



VANCOUVER OPERA ANNOUNCES CAST CHANGE FOR BIZET'S *CARMEN*

THE SENSATIONAL GINGER COSTA-JACKSON WILL PERFORM
THE TITLE ROLE ON APRIL 28 & MAY 5, 2024

APRIL 22, 2024, VANCOUVER, B.C./ Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations – [Vancouver Opera](#) is announcing a cast change to its upcoming production of Georges Bizet's [Carmen](#), which opens on April 27th. Nearly ten years ago, *Carmen* graced the stage of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a production filled with passion, drama and world-class talent. Audiences may recall the captivating performance of Carmen by Ginger Costa-Jackson and will have an opportunity to witness her talent again when she steps into the role on April 28th and May 5th and also performs at *Habanera!*, a gala fundraiser for Vancouver Opera on May 3rd.

“Carolyn Sproule, previously announced as Carmen for two performances of our extended five-show run, has had to withdraw from this production due to illness and we have been incredibly fortunate to have Ginger Costa-Jackson taking the stage in her stead,” said Tom Wright, Vancouver Opera General Director. “Our audiences loved our last production of *Carmen*, so they’re in for a treat as this magnetic performer makes her VO return, having gained global recognition for her far-ranging talent. To witness Costa-Jackson in one of her signature roles, we encourage you to purchase your tickets now for April 28th and/or May 5th. We are certain audiences will want to join us in celebrating her return to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.”

[Ginger Costa-Jackson](#) is one of the most exciting and versatile artists of her generation. She has regularly performed at the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Opéra National de Paris, De Munt / La Monnaie, and the Gran Teatre del Liceu. She has graced countless stages as Carmen, including upcoming performances for MasterVoices in New York, Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and the English National Opera. Following her appearance with Vancouver Opera, she will be performing Bradamante in *Alcina* with Seattle Opera.

Ginger Costa-Jackson will join **Matthew White** who portrays the fiery Don José on April 28th and May 5th along with soprano **Jonelle Sills** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as Micaela, **Nathan Keoughan** making his company debut as Escamillo, **Alain Coulombe** (*Turandot*) as Zuniga, and **Luka Kawabata** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as Le Dancaire. Joining them are Vancouver Opera's Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists **Jeremy Scinocca** as Le Remendado, **Simran Claire** as Mercedes, **Heidi Duncan** as Frasquita and **Danlie Rae Acebuque** as Morales. On April 27, May

2 & 4, the romantic title character will be performed by mezzo-soprano **Sarah Mesko** and Don José will be played by **Alok Kumar**.

Rachel Peake (*The Pearl Fishers*) directs *Carmen* alongside conductor **Leslie Dala** (*The Flying Dutchman*) for this five-show engagement of seductive arias, enduring, richly coloured melodies, and rhythmic vibrancy. From the stirring Toreador Song to the tauntingly seductive aria Habanera, Georges Bizet's music transcends the hummable while cutting a compelling path through a story that intertwines the political and the personal with an all-star cast and audacious stagecraft.

Experience [Carmen](#) and purchase your tickets through the [Vancouver Opera box office online](#) or by phone at 604-683-0222. Vancouver Opera would like to remind patrons to only purchase tickets from Vancouver Opera instead of third-party ticket sellers.

Carmen is sung in French with English SURTITLES™ projected above the stage.

Vancouver Opera has the continuing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Canada, the BC Arts Council and BC Provincial Government, the City of Vancouver Cultural Services and Vancouver Civic Theatres. Vancouver Opera thanks our long-time season sponsor, BMO. Ticket Centre sponsor is Mission Hill Family Estate.

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ABOUT VANCOUVER OPERA

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For more information, access to photo gallery and interviews, contact Cynnamon Schreinert. Tel: 604-802-2733; email: cynnamon@hartleypr.com
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