

2023/24 SEASON Presented by **BMO** 





RIEL'S HEART OF THE NORTH





La Cenerentola, 2022. Photo: R. Tinker



Casting subject to change

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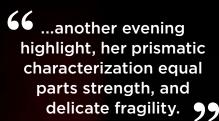
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IN PERSON Manitoba Opera General Office, Lower Level, Centennial Concert Hall, 555 Main St, Winnipeg



- The Free Press
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT, 2023

### PERFORMANCE VENUE

Centennial Concert Hall 555 Main St., Winnipeg, MB



Soprano Hiromi Omura, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, 2023. Photo: R. Tinker

### A WORLD PREMIERE!





### SATURDAY

**NOVEMBER 18** 7:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY

**NOVEMBER 22** 7:00 PM

### FRIDAY

**NOVEMBER 24** 7:30 PM

Librettist/ Storyteller Suzanne M. Steele



Composer/ Fiddler Alex Kusturok



Composer Neil Weisensel



Director Simon Miron

### A CELEBRATION OF MÉTIS WOMEN, LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North explores a littleknown chapter in Louis Riel's life (early 1870s) and focuses on the beauty and love of the homeland and of its people - the heart of the north, with a focus on the central role of women in the cultural and economic history of this nation of nations.

The Métis peoples' past, present, and future are reimagined in this 21st century work dedicated to reconciliation as the artists honour all sides of the ancestral blanket.

This new work of music and theatre is written and conceptualized by Métis poet/ librettist Dr. Suzanne Steele (Gaudry/Fayant), with music by Métis composer/fiddler Alex Kusturok and composer Neil Weisensel.

A cross-cultural collaboration, this work is for orchestra, soloists, and choruses, and will be sung and spoken in Heritage-Michif, French-Michif, Anishinaabemowin, French, and English. It also features traditional and contemporary Métis music and dance.

Li Keur - "the heart" in Michif - places Métis and all Indigenous women at the heart of this story as it celebrates the multi-faceted roles they have played, and continue to play, in the making of a nation.

UNDERWRITTEN by  $\begin{tabular}{ll} BMO \end{tabular}$ 







## **LOUIS RIEL** (1844-1885)

Louis Riel was the Métis leader and Canadian Member of Parliament who led Manitoba into Confederation and championed the rights of the Métis peoples, their nation, and all Indigenous peoples, Francophones, and ultimately, all minorities.

### 2023/24 SEASON

### SATURDAY

**APRIL 13** 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

**APRIL 17** 7:00 PM

FRIDAY

**APRIL 19** 7:30 PM



Carmen can have any man she wants, and discards them as easily as she does the cigarettes she makes. When she seduces the proud young soldier Don José only to cast him aside for the handsome bullfighter, jealousy ignites. José is pushed to the brink. Carmen's tragic fate has been sealed.

Who can resist the sensuous music of *Carmen*? With its lavish score, brilliant orchestration, and Spanish rhythms, you will be powerless to resist the hit melodies and beloved music of the most popular opera of all time.

Features some of the most recognizable music including Carmen's smoky Habanera, Don José's Flower Song, and the rousing Toreador Song.

Sung in French with French dialogue; projected English translations.

MUSIC Georges Bizet

**LIBRETTO** Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy (Based on the story of the same name by French novelist Prosper Mérimée.)





**Carmen**Ginger
Costa-Jackson



**Don José** David Pomeroy



**Escamillo** Daniel Okulitch



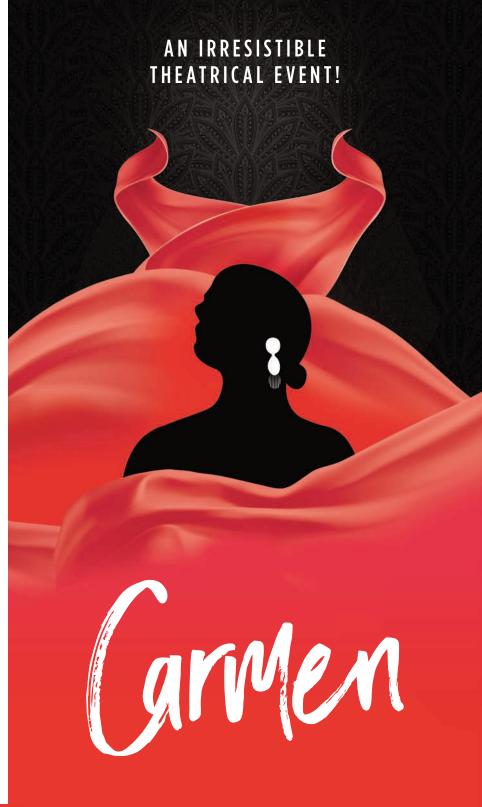
**Micaëla** Lara Ciekiewicz



**Conductor** Tyrone Paterson



**Director** Brian Deedrick



### 2023/24 SEASON PRESENTED BY



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LI KEUR: RIEL'S HEART OF THE NORTH



















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