



**CARMEN RETURNS TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA**  
**November 13–December 1**



Scenes from Francesca Zambello's production of Bizet's *Carmen* (photos: Cory Weaver); Benjamin Manis, conductor; Francesca Zambello, director

**Benjamin Manis makes Company debut conducting Bizet's popular opera;  
Francesca Zambello directs her production last seen here in 2019**

**US debuts of Eve-Maud Hubeaux as Carmen and Louise Alder as Micaëla;  
Jonathan Tetelman sings Don José for the first time and  
Christian Van Horn is Escamillo**



Eve-Maud Hubeaux (Carmen), Jonathan Tetelman (Don José), Louise Alder (Micaëla),  
Christian Van Horn (Escamillo)

**Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)  
November 19 performance will be livestreamed**

***Carmen Encounter* immersive event on November 21**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 28, 2024) — San Francisco Opera's 2024 Fall Season concludes with the return of Georges Bizet's *Carmen* from November 13–December 1 at the War Memorial Opera House. Mezzo-soprano **Eve-Maud Hubeaux** makes her American debut as the title role, heading an international cast with **Jonathan Tetelman** as Don José for the first time in his career, **Louise Alder** as Micaëla and **Christian Van Horn** as Escamillo. Conductor **Benjamin Manis** joins the Company to lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, and **Francesca Zambello** directs her acclaimed production which was last presented here in 2019. Chorus Director **John Keene** prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Months after the 1875 world premiere of *Carmen* was met with hostile reviews, 36-year-old composer George Bizet died without knowing his work would become one of the most popular of all operas. The composer based his *Carmen* on the gritty novella by Prosper Mérimée and drew inspiration from the music of the Iberian Peninsula, including Spanish dance rhythms, hand castanets and the sound of guitar music. Bizet's arias and ensembles in *Carmen* are among the art form's most memorable, including Carmen's seductive Habanera and Seguidilla, Don José's impassioned Flower Song, Escamillo's bravura Toreador Song and Micaëla's Act III prayer for courage.

**Francesca Zambello's** well-travelled vision for *Carmen*, a co-production between San Francisco Opera and Washington National Opera based on the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Norwegian National Opera staging, updates the opera's setting from the 1820s to Seville at the time of *Carmen's* premiere in 1875. Associate director and choreographer **Annamaria Bruzzese** assists Zambello with this revival which showcases the work of production designer **Tanya McCallin**, original lighting designer **Paule Constable** and revival lighting designer **Justin A. Partier**.

Swiss mezzo-soprano **Eve-Maud Hubeaux** scored a triumph at the 2022 Salzburg Festival, filling-in as a late substitute Amneris in Verdi's *Aida*. *Opera* reported, "All gave very physical performances, but especially Eve-Maud Hubeaux: playing a petulant princess more than once suggested a Salome-like character in her toying with Radames, she sang with copper-toned glow and agility not always found in interpreters of this role." Of her captivating performance, *Die Süddeutsche* proclaimed, "Next to her everyone else fades." Hubeaux makes her American debut as Carmen, the free-spirited Roma woman at the heart of Bizet's tragic work, a role she has performed with the Vienna State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Brussels' La Monnaie.

**Jonathan Tetelman's** Company debut as Alfredo in the Centennial Season new production of Verdi's *La Traviata* won such popular and critical acclaim that San Francisco Classical Voice said, "Power, ardor, conviction, and glorious sheen were the mainstays of towering Jonathan Tetelman's flawless vocalism." The Chilean American tenor, an exclusive recording artist for Deutsche Gramophone, takes on Don José for the first time in his fast-rising career. On November 26, the soldier-turned-brigand Don José will be performed by Welsh tenor and current San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow **Thomas Kinch** who also appears this season as Melot in *Tristan und Isolde*.

Four years after her scheduled debut with San Francisco Opera (as the title role in Handel's *Partenope*) was canceled by the pandemic, British soprano and Audience Prize-winner at the Cardiff Singer of the World competition **Louise Alder** makes her long-awaited triple-debut—American, Company and role—as Micaëla. American bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn**, whose many roles with San Francisco Opera include the four villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Oroveso in *Norma*, Zoroastro in *Orlando*, and Claggart in *Billy Budd*, adds the bullfighter, Escamillo, to his distinguished gallery of heroes and villains on the War Memorial Opera House stage.

The cast includes current Adler Fellows soprano **Arianna Rodriguez** as Frasquita, mezzo-soprano **Nikola Printz** as Mercédès, baritone **Samuel Kidd** as Moralès and bass-baritone **James McCarthy** as Zuniga. Tenors **Christopher Oglesby** and **Alex Boyer** complete the ensemble of vocal soloists as Dancaïre and Remendado, respectively, while Dance Corps dancer **Blanche Hampton** portrays Manuelita.

San Francisco Opera founder Gaetano Merola conducted Bizet's masterpiece in his 1922 test season at the Stanford University football stadium and programmed it for the Company's fifth official season in 1927. *Carmen* has been presented in 34 previous San Francisco Opera seasons, making it the fourth most-presented work in Company history behind Puccini's *La Bohème* (45), *Madama Butterfly* (38) and *Tosca* (38). Many of the great *Carmens* of the past century—Maria Jeritzka, Gladys Swarthout, Risë Stevens, Regina Resnik, Teresa Berganza, Denyce Graves and Olga Borodina—brought their interpretations to the Company's stage, establishing a tradition for distinctive portrayals that renew the opera's appeal for each generation.

Sung in French with English supertitles, the eight performances of *Carmen* are scheduled for November 13 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (2 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); December 1 (2 p.m.), 2024.

**CARMEN ENCOUNTER, Thursday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m.**

An immersive event inspired by Bizet's *Carmen* will transform the Opera House into an evening of multi-sensory experiences. Part opera, part party, the night begins with the first act of *Carmen* on stage featuring San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows Nikola Printz as Carmen, Thomas Kinch as Don José, Olivia Smith as Micaëla and others, with Benjamin Manis conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. After this introduction to the opera, an immersive experience awaits attendees in the lobby spaces of the Opera House, which will be transformed into the steamy streets and locales of Carmen's Seville. Some lobby activations include adult material; recommended for audiences 21 and over. For more information, visit [sfopera.com/encounter](https://sfopera.com/encounter).

**LIVESTREAM: CARMEN, Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Tuesday, November 19 performance of *Carmen* will be livestreamed at 7:30 p.m. PT. The opera will also be available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Wednesday, November 20 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and limited on-demand viewing are \$27.50. For tickets and more information about livestreams, visit [sfopera.com/digital](https://sfopera.com/digital).

**DEPARTMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

In partnership with the African American Art & Culture Complex, San Francisco Opera's Department of Diversity, Equity and Community (DEC) will host a free screening of *Carmen: A Hip Hopera*, the 2001 made-for-MTV film adaptation of Bizet's opera starring Beyoncé in the title role, on Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. To register, visit [sfopera.com/hip-hopera](https://sfopera.com/hip-hopera).

On Saturday, November 9 at 1:30 p.m. DEC presents *First Act Workshop: Carmen* for families of pre-K to 2nd graders at the African American Art & Culture Complex. Hosted by Bearitone, the Opera Bear, this free workshop includes a screening of *Carmen In An Hour*, a 60-minute film version of Bizet's opera. To register, visit [sfopera.com/carmen-in-an-hour](https://sfopera.com/carmen-in-an-hour).

## OPERA PREVIEWS AND PRE-OPERA TALKS

Soprano, conductor Dr. Alissa Deeter and San Francisco Opera Guild present a free, 90-minute Carmen virtual Opera Preview on Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m. For more information and to register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/carmen-virtual-opera-preview-with-alissa-deeter-tickets-928080191837](https://eventbrite.com/e/carmen-virtual-opera-preview-with-alissa-deeter-tickets-928080191837).

55 minutes before every performance of *Carmen*, opera and theater artist and scholar Michael Mohammed will present a 20-minute overview of the opera inside the auditorium of the Opera House for ticketholders. A digital recording of Mohammed's pre-opera talk will also be made available at [sfopera.com/Carmen](https://sfopera.com/Carmen).

## TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *Carmen* range from \$28 to \$426 and are available at the San Francisco Box Office by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com). San Francisco Opera Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only). A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee.

Tickets for the November 19 livestream of *Carmen* are \$27.50. For more information, visit [sfopera.com/digital](https://sfopera.com/digital).

Tickets for *Carmen Encounter* range from \$50 to \$225 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and online at [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit [bart.gov](https://bart.gov) and [sfmta.com](https://sfmta.com).

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are appreciated. To donate visit [sfopera.com/donate](https://sfopera.com/donate).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2024–25 Season, visit [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

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## CARMEN CASTING AND CALENDAR

#US Debut \*San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut

‡Current Adler Fellow ◇Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program Graduate ^Merola Opera Program Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco)

**CARMEN** by Georges Bizet

**November 13 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (2 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); December 1 (2 p.m.), 2024**

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, based on the novel by Prosper Mérimée  
A co-production of San Francisco Opera and Washington National Opera, originally created by Opera Australia based on the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Norwegian National Opera co-production

Sung in French with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one intermission

World Premiere: Paris; March 3, 1875

First San Francisco Opera Performance: October 1, 1927

Most Recent: June 2019

### Cast:

*Carmen*

Eve-Maud Hubeaux #

*Don José*

Jonathan Tetelman †

Thomas Kinch † (11/26)

*Micaëla*

Louise Alder #†

*Escamillo*

Christian Van Horn

*Zuniga*

James McCarthy †

*Dancaïre*

Christopher Oglesby ◇

*Remendado*

Alex Boyer ^

*Moralès*

Samuel Kidd †

*Frasquita*

Arianna Rodriguez †

*Mercédès*

Nikola Printz †

*Manuelita*

Blanche Hampton

*Lillas Pastia*

Valentina Simi

### Creative Team:

*Conductor*

Benjamin Manis \*

*Production*

Francesca Zambello

*Associate Director & Choreographer*

Annamaria Bruzzese \*

*Production Designer*

Tanya McCallin

*Original Lighting Designer*

Paule Constable

*Revival Lighting Designer*

Justin A. Partier

*Chorus Director*

John Keene

*Fight Director*

Dave Maier

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**CARMEN ENCOUNTER**

Thursday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m.

War Memorial Opera House

After experiencing the first part of *Carmen* in the theater, audience members immerse themselves in the world of Bizet's opera within a transformed Opera House at this encounter which is part opera, part party. For tickets and more information, visit [sfopera.com/seasons/encounter](http://sfopera.com/seasons/encounter).

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San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part, by George and Leslie Hume.

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**PRESS PHOTOS:** Artist headshots and production images for *Carmen* are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press).

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