



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO CVO

Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS

A co-production between The Royal Opera, Teatro Real, Madrid
and La Scala, Milan

Exceptional philanthropic support from

Royal Opera House Principals Julia and Hans Rausing

Generous philanthropic support from Sir Mick and Lady Barbara
Davis, The Foyle Foundation, David Fransen, Huo Family
Foundation, Melinda and Donald Quintin, The Royal Opera House
Endowment Fund and an anonymous donor

The Youth Opera Company is generously supported by Yvonne
and Bjarne Rieber and The Peters Family Foundation Cio

Young ROH is generously made possible by Sir Lloyd And Lady
Dorfman OBE, The Bunting Family, Sir Simon Robey, Tim Ashley
and John Booth, The John Browne Charitable Trust and The
Laidlaw Opera Trust

Additional kind support from Josh Harris And Layla Nemazee



L Aidlaw
OPERA
Trust

CARMEN

OPÉRA COMIQUE IN FOUR ACTS 05.05.2024 3:00 PM

The 599th performance by The Royal Opera at the Royal Opera
House.

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

This performance will last for approximately 3 hours, including
one interval.

Act I 55 minutes

Act II 40 minutes

Interval 25 minutes

Act III 40 minutes

Act IV 20 minutes

GUIDANCE

Suitable for ages 8+

This production contains themes of a sexual nature and moderate
violence.

CREDITS

Music	GEORGES BIZET
Libretto	HENRI MEILHAC AND LUDOVIC HALÉVY
Director	DAMIANO MICHIELETTO
Set Designer	PAOLO FANTIN
Costume Designer	CARLA TETI
Lighting Designer	ALESSANDRO CARLETTI
Dramaturg	ELISA ZANINOTTO

CAST

Conductor	ANTONELLO MANACORDA
Moralès	GRISHA MARTIROSYAN
Micaëla	LIANA ALEKSANYAN
Don José	PIOTR BECZALA
Zuniga	BLAISE MALABA
Carmen	AIGUL AKHMETSHINA
Frasquita	SARAH DUFRESNE
Mercédès	GABRIELÉ KUPŠYTĖ
Escamillo	KOSTAS SMORIGINAS
Dancaïro	PIERRE DOYEN
Remendado	VINCENT ORDONNEAU
Bohemian	DAWID KIMBERG
Marchande d'oranges	LOUISE ARMIT
Orchestra	ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Concert Master	MAGNUS JOHNSTON
Chorus	ROYAL OPERA CHORUS
Chorus Director	WILLIAM SPAULDING

Soldiers, children, cigarette girls, smugglers

Grisha Martirosyan, Sarah Dufresne and Gabrielé Kupšytė are
Jette Parker Artists

Extra Chorus

Sopranos **Jennifer Coleman, Kathryn Jenkin, Natasha Page, Eleanor Pennell-Briggs, Alison Rayner, Elizabeth Roberts, Vanessa Woodfine**

Mezzo-sopranos **Jeanette Ager, Hyacinth Nicholls, Jennifer Westwood**

Tenors **Phillip Bell, Simon Biazeck, James Geer, Richard Monk**

Basses **Gavin Horsley, James Quilligan**

Actors **Ruth Alfie Adams, Marika de Silva, Anna Guzak, Jamie Francis, Sarah Robinson, Suleiman Suleiman, John Craggs**

Acting Children

Anastasiya Hristova, Evelyn Rose Rata, Alfie Sharp [5th, 11th, 23rd
April | 1st, 12th, 20th, 25th, 29th May]

Toby Higgins, Kendall Nesbitt, Evelyn Rose Rata [8th, 14th, 16th,
26th April | 5th, 17th, 23rd, 31st May]

The Singing Children are members of the **Youth Opera Company**

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

THE SQUARE OF A SMALL TOWN

Groups of children are playing, while men and soldiers and women gather in the town square. Carmen enters. Only one man, the soldier Don José, seems not to notice her.

In fact, José is disturbed by Carmen, but the arrival of Micaëla, who brings greetings from his distant mother, diverts his thoughts. After Micaëla departs, a quarrel erupts among the women over Carmen's behaviour. She is arrested, but once left alone with Don José, she seduces him, persuading him to help her escape. Following mild resistance from José, Carmen has her handcuffs removed and she flees.

ACT II

ABOUT A MONTH LATER IN A NIGHTCLUB

Carmen awaits José's release from prison, where he has been imprisoned for aiding her escape. The smugglers accompanying Carmen want her to join them in the illegal trade of weapons, but she, aware of José's release and grateful for the freedom he provided, decides to wait for him.

Amid general acclaim, the wealthy and famous bullfighter Escamillo enters. He flaunts his prowess, and after seeing Carmen, seeks to overcome her resistance.

José arrives, and Carmen tries to entice him to leave the army, spurred on by her accomplices. Despite José declaring his love for Carmen, at the sound of the soldiers' retreat he prepares to return to the barracks. Carmen is greatly disappointed, and when Captain Zuniga arrives, a brawl ensues between him and José, both men desiring to possess Carmen. The smugglers deal with the captain, and José is forced to permanently abandon his uniform and join them.

INTERVAL

ACT III

THE SAME NIGHT

Don José reflects, with guilt and nostalgia, on his mother and the life he has abandoned. Carmen does a tarot card reading. She reveals the card representing death.

Don José violently clashes with Escamillo, who wishes to see Carmen again. But upon hearing about his mother's imminent death from Micaëla, José decides to go with her, threatening Carmen who challenges him.

ACT IV

A FEW DAYS LATER

After dressing for his bullfight, Escamillo, accompanied by Carmen, is celebrated by the gathering crowd. Friends warn Carmen that Don José is lurking nearby. Carmen is unafraid and asserts her freedom. José kills her.

– Elisa Zaninotto

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Music preparation	RICHARD HETHERINGTON, CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, ANDRÉ CALLEGARO, PATRICK MILNE, MARK PACKWOOD, LEANNE SINGH-LEVETT
Assistant Directors	DAN DOONER, ELEONORA GRAVAGNOLA, MATHILDA DU TILLIEUL MCNICOL
Language Coaches	SONJA NERDRUM, HERVÉ GOFFINGS
Set Design Assistant	GIANLUCA CATALDO
Costume Design Assistant	GIULIA GIANNINO
Movement Direction	DENNI SAYERS
Fight Arranger	LOCKHART OGILVIE

André Callegaro is a Jette Parker Artist

THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron	THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES
Music Director	SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO CVO
Director of Opera	OLIVER MEARS
Director of Casting	PETER MARIO KATONA
Administrative Director	CORMAC SIMMS

DIGITAL CAST SHEETS

We are working hard on our commitment towards becoming more sustainable and are striving for our net zero goal of 2035. By using

digital cast sheets and e-tickets, we have reduced our paper consumption by over five tonnes per year. You can view our digital cast sheets on a computer, tablet or smartphone by scanning the QR codes displayed around the building using your smartphone's camera app. They are also displayed on screens outside the auditoria. Cast sheets are generously supported by the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.

GUIDELINES

Photography and filming are prohibited during performances in any of our auditoriums. You are welcome to take pictures throughout the rest of the building and before performances and share them with us through social media. Commercial photography and filming must be agreed in advance with our [press team](#).

Larger bags and backpacks need to be checked into our complimentary cloakrooms. Unattended bags may be removed.

Please do not place any personal belongings on the ledges in front of you.

Only bottled water and ice cream purchased from the premises can be taken into the auditorium.

If you arrive late to the auditorium or leave during a performance, you will not be allowed back to your seat until the interval or a suitable break.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the premises.

The safety of our visitors, staff and artists is still our priority. To help us provide a comfortable experience for everyone, please be mindful of others and their personal space.

Our staff are committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and we ask that you show them and your fellow audience members respect too. We adopt a zero-tolerance approach in response to anyone who interacts with our staff or with fellow audience members in an intimidating, aggressive or threatening manner.

SUPPORT OUR ONGOING RECOVERY

We are so glad to welcome our artists back to our theatres to perform for you the opera and ballet you love. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the impact as we recover. Sustaining the future of ballet and opera has never been so important. Please consider making a donation to the Royal Opera House community today and help support the future of ballet and opera.

roh.org.uk/donate