



For Immediate Release  
April 3, 2024

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## **CARMEN, THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR OPERA, CLOSES MANITOBA OPERA'S 2023/24 SEASON**

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ALREADY SOLD OUT!**

Considered to be one of the world's most popular operas, *Carmen*, the sexy thriller that seduces the audience with every note, will be presented by Manitoba Opera at the Centennial Concert Hall **Saturday, April 13 (7:30 pm), Wednesday, April 17 (7 pm), and Friday, April 19 (7:30 pm).**

***The opening night performance, Saturday, April 13, is sold out. Good seats are still available for the Wednesday, April 17 and Friday, April 19 shows.***

For tickets, call 204-944-8824, go online at [mbopera.ca](http://mbopera.ca), or in person at the MO Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday). Seniors, students, and youth discounts are available.

Set in Spain in the 1930s, *Carmen* tells the story of a passionate, free-spirited woman who can have any man she wants, but when she seduces the young soldier Don José only to cast him aside for the handsome bullfighter, she seals her tragic fate. *Carmen* will be sung in French with French dialogue and projected English projections.

*Carmen* is unrivalled in its hit list of melodies and recognizable music, including Carmen's smoky Habanera, Don José's Flower Song, and the rousing Toreador Song. Over 140 years after its premiere in Paris, composer Georges Bizet's opera continues to captivate audiences around the globe.

"Who can resist the sensuous music of Bizet? With its lavish score and brilliant orchestration, *Carmen* is an irresistible theatrical event. Last performed by the company in 2010, we are very pleased to bring this opera to the stage for an entirely new audience," explains Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO.

#### **THE ARTISTS**

Acclaimed American mezzo-soprano **Ginger Costa-Jackson** makes her company debut as the fiery temptress, with the celebrated Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy** reprising his role as the obsessive corporal Don José. Internationally renowned Canadian baritone **Daniel Okulitch** will be appearing as Escamillo the dashing bullfighter.

2. MB Opera presents Carmen, April 13, 17, 19, 2024

Two Winnipeg favourites will also be featured: sopranos **Lara Ciekiewicz**, who will be singing the role of Michaëla and **Lara Secord-Haid** as Frasquita. **Jacques Arsenault** (Remendado) will be making a company debut. **Giles Tomkins**, who appeared in 2019 with the MO as Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, will sing Zuniga, with **Johnathon Kirby** singing the dual roles of Moralès and Le Dancaire. **Barbara King** will sing Mercédès.

**Brian Deedrick** will direct the production. Deedrick last directed *La Bohème* for the company in 2014. **Tyrone Paterson** will conduct the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** and the **Manitoba Opera Chorus**. Lighting is by **Hugh Conacher**. Set, properties, and costumes provided by **Edmonton Opera**.

#### **THE STORY**

As the workers at a Seville cigarette factory enter the city square on their lunch break, the sensual and seductive Carmen teases her many admirers. Only the corporal Don José is resistant to her charms. Piqued by his disinterest, she playfully tosses a flower at him.

Later, Carmen is arrested for wounding a co-worker in a rowdy fight. Don José is to take her to prison but has fallen under her spell and lets her escape. He later deserts the army to join Carmen and her band of smugglers, disregarding his life-long sweetheart and his dying mother. Carmen has tired of the jealous José however, and decides to take on a new lover, the bullfighter Escamillo. Jealousy ignites and José's rage leads to shocking, murderous consequences.

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### **2023/24 SEASON PRESENTED BY BMO**

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