

Media Release
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Come Back to Passion with the return of Carmen

Victoria, BC – Opening on October 12 at Victoria’s Royal Theatre, Georges Bizet’s *Carmen* is instantly recognizable and utterly unforgettable, the ultimate return to opera at a grand scale.

The first opera of the season, Pacific Opera’s *Carmen* is not to be missed, set against a backdrop of the Spanish Civil War, the production features a stellar artistic team; with stage direction by François Racine, set design by Olivier Landreville and costume design by Sylvain Genois. Choreographed by Jacques Lemay who also appears onstage in a cameo performance as Lillas Pastia.

Conducted by Pacific Opera Victoria’s Founding Artistic Director, Timothy Vernon who says of the popular work, “the score is constantly ablaze with melodies, you can surely sing a half dozen of them without thinking! A masterpiece of concision and rising tension right to the close.”

Carmen is an opera like no other and there is no one quite like Carmen, a brave and beautiful free spirit, eternally falling in and out of love. None can resist, and few understand, this willful and charismatic woman – least of all Corporal Don José. Succumbing to her seduction, he abandons his past life, and his reason, until he cannot let her go. When new love blossoms, toxic desire leads to dire consequences.

Canadian mezzo-soprano, Carolyn Sproule makes her Pacific Opera debut as Carmen. Sproule made her debut in the title role at the Houston Grand Opera during the 2021/22 season. Reviewing her performance in the Houston Press, D.L. Groover wrote, “And then there’s that voice – deep and rich, a plummy and complex Rioja Alta. It’s all there in her radiantly smoky voice. She commands the stage and you can’t take your eyes off her – or your ears.”

Returning to Pacific Opera in the role of Don José is a Pacific Opera favourite. “Adam Luther made his Pacific Opera Victoria debut in 2011 as Anatol in Samuel Barber’s *Vanessa*. His growth as singer and stage artist in the years since has been remarkable - he is now a pre-eminent Canadian exponent of many of the great lyric-dramatic roles, and an ever-welcome guest in Victoria,” said Vernon.

The 2014/15 season saw Luther return for the roles of Froh in Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* and Pinkerton in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. He was Cassio in Pacific Opera’s 2015 production of Verdi’s *Otello*; Tamino in *The Magic Flute* (2017), and Tassilo in Kálmán’s *Countess Maritza* in 2019. Luther returned for two roles in Pacific Opera’s 2019 company première of Puccini’s *Il trittico* – Luigi in *Il tabarro* and Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*.

Soprano Lauren Margison debuts with Pacific Opera Victoria in the role of Micaëla. Margison previously performed the role in 2017 at the Brott Music Festival in Hamilton ON.

The production features 32 community members in the chorus and 14 youth from the Victoria Children’s Choir.

Tickets for single performances start at \$29, with series subscriptions starting at \$72. To keep Pacific Opera accessible to students, families and community organizations, Community Preview tickets are available for \$15. For more information about the 2022/23 season including tickets, visit: [2022/23 Season Information and Tickets](#)

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