

The Dallas Opera Presents the Local Premiere of Poulenc's **DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES**



November 7–15, 2025, at the Winspear Opera House

(DALLAS, September 25, 2025)—The Dallas Opera (TDO) is proud to present the Dallas premiere of French composer Francis Poulenc's **DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES**, opening on November 7, 2025, at the Winspear Opera House. The opera tells the gripping true story of the Martyrs of Compiègne, a convent of nuns executed during the French Revolution. More than two centuries later, their story is still relevant today. The Martyrs of Compiègne were canonized into sainthood by Pope Francis this past December 2024.

"This is not just a French story—it's universal," Original Director Olivier Py says. "The nuns teach to the world a lesson of dignity. It's one of the most heartbreaking stories ever told with the most moving music ever."

Leading the cast as the ingenue Blanche—the only fictitious character—is soprano **Joyce El-Khoury**, who was applauded for her "billowy high notes" (Dallas Morning News) as Leïla in

TDO's 2022 *The Pearl Fishers*. TDO stalwart soprano **Patricia Racette**, who has performed this opera in seven different productions, returns as the formidable Madame de Croissy. Celebrated French mezzo-soprano **Stéphanie d'Oustrac**, who has been praised for her "gorgeous, multi-faceted voice" (Texas Classical Review) and who is Poulenc's great-grand niece, sings Mother Marie. Soprano **Leah Hawkins** makes her highly awaited TDO debut as Madame Lidoine. Rounding out the principal cast of nuns is **Deanna Breiwick** as Sister Constance, **Gretchen Krupp** as Mother Jeanne, and **Meridian Prall** in her TDO debut as Sister Mathilde.

"I am incredibly proud of the powerhouse cast we have assembled for this stunning production by Olivier Py," TDO Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Ian Derrer says. "I am confident they will do justice to Poulenc's galvanizing, poignant opera for its Dallas Opera premiere."

Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director **Emmanuel Villaume** conducts The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus in the original score, which will be sung in French with projected English supertitles. Lead by Revival Director Daniel Izzo, this production is from Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. The original opera premiered at Milan's famed Teatro alla Scala on January 26, 1957.

Synopsis:

It's the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution. A frightened aristocrat enters a convent, desperate to find peace from the violence. However, as the Mother Superior warns, a house of prayer is not an escape from reality. Based on a true story, 16 Carmelite nuns must decide if they will live in fear or die together in faith. Known at the time for his comedic pieces, Poulenc found inspiration for his 1957 drama from a screenplay by French playwright Georges Bernanos, who in turn was inspired by German writer Gertrud von Le Fort's 1931 novella, *The Song at the Scaffold*. Learn more [here](#).

Production Dates:

- Friday, November 7, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 2 PM
- Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 7:30 PM

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

The run time is approximately 3 hours with one intermission. Tickets begin at \$26 and are available on TDO's [website](#) or by calling 214-443-1000.

Full Cast and Creative Team:

Cast:

BLANCHE DE LA FORCE	Joyce El-Khoury
MADAME DE CROISSY	Patricia Racette
MADAME LIDOINE	Leah Hawkins*
MOTHER MARIE	Stéphanie d'Oustrac
SISTER CONSTANCE	Deanna Breiwick
MOTHER JEANNE	Gretchen Krupp
SISTER MATHILDE	Meridian Prall*
MARQUIS DE LA FORCE	Raymond Aceto
CHEVALIER DE LA FORCE	Martin Luther Clark
CHAPLAIN (L'AUMONIER)	Aaron-Casey Gould*
THIERRY/JAVELINOT/JAILER	Andrew Potter
1ST COMMISSIONER	Samuel PJ Lopez
2ND COMMISSIONER/1ST OFFICER	Armon Golliday

Creative Team:

CONDUCTOR	Emmanuel Villaume
ORIGINAL DIRECTOR	Olivier Py*
REVIVAL DIRECTOR	Daniel Izzo*
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER	Pierre-André Weitz*
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Bertrand Killy*
WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER	David Zimmerman

Ancillary Events:

Pre-Opera and Post-Opera Talks: The Dallas Opera hosts 25-minute informative lectures before each opera performance beginning on Nov. 7. 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, Nov. 9, matinee performance, TDO staff hosts the free Post-Opera Talkback, a casual Q&A with the cast.

Sponsors:

- **Presenting:** Martha Peak Rochelle; Betty and Steve Suellentrop
- **Supporting:** Joanne L. Bober
- The James R. Seitz, Jr. Legacy Production

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

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The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from: the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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