



Bizet's *Carmen*

June 24 & 26, 2022

7:30 PM

Muckenthaler Cultural Center
Fullerton, CA

Tickets: LyricOperaOC.org

Mexico, mid-20th Century

Acts I & II: 50 minutes

Intermission: 20 minutes

Acts III & IV: 35 minutes

Prologue

Our production begins at the end, at the climactic moment of Carmen and Don Jose's relationship.

Act 1

Looking back, we see the streets of Mexico outside of a bustling cigar factoria. Soldiers are on duty from the local barracks. As the noonday bell tolls, citizens and workers gather in the plaza. One of the cigar rollers, Carmen, emerges. A traveler and passionate free spirit, she rouses her friends and the gathering crowd, warning them that if you love her, she won't love you back... but if she truly loves you, beware! As they relish in midday repose, Carmen catches sight of the general brigadier, Don Jose. She is immediately infatuated and makes her intentions known by throwing him a flower, delighted with her own flirtation. Enraged that her own flirtation was interrupted, Manuelita charges Carmen and the women fight. The soldiers, including Lt. Zuniga, break up the brawl and seize the women. Carmen is detained, but mocks the officers and uses the opportunity to both seduce Don Jose and avoid arrest.

Act 2

Later, a crowd gathers at Lillas Pastia's Tavern, celebrating the famed torero and celebrity of the local charreada, Escamillo, who is immediately attracted to Carmen. Carmen and her friends, Frasquita and Mercedes, are brought in on a smugglers heist by their compatriots El Remendado and Dancaïro. Carmen does not want to be a part of the plan, claiming she is in love with a local soldier, but eventually acquiesces. On cue, Don Jose arrives and confesses his love to Carmen. She tells him that she has real feelings for him and that if he truly loved

her he would run away with her and abandon his post. Their passionate encounter is interrupted by Zuniga, who drunkenly makes a pass at Carmen. Filled with a jealous rage, Don Jose cannot control his emotions. Zuniga's belligerent response is quickly interrupted by Carmen's friends and confidants. Now a conspirator, Don Jose wrestles with his fate but is quickly taken in by the gang of traveling thieves and welcomed with open arms. Escamillo has distracted the tavern guests and the group lift Lilia Pastia's stock of wine and flee for the mountains.

Act 3

The group is weary from their journey and Don Jose's growing agitation quickly interferes with the company's spirits. Escamillo meets his friends in the mountains. At rest, Mercedes and Frasquita pass the time by reading their fortunes. Carmen joins in but is chilled when she sees only death in the cards. Already in conversation about Escamillo's latest infatuation, Don Jose becomes irate when he realizes that Escamillo intends to woo Carmen. He challenges the torero but is held at bay as the travelers all reconvene. Furious at the risks he has taken for Carmen, his possessive mindset fuels his fury. He leaves the group as they continue on their way.

Act 4

Upon completing their mission, the friends accompany Escamillo to the arena for a bullfight at the Charrería. Surrounded by adoring fans, Escamillo enters, but Don Jose is waiting for Carmen in the shadows. Her friends warn her to be careful, but she sends them away, ready to dismiss Don Jose. Their final interaction is accompanied by the echoes of the crowd inside the arena.

México, medidores del siglo XX

Actos I & II: 50 minutos

Descanso: 20 minutos

Actos III & IV: 35 minutos

Prólogo

Nuestra producción comienza al final, en el momento culminante de la relación de Carmen y Don José.

Acto 1

Mirando hacia atrás, vemos las calles de México fuera de una bulliciosa fábrica de cigarros. Los soldados están de servicio en los cuarteles. Al sonar la campana del mediodía, los ciudadanos y trabajadores se reúnen en la plaza. De pronto sale una de las torcedoras de cigarro, Carmen. Viajera, apasionada y de espíritu libre, despierta a sus amigas y a la multitud reunida, advirtiéndoles que si se enamoran de ella, ella no les devolverá el amor... pero si ella verdaderamente se enamora de alguno de ellos, ¡cuidado! Mientras disfrutan del descanso de mediodía, Carmen ve al general de brigada, Don José. Ella se enamora a primera vista de él y le da a conocer sus intenciones arrojándole una flor, deleitada con su propio coqueteo. Manuelita, enfurecida por ser interrumpida, se lanza contra Carmen y se arma una pelea entre las mujeres. Los soldados, guiados por el teniente Zúñiga, interrumpen la pelea e interrogan a las mujeres. Carmen es detenida, pero se burla de los oficiales y aprovecha la oportunidad para seducir a Don José y evitar ser arrestada.

Acto 2

Más tarde, una multitud se reúne en la Taberna de Liliás Pastia, celebrando al afamado torero y celebridad de la charreada local, Escamillo, quien inmediatamente se siente atraído por Carmen. Carmen y sus amigas, Frasquita y Mercedes, se unen a un atraco de contrabandistas planeado por sus compatriotas El Remendado y Dancairo. Al principio Carmen no quería formar parte del plan, expresando que estaba enamorada de un soldado local, pero terminó uniéndose a ellos. Justo en ese momento, llega don José para confesar su amor por Carmen. Ella le responde que también tiene sentimientos por él pero que si él realmente la amara, se escaparía con ella y abandonaría su puesto. Su apasionado encuentro es interrumpido por Zúñiga, quien completamente ebrio le hace una propuesta indecente a Carmen. Lleno de celos, Don José no supo controlar sus emociones. La respuesta beligerante de Zúñiga es rápidamente interrumpida por amigos y confidentes de Carmen. Ahora, un conspirador, Don José lucha con su destino, pero rápidamente y con brazos abiertos es integrado a la banda de ladrones ambulantes. Mientras tanto, en Liliás Pastillas, Escamillo distrajo a los comensales de la taberna, la gente levantó las reservas de vino y huyó hacia las montañas.

Acto 3

El grupo se encuentra agotado por su viaje y desanimado por la creciente agitación de Don José. Escamillo se encuentra con sus amigos en las montañas. Durante el descanso, Mercedes y Frasquita se entretienen leyendo su futuro. Carmen se une a sus amigas, pero se queda perturbada cuando lee las cartas y ve que en su futuro se encuentra la muerte. Ya en conversación sobre el último enamoramiento de Escamillo, Don José se enfurece cuando se descubre

que Escamillo tiene la intención de cortejar a Carmen. El desafía al torero pero no llega al nivel de habilidad de Escamillo. De pronto todos los viajeros se vuelven a reunir. Don José, furioso por los riesgos que ha tomado al seguir a Carmen, su mentalidad posesiva alimenta su furia. Finalmente, abandona al grupo mientras continúan su camino.

Acto 4

Al completar su misión, los amigos acompañan a Escamillo a la plaza para una corrida de toros en la Charrería. Rodeado de fanáticos que lo adoran, entra Escamillo, pero Don José está esperando a Carmen en las sombras. Sus amigas le advierten que tenga cuidado, pero ella les pide que la dejen sola, lista para despedir a Don José. Su último encuentro final es acompañado por los ecos de la multitud dentro de la arena.

Artistic Director DIANA FARRELL
Music Director DORIS LANG KOSLOFF

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Carmen..... | JESSICA MAMEY |
| Don Jose..... | HUGO VERA |
| Escamillo..... | JOHANN SCHRAMM |
| Frasquita..... | ROSE LODEWICK |
| Mercedes (Carmen cover)..... | EMILY WEINBERG |
| El Remendado..... | AXEL MEJÍA JUAREZ |
| Dancaïro..... | MICHAEL SEGURA |
| Zuniga..... | DAVE HERRINGTON |

featuring

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mariachi (Don Jose cover)..... | GUILLERMO KEYMOLENT |
| Manuelita (Frasquita cover)..... | MARIAH RAE |
| Lillas Pastia..... | LUÍS SALCIDO |
| Soldier (Zuniga cover)..... | CESAR BALLARDO |

with

Alexandria Burdick (Frasquita cover), Sara Blanton (Mercedes cover),
Andi Dana (Escamillo cover), Sarah Salazar (Mercedes cover),
Jose Daniel Torres (El Remendado cover), Eve Woldemikael,
Jeryd Word (Dancaïro cover)

Orchestra

Preston Yamasaki *Orchestra Manager*

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1st Violin..... | Chloe Tardif |
| 2nd Violin..... | Tim Joo |
| Viola..... | Preston Yamasaki |
| Cello..... | Shawn Berry |
| Bass..... | Nicholas Leonard |
| Flute..... | Leah Heit |
| Clarinet..... | Ryan Cortes |

Children's Chorus

Kibsaim Escarcega *Chorus Master*

Neda St. Clair *Rehearsal Pianist*

Kexin Cai, Gracie Finley, Maximiliano Medina, Emma McDowell, Anne Noori, Kristin Norris, Emma Pinza, Camelia Sobaih, Mia Reyes, Jacob Thompson, Ysabel Wilhoit

Production

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Assistant Director..... | Kennedy Kremmerer |
| Surtitles..... | David Headland |
| Costumes..... | Diana Rodriguez, Sarah Salazar, & Alicia's Closet |
| Set..... | Brian Johnson, Juana Carillo |
| Lighting..... | Electric Theater Company |

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With special guest, Jake Heggie
January 29 & 31, 2023 7:30 PM
Yost Theatre, Santa Ana

Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*

March 3, 2023 8:00 PM
Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine

Verdi's *La Traviata*

June 22, 2023
The Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton
Plus two other dates and locations TBA