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HISTORICALLY INSPIRED 'CARMEN' OPENS THE DALLAS OPERA'S 2025/2026 SEASON

TDO presents the U.S. Premiere of a reconstruction of Bizet's beloved opera's 1875 debut production for its 150th anniversary



(DALLAS, September 4, 2025)—**The Dallas Opera (TDO)** opens its 2025/2026 Season with the U.S. premiere of a new production celebrating the 150th anniversary of Georges Bizet's iconic **CARMEN** opening on Friday, October 17, 2025. This production faithfully recreates the original *Carmen* from the 1875 premiere at the Opéra-Comique in Paris.

A team of incredibly talented artists spent more than two years researching original staging through manuals, lithographs, and more to reconstruct the sets and costumes that audiences saw in Paris 150 years ago. That team includes director **Romain Gilbert**, who also led TDO's 2024 *Romeo and Juliet*, and famed French fashion designer **Christian Lacroix**.

"This production is a tribute to the original design of the 1875 premiere," director Romain Gilbert says. "It shows artcraft that people are not used to seeing anymore."

Leading the cast is Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano **Marina Viotti**, who dazzled the world at the 2024 Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony, as Carmen, and Albanian tenor **Saimir Pirgu** as Don José. Both singers, who sang these roles together last year in Zürich to much acclaim, make their TDO debuts in this production. Also making their Dallas Opera debuts in

Carmen are soprano **Teresa Perrotta**, lyric tenor **Matthew Goodheart**, baritone **Kyle Miller**, baritone **Laureano Quant**, and baritone **Eleomar Cuello**. Returning to the TDO stage are baritone **Gihoon Kim**, soprano **Diana Newman**, and mezzo-soprano **Kristen Choi**.

Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director **Emmanuel Villaume** conducts The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus and the children's chorus, Greater Dallas Choral Society, in the original score with dialogue, which will be performed in French with English supertitles.

In Bizet's timeless opera, the infatuated Don José frees Carmen from prison hoping to be together forever, but she longs only for freedom. With some of opera's most recognizable music, this tragic tale of spurned love has captured audiences' hearts for generations. This production premiered at Opéra de Rouen in 2023 and was revived this year with Opéra Royal Versailles, Grand Theatre Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and Ho Guom Opera in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Dallas Opera performance marks the production's first North American appearance.

"*Carmen* is the ideal season opener," says Ian Derrer, TDO's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. "We're thrilled to bring this historic production to U.S. audiences for the first time. It's truly unlike anything you've ever seen."

Performances:

- Friday, October 17, 2025, at 8 PM - note later start time
- Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 2 PM
- Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2 PM

Location: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St., Dallas, TX 75201

The run time is approximately 3 hours & 25 minutes with one intermission. Tickets begin at \$33 and are available on TDO's [website](#) or by calling 214-443-1000.

Full Cast and Creative Team:



PALAZZETTO
BRU ZANE
CENTRE
DE MUSIQUE
ROMANTIQUE
FRANÇAISE

Carmen by Georges Bizet; libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy
Score published by Choudens (revised by Palazzetto Bru Zane)
Co-production with Bru Zane France, Opéra Royal - Château de Versailles
Spectacles, Opéra de Rouen Normandie, and Palazzetto Bru Zane.

Cast in Order of Vocal Appearance:

MICAËLA	Teresa Perrotta*
MORALÈS	Eleomar Cuello*
DON JOSÉ	Saimir Pirgu*
ZUNIGA	Laureano Quant*
CARMEN	Marina Viotti*

Creative Team:

CONDUCTOR	Emmanuel Villaume
DIRECTOR	Romain Gilbert
SET DESIGNER	Antoine Fontaine*
COSTUME DESIGNER	Christian Lacroix*
ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER	Isabelle Aubry*

FRASQUITA	Diana Newman	LIGHTING DESIGNER	Hervé Gary*
MERCÉDÈS	Kristen Choi	REVIVAL LIGHTING DESIGNER	Stéphane Le Bel*
ESCAMILLO	Gihoon Kim	WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER	David Zimmerman
LILLAS PASTIA, INNKEEPER	Martin St. Pierre*	CHOREOGRAPHER	Vincent Chaillet
DANCAÏRE	Kyle Miller*		
REMENDADO	Matthew Goodheart*		
A GUIDE	Christiön Dior Draper		
A VENDOR	Kristen Mata		

Ancillary Events:

Opening Night Celebration: TDO celebrates the 2025/2026 Season's start on the opening night of *Carmen* on October 17, 2025. Open to all ticketholders, the party will feature light bites, photo opportunities, a red carpet, Flamenco dancers, and music by Emerald City Band from 6:00 - 7:45 PM before the opera begins.

Pre-Opera and Post-Opera Talks: The Dallas Opera hosts 25-minute informative lectures before each opera performance beginning on Oct. 19. The Joy and Ronald Mankoff Pre-Opera Talk, which is free with your opera ticket, begins an hour before the performance in the Margaret McDermott Performance Hall. Following the Sunday, Oct. 19, matinee, TDO staff host a casual Q&A with the cast during the Post-Opera Talkback.

Sponsors:

- The Linda and Mitch Hart Season Opening Performance; The Eleanor Ford Penrose Mainstage Production
- **Presenting:** The Radford and Patricia Crocker Foundation, honoring Dr. Feyten and the TWU Occupational Therapy Department; Phyllis and Thomas H. McCasland Jr.; and Lisa Genecov
- **Producing:** The Enrico Foundation; Fanchon and Howard Hallam

About The Dallas Opera

One of the leading opera companies in the country, [The Dallas Opera](#) has an extraordinary legacy of world-class productions and thrilling premieres featuring the greatest operatic artists of our time. Inaugurated in 1957 with a concert featuring the incomparable Maria Callas, TDO is known for the notable U.S. debuts and appearances of a host of legendary artists including Plácido Domingo, Dame Joan Sutherland, Jon Vickers, Franco Zeffirelli, and Sir David McVicar. The company has long been an industry leader and innovator through groundbreaking initiatives including the Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors, free and low-cost digital streaming, public

simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals featuring poetry set to music, the National Vocal Competition, special concerts, and outstanding family and award-winning education programs. TDO's home is the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the Dallas Arts District. As one of the largest performing arts employers in North Texas, TDO is proudly committed to diversity, both onstage and off, and is a major contributor to the economic vitality and international cultural reputation of this region.

For more details, visit dallasopera.org

SEASON SPONSOR

The VanSickle Family Foundation in memory of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

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*denotes an artist's Dallas Opera debut

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Photo above: *Carmen* at Opéra de Rouen. Credit: Marion Kerno

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