

SEAGLASS THEATER COMPANY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

LA TRAGÉDIE DE
Carmen

MARCH 25, 2023 | 7:30 PM

MARCH 26, 2023 | 3:00 PM

GALLERY X | NEW BEDFORD, MA

FEATURING

HEATHER GALLAGHER AS CARMEN

NATHANIEL BEAR AS DON JOSÉ

JESSICA JANE JACOBS AS MICAELA

JOHN ALLEN NELSON AS ESCAMILLO

CHRIS HUNTER AS ZUNICA & THE OLD GYPSY

SARAH ROGERS AS GARCIA & LILLAS PASTIA

WITH

DR. MATTHEW LARSON, PIANO

LA TRAGÉDIE DE
Carmen

FEATURING

HEATHER GALLAGHER AS CARMEN

NATHANIEL BEAR AS DON JOSÉ

JESSICA JANE JACOBS AS MICAELA

JOHN ALLEN NELSON AS ESCAMILLO

CHRIS HUNTER AS ZUNICA/THE OLD GYPSY

SARAH ROGERS AS GARCIA/LILLAS PASTIA

WITH

DR. MATTHEW LARSON, PIANO

DIRECTED BY **PATRICE TIEDEMANN**

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **DR. MATTHEW LARSON**

BOOK BY **PETER BROOK**

IN COLLABORATION WITH **JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIÈRE**

AND COMPOSER **MARIUS CONSTANT**

A REVISION OF **BIZET'S CARMEN**

LIGHTING PROVIDED BY **LIGHTWORKS PRODUCTIONS, INC.**

SUBTITLES CREATED BY **DR. MATTHEW LARSON**

SUBTITLE OPERATOR: **MAHRIA TREPES**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

When we talked about which opera to present in the 2023 season, *La Tragédie de Carmen* was top of the list - the best music from Bizet's *Carmen*, but compressed into a taut thriller that really got our creative juices flowing. The themes of love, jealousy and seething anger transcend time, so we decided to take *Carmen* out of the 19th century and place it in Seville that could as easily be 1923 as 2023. What matters is the story and the people in it. Carmen is a woman for all time - she is a confident sexual being and a flinty survivor. Rather than treat her like "the fallen woman." we tell her story without a moral lens. The other characters only swirl around her... Don José - a man driven by self-loathing to destroy everything he touches, Micaela - a woman desperate to turn his head and reform him, and Escamillo - an old friend and lover to Carmen, perhaps the one that understands her best. We made the decision to combine the characters of Garcia (Carmen's husband in the original novella) and Lillas Pastia (her crime boss) to represent the difficult choices that Carmen has made to survive.

Carmen always tells the truth - no matter the cost.

Matthew Larson • Patrice Tiedemann

The production is presented by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., Sole Agent in the US, Canada and Mexico for Editions Salabert, a Universal Music Publishing Group company, publisher and copyright owner.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

HEATHER GALLAGHER (CARMEN) She has been hailed as “standout” (Lawrence A. Johnson, *The Miami Herald*), “vivid and convincing” Angelo Mao, *Boston Classical Review* and “great fun”, Jim Lowe, *the Barre Montpelier Times*. Credits include the world premiere of *Whaling Women* (Ruth Post, world premiere, Seaglass Theater Company), the Grammy nominated recording of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Soraya, BMOP), *Patience* (Lady Saphir, Odyssey Opera) and *Ourland* (The Policewoman, world premiere, San Jose Chamber Orchestra). Ms. Gallagher is an Emerging Opera Alumnus with Boston Lyric Opera where she performed in several productions (*Werther*, Katchen; Charlotte cover and *Carmen*, Mercedes; Carmen cover) as well as community outreach performances. As a creator and producer, she has mounted several successful pandemic era productions online and in person through Cultural Wasteland with the help of dramaturg, Peter Schiepers. CW productions include *Letters from New York: the Music of Chris DeBlasio, Britten + Auden*, “Crazy B&Och!”: Classical Music’s Difficult Women, *Tom Lehrer for President: An Election Eve Cabaret* and a chamber concert version of *Das Lied von der Erde*. Ms. Gallagher is a soloist in the professional ensemble at First Church Boston under the direction of Gigi Mitchell Velasco.

NATHANIEL BEAR (DON JOSÉ) from Melville, NY is currently on the roster of singers at the Opera Institute at Boston University, after finishing his master’s degree at Northwestern University and his undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music. During his time at Eastman, Nathaniel performed the roles of Strephon in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Iolanthe*, with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Gérard in Eastman Opera Theater’s production of Philip Glass’s *Les Enfants Terribles*. He also sang the tenor soloist in Britten’s *War Requiem*. In the fall of 2018, he sang the role of Alfred in Oswego Opera’s production of *Die Fledermaus*. With Northwestern Opera, Nathaniel played the role of Ferrando in a virtual Zoom production of Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, David in Jake Heggie’s *If I Were You*, and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. Nathaniel began his work in Boston singing the role of Giovanni in Daniel Catán’s *La hija de Rappaccini*.

JESSICA JANE JACOBS (MICAELA) She has performed leading roles with companies such as Long Island Opera, Boston Opera Collaborative, Salt Marsh Opera, Barn Opera, VOX New England, Sugar Creek Opera, and NEMPAC Opera Company and has performed in the professional ensembles of Boston Lyric Opera, Beth Morrison Productions, and the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Jacobs has sung in Italy with the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca, and at the historic Teatro Nuovo as part of the

University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music’s “I Solisti di Spoleto” concert series. Ms. Jacobs has received an encouragement award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the First place prize from the Vermont Vocal Competition. In addition, she has been a prize winner at the Orpheus Vocal Competition and was a semi-finalist in the Mildred Miller International Voice Competition. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

JOHN ALLEN NELSON (ESCAMILLO) Irish-American baritone John Allen Nelson is known for his “deliciously hearty sound” with “uniformity from top to bottom” paired with his clean musicality. His “full body approach” to acting always makes him an audience favorite. In the 2023 season, Mr. Nelson jumped into the title role of West Bay Opera’s *Don Giovanni*. He debuts with the Pacific Symphony as Marullo in *Rigoletto*, he is returning to the Spoleto Festival as Nicholas in Barber’s *Vanessa*, and reprising one of his signature roles of Escamillo in *The Tragedy of Carmen* with Seaglass Theater Company. Last season had Mr. Nelson making his company debuts with Opera Ithaca as Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, with the Spoleto Festival as Alcindoro in *La Bohème* and with Lubbock Symphony as Imperial Commissioner, and Sharpless cover in *Madama Butterfly*. He returned to Boston to sing Claudius in a highlight concert of Joseph Summer’s *Hamlet* in partnership with Boston Lyric Opera and to the Bar Harbor Music Festival and Schaubard in *La Bohème*. In 2021, he appeared as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with the Bar Harbor Music Festival and made his company debut as the Ufficiale and Figaro cover in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Finger Lakes Opera.

CHRIS HUNTER (ZUNIGA/THE OLD GYPSY) Chris Hunter is a tenor based in Boston. Selected credits include Dr. Baglioni in *La hija de Rappaccini* (BU Opera institute), Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* (Salastina), Rapunzel’s Prince from *Into the Woods* (Pacific Opera Project), Tamino in *The Magic Flute* (UCSB), *Orpheus* (LA Opera Connects), Rodolfo in *La Bohème* (Guild Opera), *The Music Man* (5 Star Theatricals), *The Secret Garden* (3D Theatricals), *The Little Mermaid* (MTW), *South Pacific* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* in Budapest, Hungary, *Lost in the Stars* (Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra), and he has also participated as a soloist in numerous concerts in both opera and musical theatre internationally. He is also a faculty member and Music Director at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Chris is currently pursuing his master’s degree in Vocal Performance at Boston University.

SARAH ROGERS (GARCIA/LILLAS PASTIA) Sarah Rogers is a Boston-based soprano, originally from South Florida. She is currently a member of the Boston University Opera Institute, studying with Penelope Bitzas. Adept in both the

opera and art song worlds, her 2021-2022 season included performances as Erste Dame in North Carolina Opera's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, Selena in Heggie's *If I Were You*, performing Alban Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder* with the Boston University Symphony Orchestra, and winning the Willis Patterson Art Song Award at the George Shirley Vocal Competition. Past highlights include the role of the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, being awarded as a winner of both the *Boston University at Carnegie Hall* competition and the *Boston University Soloist Competition*, and Encouragement Awards at the *Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition* in 2021 and 2022. This year, she can be seen as Mrs. Webb in Rorem's *Our Town*, and as Beth March in Adamo's *Little Women*.

DR. MATTHEW LARSON (MUSIC DIRECTOR) Matthew Larson received his Doctorate in Collaborative Piano from Arizona State University under the tutelage of Eckart Sellheim. Past positions include Assistant Conductor for Boston Lyric Opera; Music Director for the University of Connecticut Opera Program; Staff Pianist for Yale University Opera; Vocal Coach at Brown University; Staff Pianist for The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria; Music Director of Opera Providence; Vocal Coach at Walnut Hill School for the Arts; Pianist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Tanglewood Festival Chorus; Music Director of Cape Cod Opera; and Vocal Coach for Tanglewood Institute's Young Artist Vocal Program. Currently, Dr. Larson is on faculty at Boston University; Music Director of Seaglass Theater Company of New Bedford MA; and Minister of Music at First Congregational Church of Milton, Massachusetts. In January 2020 he earned a Grammy Award as pianist on Boston Modern Opera Project's recording of Tobias Picker's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

PATRICE TIEDEMANN (STAGE DIRECTOR) is the Artistic Director of Seaglass Theater Company, founded in 2016 to produce creatively-staged programs of classic vocal repertoire throughout New England. She was the Artistic Director of Charleston Chamber Opera from 2008 to 2013, and has crafted historically-informed productions for museums and foundations from South Carolina to Massachusetts. In October 2021, she served as the dramaturg for Seaglass Theater's world premiere of *Whaling Women*, a dramatic cantata by Jodi Goble. As a professional soprano, her highlights include appearing as a soloist with the Boston Pops, Boston Lyric Opera, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Indianapolis Opera, Pioneer Valley Symphony, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Theatre by the Sea, New Repertory Theater, the New Bedford Symphony, and many others in classical, sacred, and theatrical repertoire. A graduate of Indiana University and Rhode Island College, she is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the American Guild of Musical Artists, and Actors Equity Association.

SEAGLASS 2022-2023 SPONSORS

Thank you to all our 2022-2023 donors that are helping to make our dreams a reality:

THE TONEGAWA FAMILY

PAULA GOODRICH

KRISTINE DANIELS

JOHN COSTA

MARYLOU MCCARTHY

MATTHEW MCGUIRE

NANCY BARBOUR

GISELE PAPPAS

WENDY HARMON

DENISE & PATRICK GANNON

DIANA McVEY

PAT CASHMORE

ALLAN & PRISCILLA DITCHFIELD

ANNE KIEFER

JOANNE GRACIA

MARGARET FELICE

JANETTE LALLIER

CARL SUPERIOR



SPECIAL THANKS:

PERRY FUNERAL HOME

YOUR THEATER



This production is sponsored in part by the Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford Local Cultural Councils, agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

UP NEXT AT SEAGLASS:



Join us on Armed Forces Day for a musical salute to the troops. Be transported back to the USO clubs of yesteryear, where servicemen got a ham sandwich, a cup of coffee and a dance with a pretty girl before shipping off to war. Enjoy patriotic songs and dance hall favorites with a live band and singers...it's an event not to be missed!



Seaglass
Theater
Company

OUR MISSION:

Seaglass Theater Company brings the finest classics to New England—inspiring community engagement and conversation.

OUR VISION: to deliver both live and virtual programs with a commitment to these foundational elements:

- Accessible programming
- Extraordinary talent
- High quality repertoire
- Modest ticket prices

SEAGLASS THEATER COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elise Gordon, *President*
Mahria Trepes, *Secretary*
Janet Whynacht, *Treasurer*
John Costa
Kristine Daniels
Paula Goodrich
Helen Hassinger
Dr. Matthew Larson
Patrice Tiedemann

UPCOMING FROM FRIENDS OF SEAGLASS:



NEW BEDFORD FESTIVAL THEATRE
April 27th - May 6th · 2023
Tickets on sale NOW! www.zeiterion.org



The Greater New Bedford Choral Society Presents
Composers of New England
Our Spring Concert featuring
works of past and present conductors
Director: Raymond Buttero

May 7, 2023 @7PM
Grace Episcopal Church
133 School Street, New Bedford MA
Admission \$20 at door, children 12 and
under free with paying adult



SEAGLASS THEATER COMPANY STAFF & ADVISERS

Patrice Tiedemann, *Artistic Director*
Dr. Matthew Larson, *Music Director*
David McCarty, *Artistic Adviser*

Want to know more about our mission and vision? Check out:

www.SEAGLASSTHEATER.COM