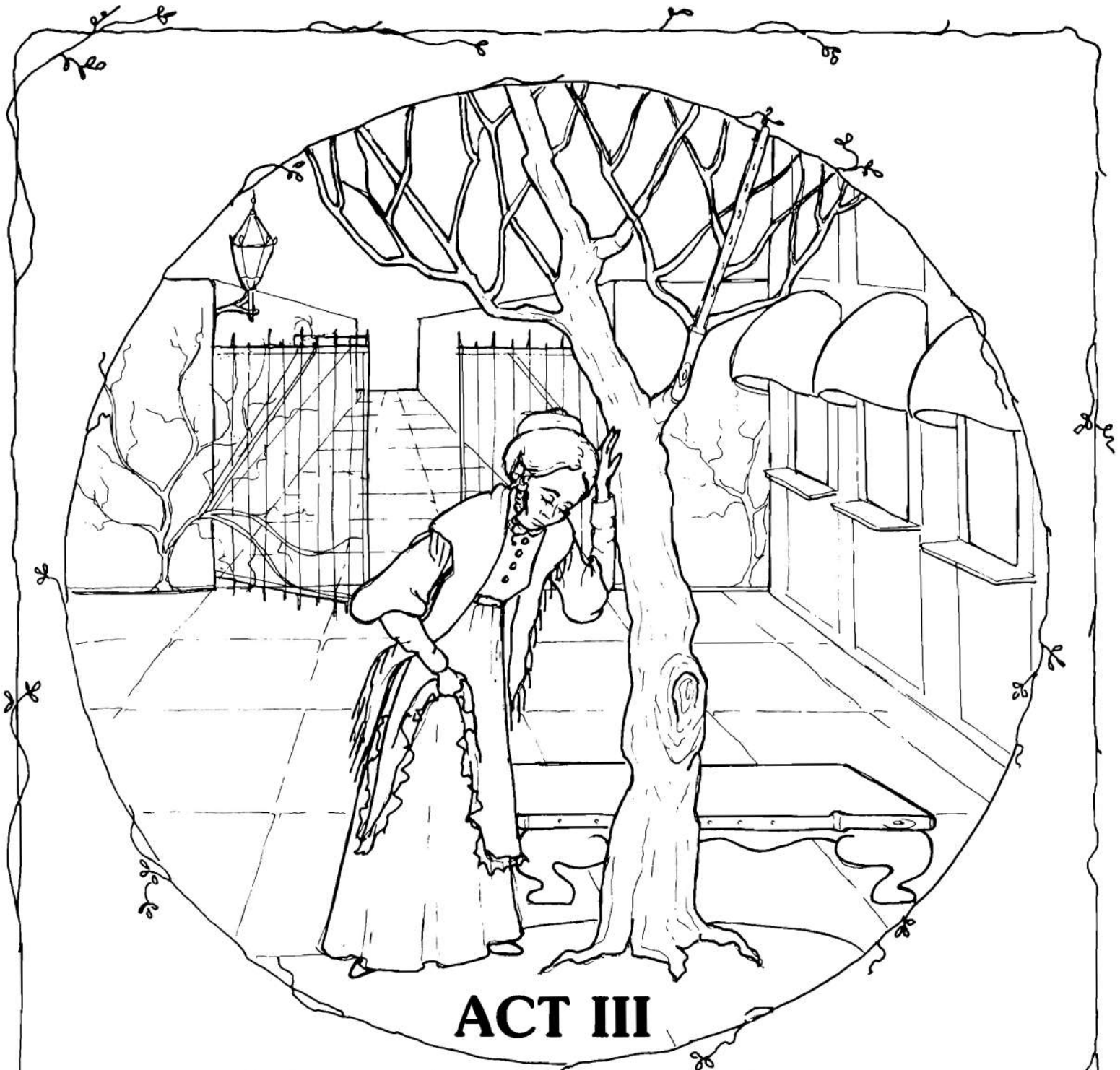
PARPIGNOL
a toymaker
(Tenor)



ALCINDORO
Musetta's "puppy dog"
(Bass)

The same person usually sings the roles of Benoit and Alcindoro. Both characters have the same type of voice and do not appear on stage at the same time.

In which act does Benoit appear?
In which act does Alcindoro appear?



ACT III

It's dawn on the cold, icy streets of the town;
A figure is standing, her head hanging down.
From inside the tavern warm laughter we hear;
While Mimi waits outside in sickness and fear.

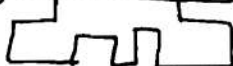
WINTER THEME:

Andantino mosso (rather slowly)



12

Find the harp and two flutes that play the Winter Theme for this scene.



Rodolfo's mad jealousy drove them apart;
But now to Marcello he opens his heart.
It seems that her faithfulness wasn't at stake;
It's Mimi's poor health he's unable to take!

She hears in Rodolfo's own words that he's sure
She'll die of this terrible ill he can't cure.
He cannot provide for her comfort or health
Because of his lack of possessions and wealth.

Meanwhile, Musetta, the fickle coquette,
Has broken the heart of Marcello, her pet.
They argue and fight and they cause quite a scene
by shouting abuses and charges so mean!

In contrast to all of this unhappy score,
Rodolfo and Mimi find rapture* once more.
The two lovers kiss, and are drawn in their pain
To stay with each other 'til spring comes again.

LOVE DUET II:

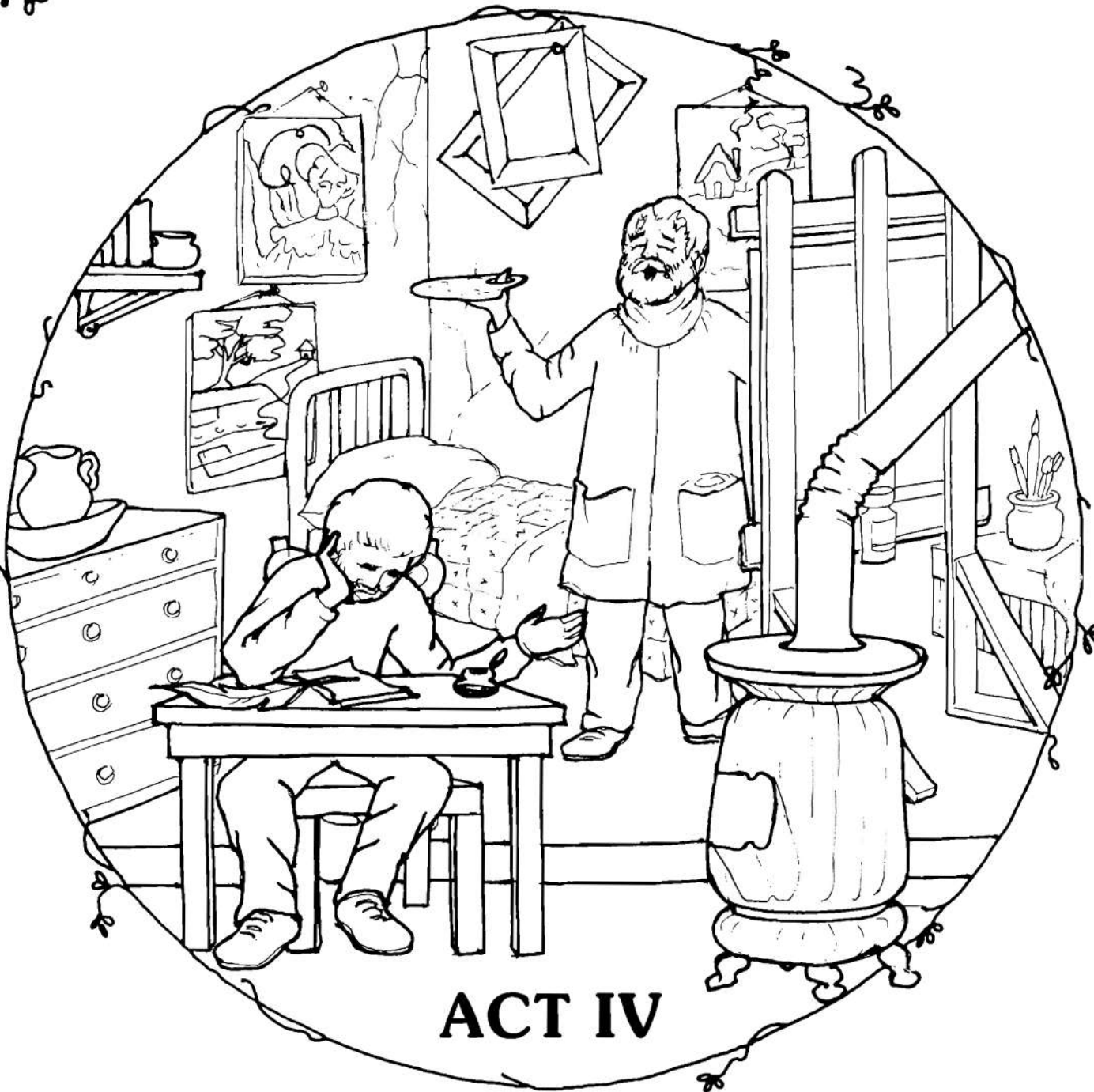
Più lento (more slowly)



W'e'll stay to - ge - ther 'til Win - ter's o - ver and the Springtime comes a - gain.

* joy and delight

- (1) Who's sick? (2) Who's poor? (3) Who's flirting?
(4) Who was jilted?



ACT IV

The scene once again is the cold attic room;
The poet and painter alone in their gloom.
Marcello is missing Musetta each day;
And Rodolfo for Mimi is pining* away.

*longing for

14

Find a hidden muff, a coat, a glass, a loaf of bread, and a jar of medicine.

They try hard to work with their paintbrush and pen,
 but can't concentrate, so give up in the end.
 Their two friends, Colline and Schaunard, come at last
 Bringing herring and bread meant to break off their fast.

DANCING THEME:

Sostenuto

La - la - la, La - la - la, La - la - la - La; La - la - la, La - la - la, La - la - la - La

They party, pretending the bread is a feast;
 With one glass between them, they're dining, at least!
 They laugh, and they dance, and they cause quite a din;
 When all of a sudden Musetta runs in!

fff *suddenly pp*

It's serious; Mimi is waiting below;
 Her coughing has worsened, it seems she may go.
 They carry her up to the sofa to rest,
 And rally to help her the way each thinks best.

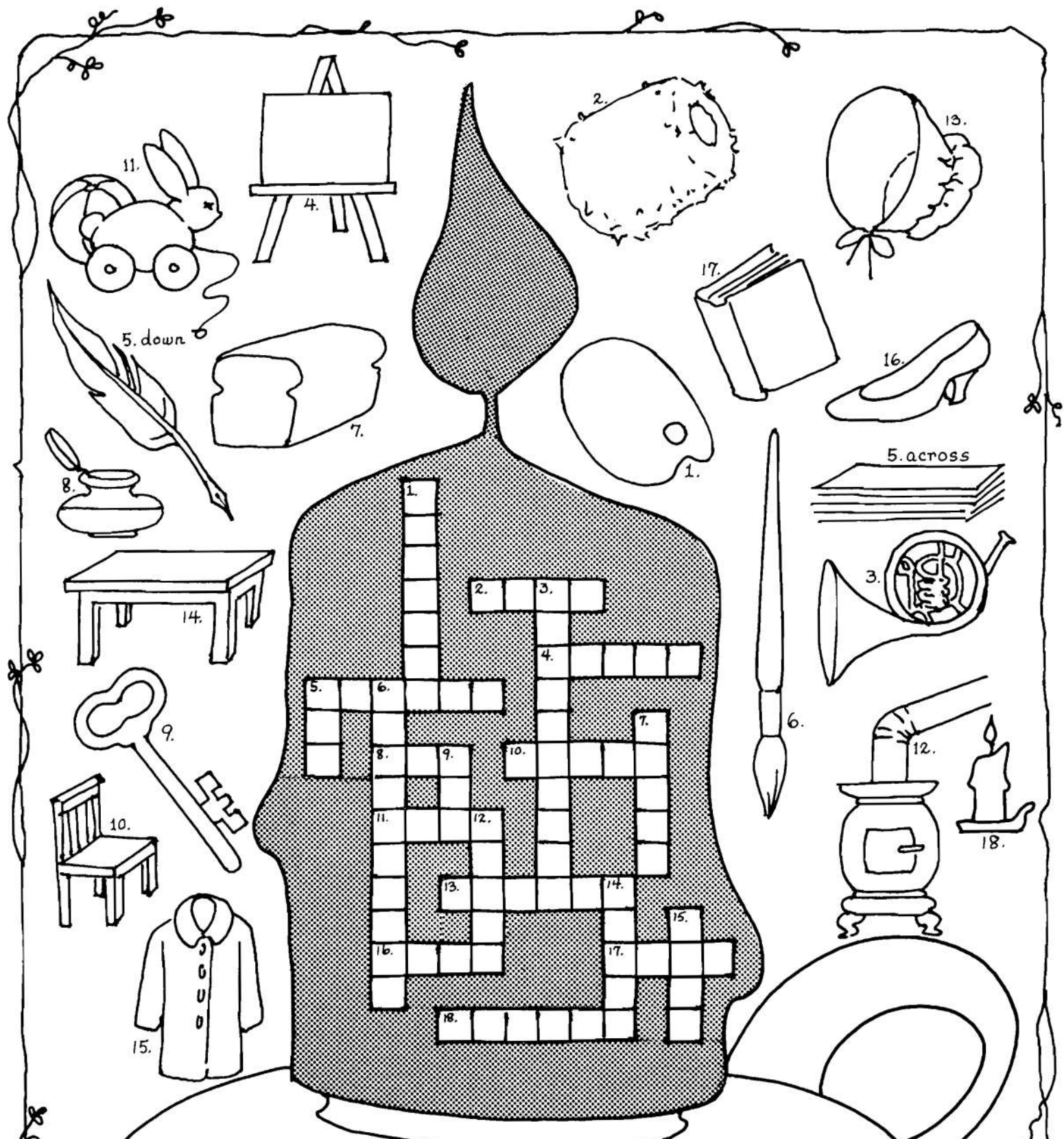
Musetta gives Mimi a muff to keep warm;
 And Colline sells the coat carried over his arm.
 Thus surrounded by love, Mimi closes her eyes;
 Content with her sweetheart, she quietly dies.

DEATH MUSIC:

Largo sostenuto (slow and sustained)

p *ff* *pp* *pppp*

Where in this poem do you see a dramatic contrast between happiness and sadness?



PROP PUZZLE

A stage prop is part of the set (such as furniture).
 A hand prop is carried and used by the actors.

16

Complete this crossword puzzle by naming the props shown.



ACT IT OUT

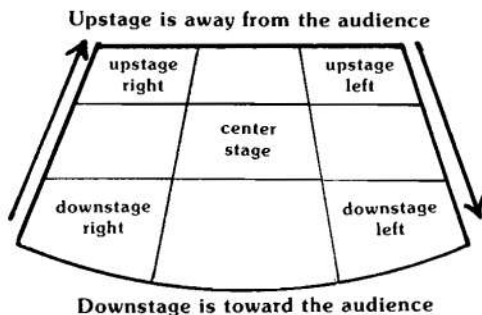
LA BOHÈME

ACT II — Café Momus — Christmas Eve, 1830

Cast Your Actors

Rodolfo
Mimi
Fruit Vendor
Pastry Vendor
Schaunard
Marcello
Colline
Parpignol
Musetta
Alcindoro
Waiter

Townsppeople: (Children, soldiers, students, shopkeepers, police)



Collect Your Props

Small Tables and Chairs
Bonnet
Trumpet
Fruit on Tray
Pastry on Tray
Wine and Food on Tray
Toy Cart
Toys
New Shoes in Package
Baton
Drums
Horns for Soldiers
Waiter's Bill

(Café Momus is located downstage right. Crowds of townspeople are milling around. Rodolfo and Mimi, strolling stage left, stop in front of a hat shop.)

Rodolfo: DO YOU LIKE THAT PRETTY BONNET?

Mimi: OH YES!

Rodolfo: COME! LET'S GO IN AND BUY IT! (They disappear in shop)

Fruit Vendor: (Enter stage left) BANANAS, APPLES, HOT ROASTED NUTS!

Pastry Vendor: (Enter stage right) PASTRY, FRUIT CAKE, HOT BREADS!
(Vendors continue to stroll through the crowd)

Schaunard: (Upstage left, at the music shop, buying horn — blows the horn several times)
LISTEN TO THIS! IT'S OFF-KEY (Bargains with vendor, buys horn, crosses downstage right, sits at table in front of Café Momus)

Marcello: (Enters downstage left, joins Schaunard at table, motions to waiter)
PLEASE! FOOD AND WINE FOR US BOTH
(Waiter takes order, disappears)

SCHAUNARD! JUST LOOK AT THOSE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADIES PASSING BY. THERE MUST BE ONE WAITING FOR ME!

Colline: (Appears upstage right with book in his hand. Crosses to downstage right)
MY FRIENDS, LOOK AT THIS RARE BOOK ON PHILOSOPHY
(Sits at table with his friends)

(Mimi and Rodolfo come from hat shop, cross to downstage right)
HERE'S RODOLFO OUR GREAT POET!

Rodolfo: THIS IS MIMI! YOU CAN SEE SHE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL! (Rodolfo helps Mimi into a chair and sits next to her)

Schaunard: WAITER! WHERE IS THE FOOD WE ORDERED?

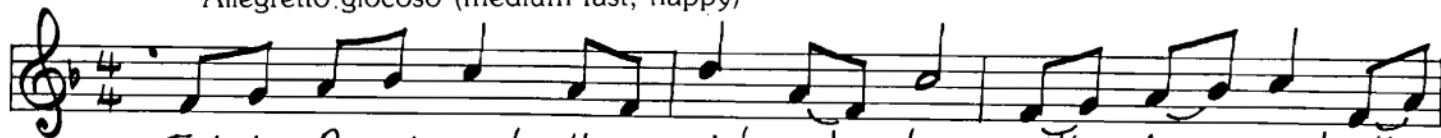
Marcello: AND THE WINE PLEASE! (Waiter quickly supplies both)

In the props list above, circle the stage props and underline the hand props.

Parpignol: (Enters upstage left with toy cart, followed by many children)

PARPIGNOL and CHILDREN:

Allegretto giocoso (medium fast, happy)



Fol-low Par-pi-gnol, all you girls and — boys, with — his — cart all —



filled with toys — ; Fol-low Par - pi - gnol — !

(Cart continues downstage center and across to exit downstage right followed by children jumping in excitement)

(Musetta and Alcindoro enter downstage left, cross right to Café Momus)

Rodolfo, Schaunard, Colline: MARCELLO! MARCELLO, LOOK! MUSETTA IS HERE!

Marcello: THAT WOMAN IS POISON TO ME! YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE ME A DOSE OF ARSENIC!

Musetta: (Treating Alcindoro like a puppy) COME FIFI! COME LITTLE FIFI!

Alcindoro: (Puffing) YOU ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME MUSETTA!

Musetta: WE SHALL SIT HERE! (Points to table next to Mimi and the four men)
(Aside to audience) MARCELLO HAS SEEN ME BUT HE IGNORES ME!
I'LL SHOW HIM!

Alcindoro: DO WE HAVE TO SIT IN SUCH A PUBLIC PLACE?

Musetta: OF COURSE, FIFI. WAITER TAKE OUR ORDER! (Waiter comes to table)

Mimi: WHAT A LOVELY GIRL. WHO IS SHE, MARCELLO?

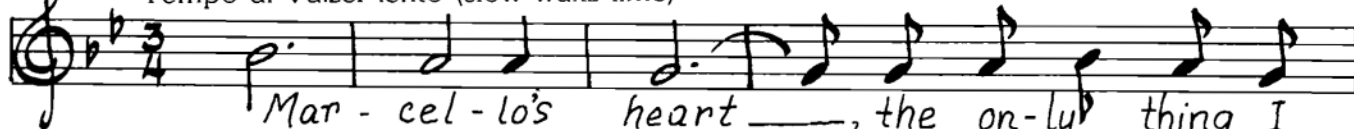
Marcello: HER NAME IS MUSETTA. SHE IS FICKLE. SHE HAS TAKEN MY HEART.

Musetta: (Sniffing at her plate of food) THIS FOOD IS DISGUSTING!
(Throws it on the floor)

Alcindoro: MUSETTA PLEASE! DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCENE!

MUSETTA'S WALTZ:

Tempo di Valzer lento (slow waltz time)



Mar - cel - lo's heart — , the on - ly thing I



love and long for, I am want-ing him back a - gain!

Musetta: (Aside) I'LL GET HIS ATTENTION YET!
(Sits down quickly, pretending she has a pain in her foot)
OH, OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE. THE PAIN IS KILLING ME!

Alcindoro: WHAT NOW? WHAT'S WRONG?

Musetta: TAKE MY SHOE OFF! GET ME A NEW SHOE! (Alcindoro takes shoe off, hides it under his coat and goes to buy new pair, exits upstage left)
(Musetta and Marcello meet each other stage center and talk quietly)
(Waiter enters and presents bill)

Rodolfo: AH, THE BILL.

Schaunard: ALREADY?

Colline: DID SOMEONE ASK FOR IT? (Picks it up, looks at it and passes it to his friends)

Rodolfo: EXPENSIVE!

Colline: LET'S EMPTY OUR POCKETS. (The three count their money)

Schaunard: NOT ENOUGH!

MILITARY MARCH:



(Military March is heard. Townspeople look around for entrance of soldiers)

Townspeople: LISTEN! THE SOLDIERS! THEY'LL BE HERE SOON!
(Musetta and Marcello return to table)

Musetta: GIVE THE BILL TO ME! (Motions to waiter who comes) TAKE THIS BILL AND THE ONE FROM THE OTHER TABLE, ADD THEM TOGETHER. THE MAN WHO CAME WITH ME WILL PAY. (Waiter does as instructed)

(The soldier's procession led by a drum major with baton, enters upstage left, marches downstage to exit stage right)

Schaunard: (getting up from table) COME ON! LET'S JOIN THEM!

Musetta: HOW CAN I GO? I DON'T HAVE MY SHOE!

Marcello: DON'T WORRY. COLLINE AND I WILL HELP YOU.

Rodolfo: COME MIMI! SCHAUNARD, BRING YOUR HORN!
(Rodolfo takes Mimi by the arm. Schaunard puts his horn to his mouth and they join the procession of soldiers and townspeople)

Alcindoro: (Enters upstage left, looks around and rushes to Café Momus)
WAITER! WAITER! WHERE IS EVERYONE?

Waiter: THEY HAVE GONE WITH THE PARADE, SIR. THE LADY SAID TO GIVE YOU THIS. (Hands him the bill)

Alcindoro: (Looking at bill) MY WORD! (Drops in chair and reaches for his purse)
YOU ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME, MUSETTA! (Pays waiter)

THE END

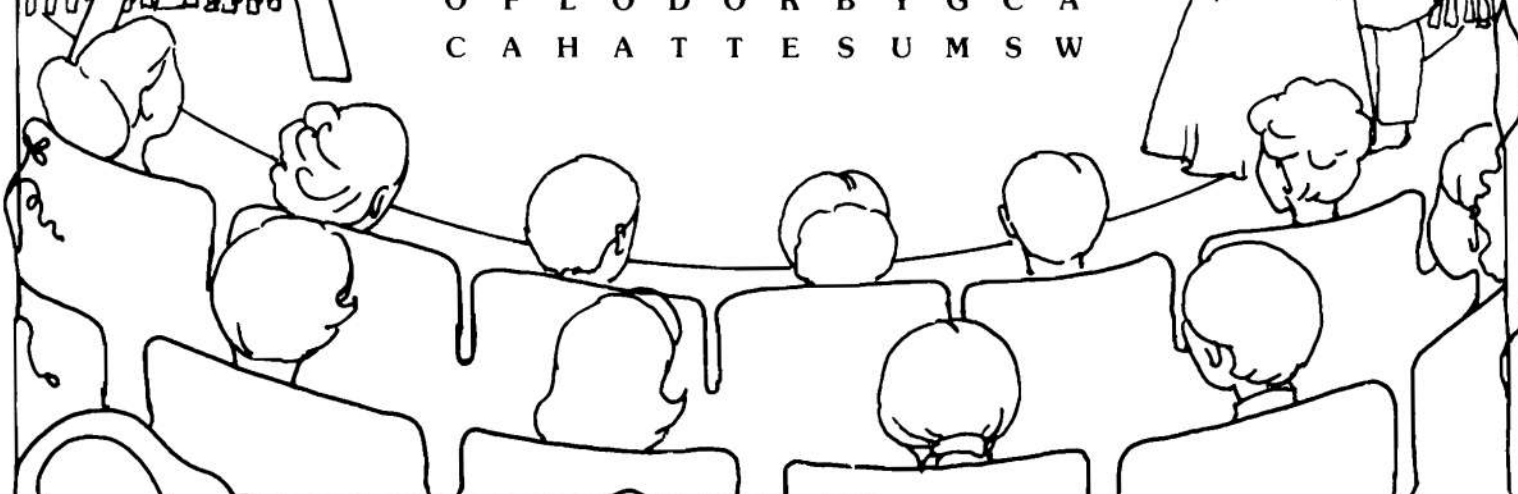
Did Musetta's foot really hurt?

19

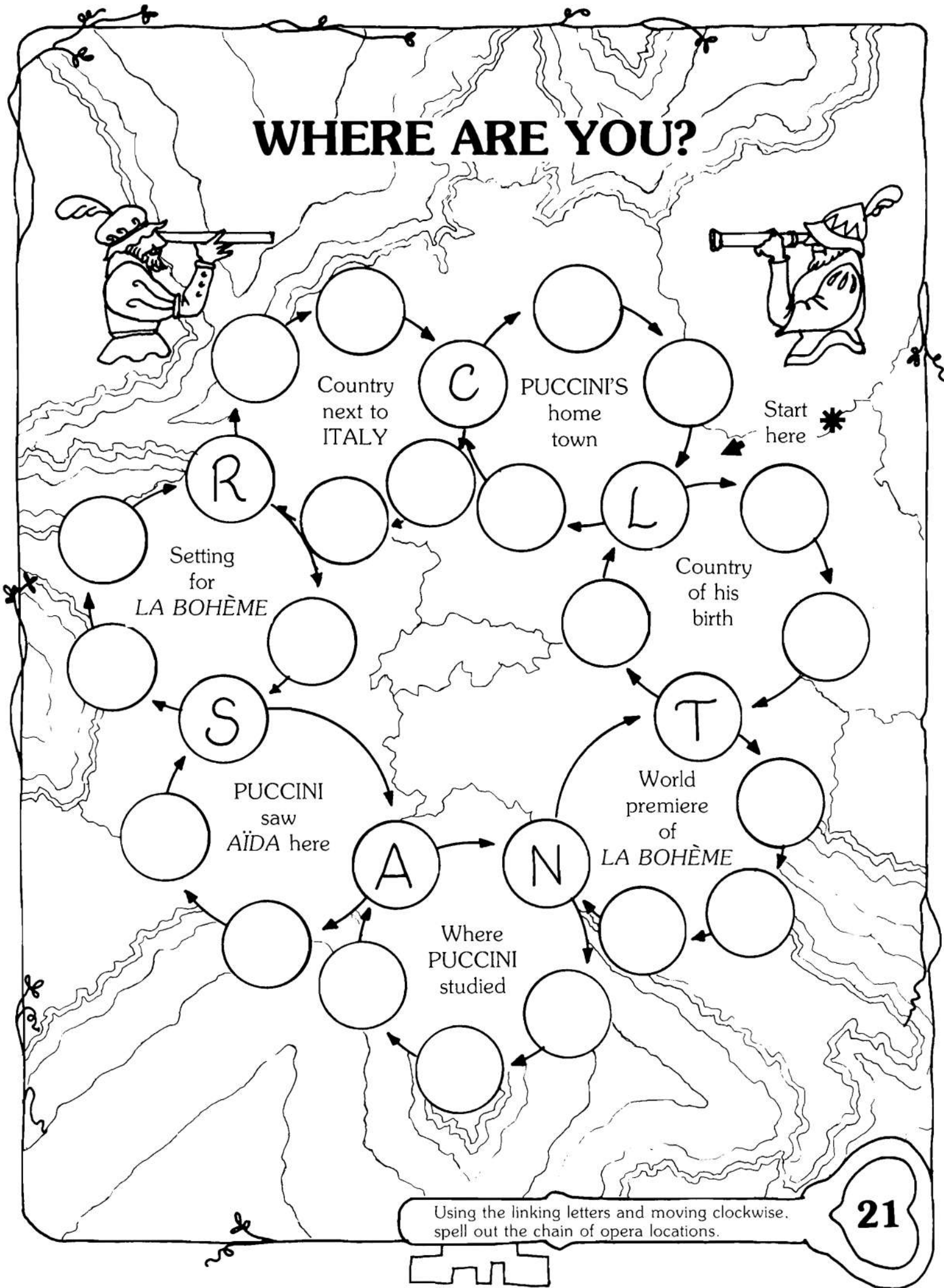
CHARACTER SEARCH

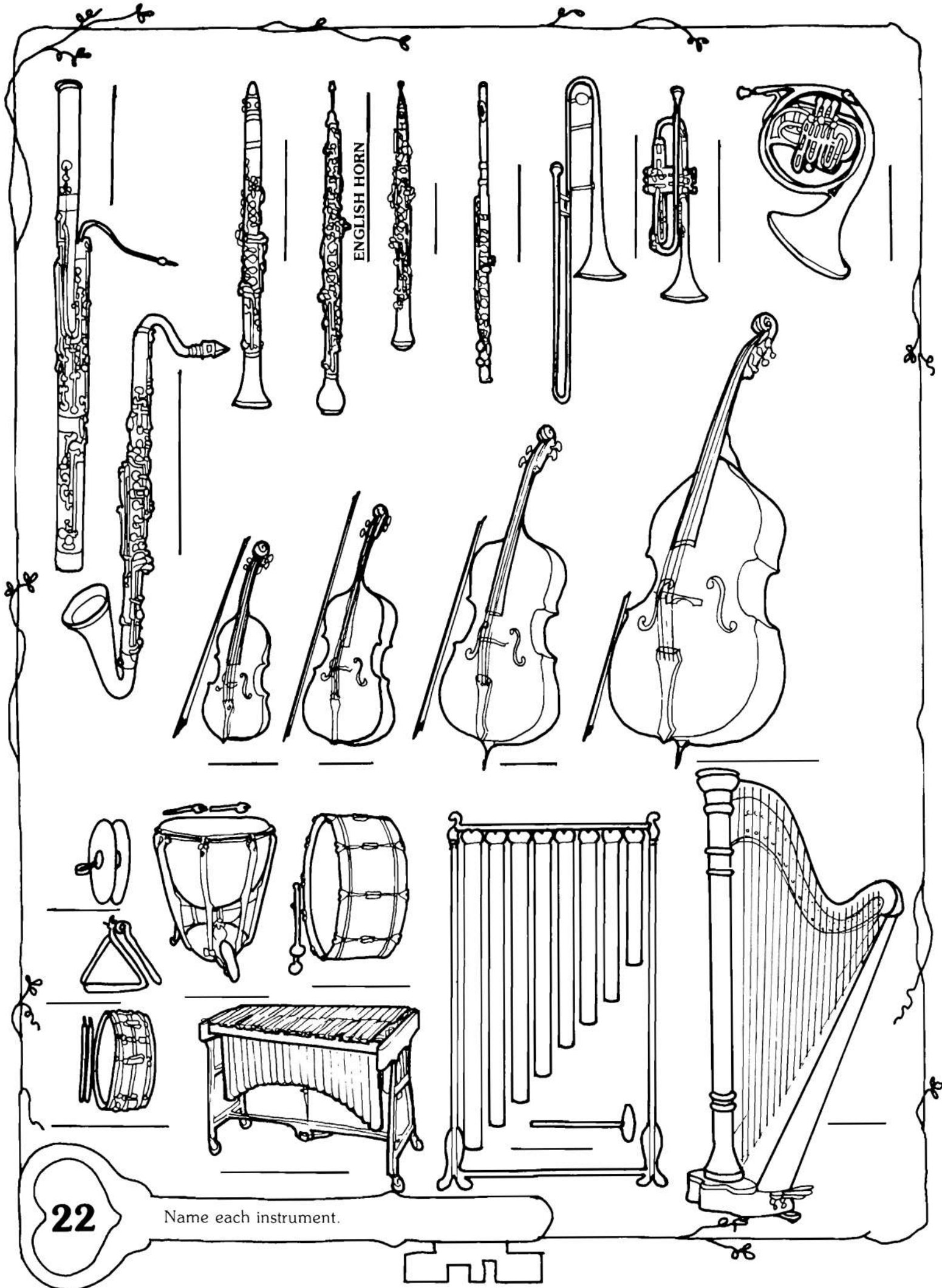
P M T I O N E B U L S T
 U A M S C V B T W A K O
 W R R T Q I R J A B R W
 R C H P C O L L I N E N
 A E F E I P D X T Q Z S
 Q L O N G G M Y E O D P
 S L F G E H N S R M R E
 N O N P O R I O J L A O
 P D L Y E J D E L K N P
 C O A D L N M L V F U L
 K M I M I U X T I Z A E
 B Z N C D E I V W H H X
 O F L O D O R B Y G C A
 C A H A T T E S U M S W

MIMI	MARCELLO
MUSETTA	CHILDREN
RODOLFO	SOLDIERS
COLLINE	PARPIGNOL
BENOIT	ALCINDORO
WAITER	SCHAUNARD
TOWNSPEOPLE	



WHERE ARE YOU?





ENGLISH HORN

QUADRO SECONDO (ACT II)

AL QUARTIERE LATINO (LATIN QUARTER)

Allegro focoso (fast, with spirit)

WINDS

- Flauti = Flutes
- Oboi = Oboes
- Corno Inglese = English Horn
- Clarineti = Clarinets
- Clarone = Bass Clarinet
- Fagotti = Bassoons

BRASS

- Corni = Horns
- Trombe = Trumpets
- Tromboni = Trombones

PERCUSSION

- Timpani = Kettledrums
- Piatti = Cymbals
- Tamburo = Snare Drum
- Triangolo = Triangle
- Gran Cassa = Bass Drum
- Arpa = Harp
- Carillon = Chimes
- Xilofon = Xylophone

STRINGS

- Violini = Violins
- Viole = Violas
- Violoncelli = Cellos
- Contrabbassi = String Basses

fff marcato

(a suo tempo)

This is what an **orchestral score** looks like. It is the music that the conductor uses. In it are all the parts for all the instruments in the orchestra. The conductor can see what every instrument is playing at the same time.

On the opposite page are the instruments Puccini used in *La Bohème*. In the orchestral score, above, are the names of these instruments in both Italian and English. Because Italy was the composer's homeland and the location of the opera's first performance, the original language of *La Bohème* was Italian. Notice that the instruments are grouped according to their type or "family."

- (1) Name the musical theme on this page.
- (2) Which instruments are playing it?

AN OPERA OF CONTRASTS

La Bohème – An Opera of Contrasts

It is said of *La Bohème* that it is an opera for those in love. It is certainly one of Puccini's most nearly perfect operas, for in it we find all the elements of everyday life. It is an opera of contrasts — happy and sad, rich and poor, sickness and health, work and play, and life and death.

Puccini's characters were every day people like you and me, who had to deal with day to day problems just as we do. Audiences anywhere in the world can identify with the fragile, sickly Mimi, in contrast to the beautiful, fickle flirt, Musetta. How different is the handsome but poor poet, Rodolfo, compared to the rich old aristocrat, Alcindoro.

Puccini's ability to create dramatic situations and to portray human emotions was without equal. We see and hear all this:

- Act I The lively, noisy activity of the Bohemians gives way to tenderness as Rodolfo and Mimi meet and fall in love.
- Act II The Latin Quarter is full of people celebrating on Christmas Eve.
- Act III Loneliness and cold weather begin to sadden the lives of the Bohemians.
- Act IV The Bohemians try to have fun in spite of being cold, hungry, and lonely. The mood changes when Musetta appears with Mimi who is dying. They realize that they are helpless to save her.

LATIN QUARTER:

Allegro fucoso (fast, with spirit)



Puccini was a genius when it came to painting “musical pictures.” In the LATIN QUARTER theme notice how he creates the bright, festive atmosphere of Christmas Eve using loud, fast, accented chords played by three trumpets.

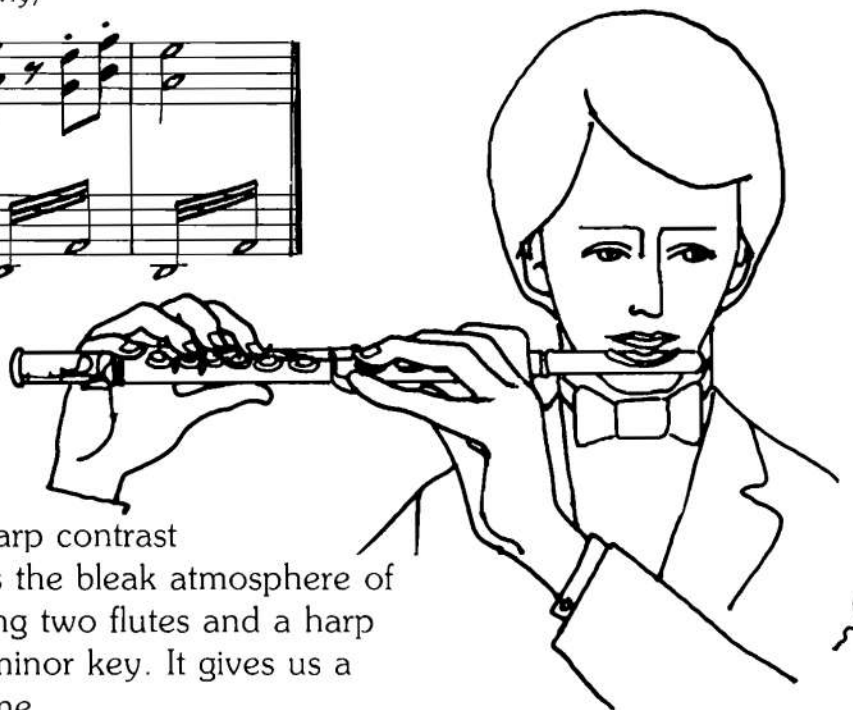


WINTER THEME:

Andantino mosso (rather slowly)



The WINTER THEME is in sharp contrast musically. Here Puccini creates the bleak atmosphere of a bitter cold Paris dawn by using two flutes and a harp playing slowly and softly in a minor key. It gives us a hint of the tragic ending to come.



Where else do you find the Latin Quarter music in this book?

In addition to contrasts in the story line and the characters, Puccini knew how to achieve dramatic effects and unlimited variety with his orchestra. He knew when to be loud (*f* or forte) and when to be soft (*p* or piano); when to be fast (allegro) and when to be slow (lento).

Throughout this book you will see these expression marks above each piece of music. They are usually in Italian, but we've added their English translations.

DYNAMIC MARKS tell you how loud or how soft to sing or play the music.

If *p* = piano = soft
 then *pp* = pianissimo = very soft
 and *ppp* = pianississimo = extremely soft

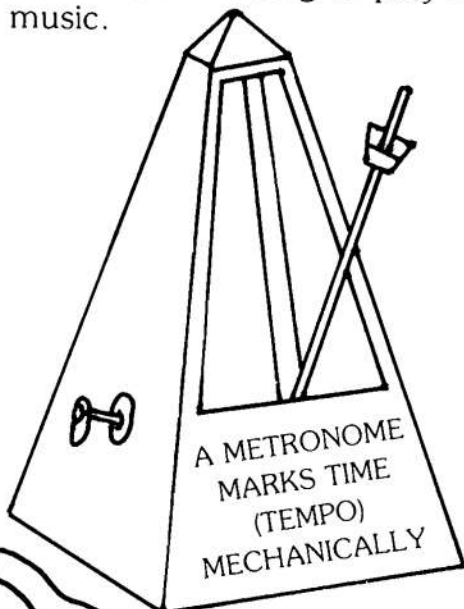
Similarly,

If *f* = forte = loud
 then *ff* = fortissimo = very loud
 and *fff* = fortississimo = extremely loud

Puccini went a step further and used *pppp* at the end of *La Bohème* when Mimi dies. The notes are so soft they can hardly be heard. See page fifteen.

TEMPO MARKS SCRAMBLE

Tempo marks tell you how fast or how slow to sing or play the music.



- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Allegro | = tafs | <u>FAST</u> |
| 2. Allegretto | = lmeaotdrye tafs | _____ |
| 3. Andante | = edmtorae | _____ |
| 4. Andantino | = tafsre athn atneadn | _____ |
| 5. Lento | = olws | _____ |
| 6. Sostenuto | = sduseitan | _____ |
| 7. Focoso | = hwit tripsi | _____ |
| 8. Tempo di Valzer | = twazl mtie | _____ |
| 9. Molto espressivo | = thwi eped efeglin | _____ |
| 10. Alla marcia | = klie a cahmr | _____ |

SOLUTIONS

Page 2

gap	cap	mop	pan
gum	cop	map	pin
gun	cup	man	pun
goon	can	mug	pig
gain	con	moon	ping
nap	coop	moan	pong
nip	coon	main	pang
nag	coin	mini	pain

Page 3 – (1) Illica, (2) Giacoso,
and (3) Puccini

Page 4 – Eighteen

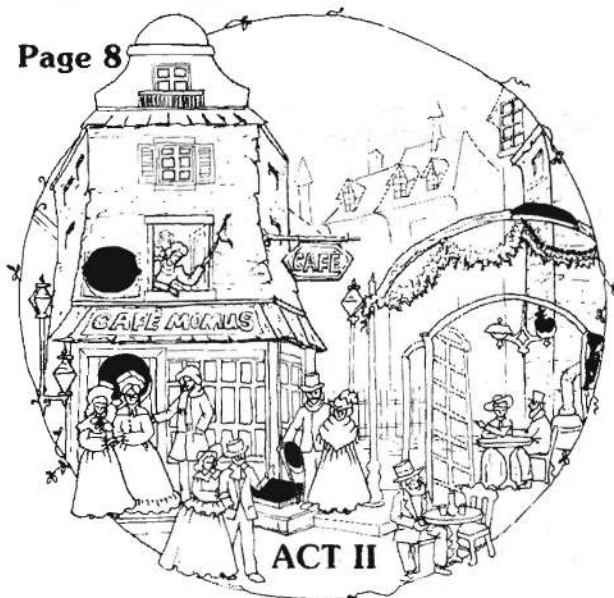
Page 5 – The Vocal Score

Page 6



Page 7 – Lucia

Page 8

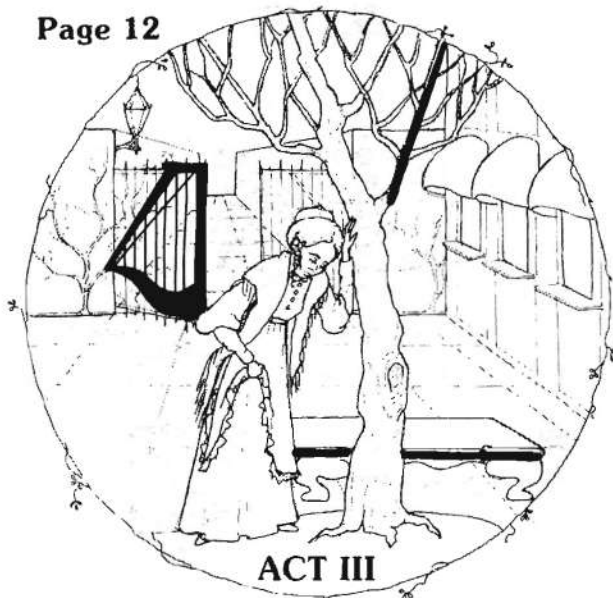


Page 9 – A muff

Page 10 – The Waltz

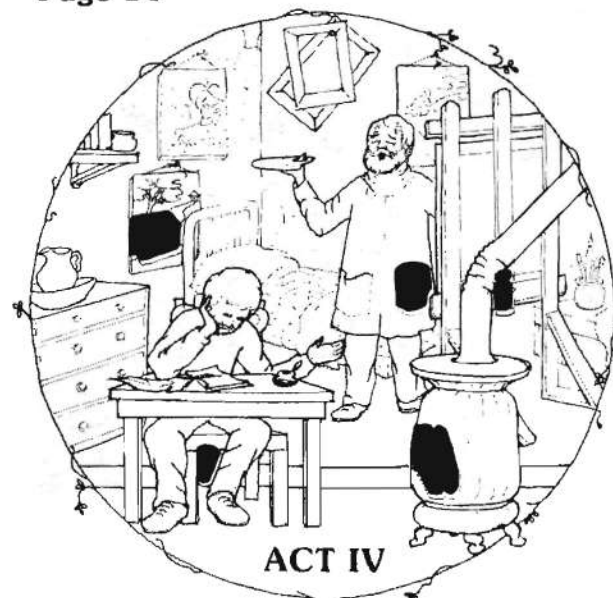
Page 11 – Benoit, Act I; Alcindoro, Act II

Page 12



Page 13 – (1) Mimi, (2) Rodolfo,
(3) Musetta, and (4) Marcello

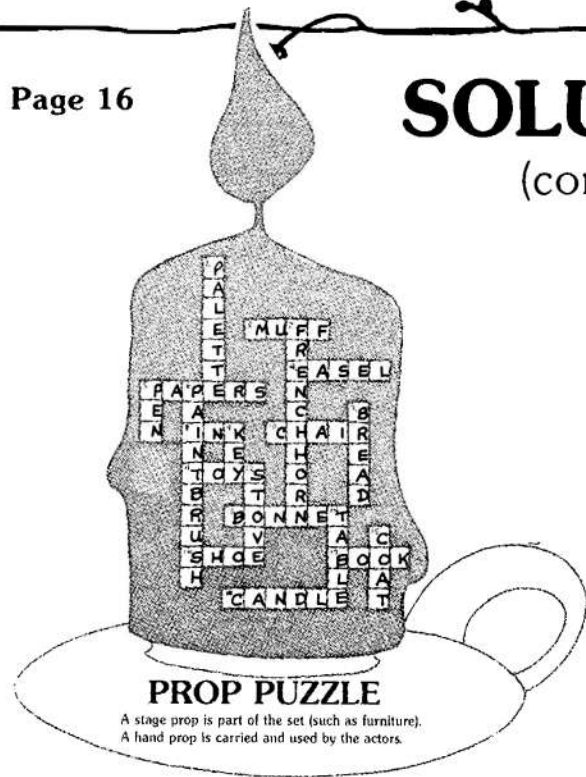
Page 14



Page 15 – Between second and third verses

SOLUTIONS

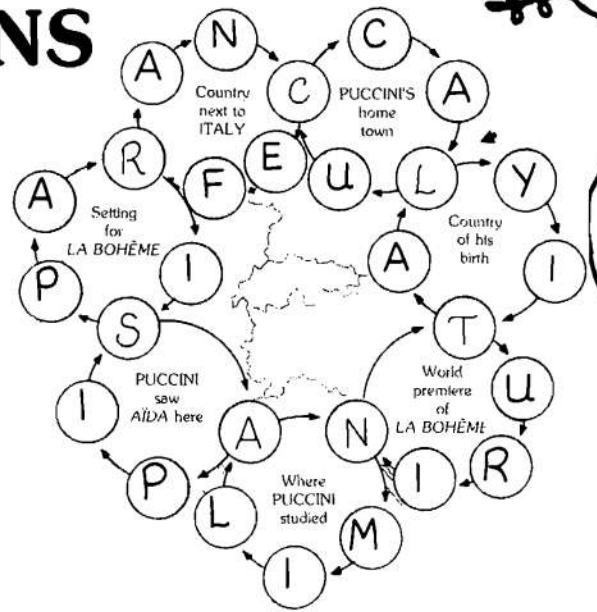
(continued)



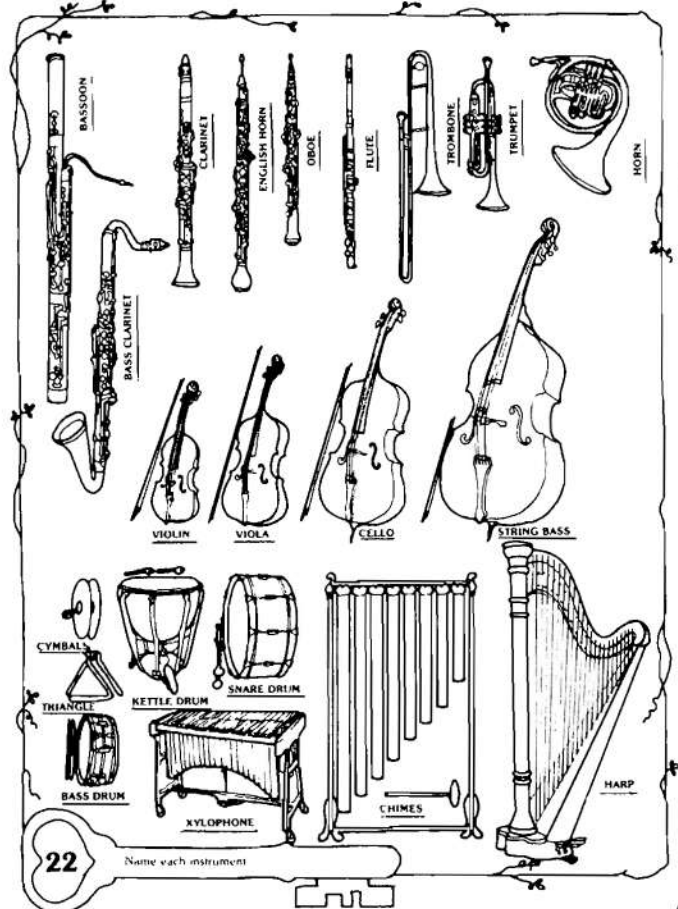
PROP PUZZLE

A stage prop is part of the set (such as furniture).
A hand prop is carried and used by the actors.

Page 21



Page 22



22 Name each instrument

Page 17 -

Table and Chairs

Bonnet

Trumpet

Fruit on Tray

Pastry on Tray

Wine and Food on Tray

Toy Cart

Toys

Shoes in Package

Baton

Drums

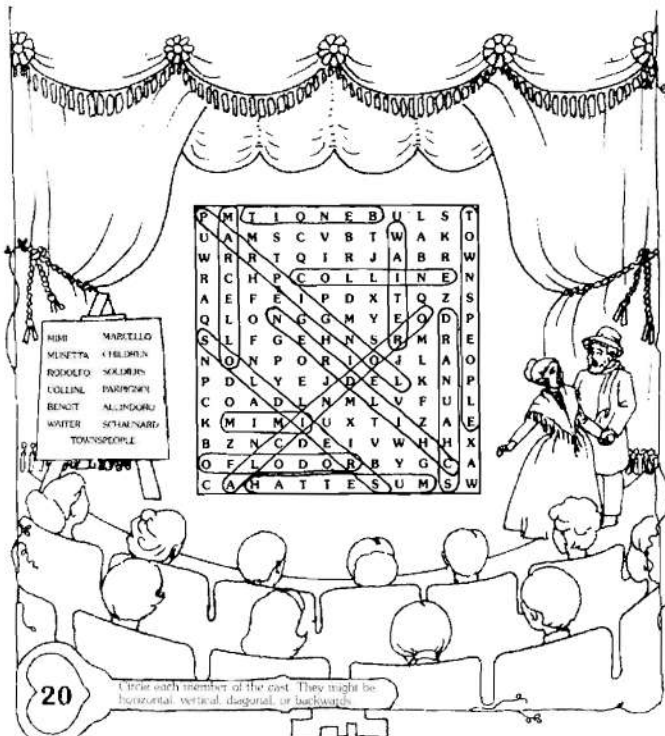
Horns for Soldiers

Waiter's Bill

Page 18 - She treated him like a puppy!

Page 19 - No, she only wanted attention.

Page 20



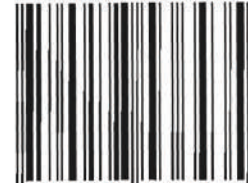
20

Circle each member of the cast. They might be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backwards.



OPERA'S FUN FOR EVERYONE

ISBN 0-9785364-3-6



9 780978 536435

9 0 0 0 0

