



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 5, 2010

Opera's Favourite Bad Girl is Back and Sparks will Fly
MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS
CARMEN
APRIL 17, 20, 23, 2010

Manitoba Opera closes the 2009/10 season with the world's most popular opera, *Carmen*, for three shows only at the Centennial Concert Hall, **Saturday, April 17 (8 pm), Tuesday, April 20 (7 pm), and Friday, April 23 (8 pm)**.

This sensational story filled with seduction, jealousy, and deceit will be sung in French with English translations projected above the stage. The fiery fatal attraction tells the tale of the sensuous cigarette girl who tempts fate when she spurns her lover for a celebrated matador.

With one unforgettable melody after another, composer Georges Bizet's music pulsates with the spirit of Spain and features many opera favourites including the famous "Habanera," the sensuous rhythms of the "Seguidilla," and the rousing Toreador Song.

Tickets are on sale now. Go to www.ticketmaster.ca; call (204) 253-(ARTS) 2787; or visit a Ticketmaster outlet. Casual ticket prices: \$35 to \$125 (adults); \$35 to \$112 (seniors/students); children 12 and under – 50% off the adult casual price. *Prices include GST, the MCCCH \$1.50 ticket surcharge, and the Ticketmaster \$3.50 service charge.*

THE ARTISTS

Considered to be one of this generation's most riveting Carmen's, mezzo-soprano **Kirstin Chávez** makes her Manitoba Opera debut in the signature role. Baritone **Luis Ledesma** also makes his Manitoba Opera debut as the toreador Escamillo. Canadian lyric tenor **David Pomeroy** will sing the role of Don José and Winnipeg soprano **Monica Huisman**, who has replaced the previously cast Frédérique Vézina, will sing the role of Micaëla.

Other cast members include **Benjamin Covey** (Morales/Dancairo); **Alain Coulombe** (Zuniga); **Catherine Daniel** (Mercedes); **Keith Klassen** (El Remendado); and **Arianna Sovernigo** (Frasquita).

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2. *Manitoba Opera presents Carmen, April 2010*

Carmen will be conducted by **Tyrone Paterson** and will also feature the **Manitoba Opera Chorus (Tadeusz Biernacki, chorus director)**, as well as a **children's chorus (Carolyn Boyes, chorus director)** and the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**. The production will be directed by Winnipeg's **Rob Herriot**.

Lighting design is by **Bill Williams**. The set, designed by Allen Charles Klein, is provided by Austin Lyric Opera (Texas) and the costumes are from Malabar Ltd. (Toronto).

THE STORY

The soldier Don José falls in love with Carmen, the Gypsy temptress and allows her to escape as he takes her to prison. In order to be with her, José deserts his regiment, his sweetheart, and even his dying mother and joins Carmen's band of smugglers. As his life crumbles, Carmen begins to tire of him, and her wandering glance turns to the swaggering bullfighter. Her fate is sealed when José, wracked with jealousy, realizes she will never be his.

For more details on the production, artists, synopsis, etc., go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca

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2009/10 SPONSORS, FUNDERS & PARTNERS

SEASON FUNDERS:

**Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts,
Winnipeg Arts Council, The Winnipeg Foundation**

SEASON SUPPORTERS: Richardson Foundation, BMO – Bank of Montreal

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