



CARMEN

GEORGES BIZET

Opéra comique in four acts (1875)

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy based on the novella by Prosper Mérimée

Sung in French with German surtitles

She's desired by all and is an object of fascination for the soldiers on guard duty: Carmen. Don José is ordered to detain her after a fight but she twists him around her finger. He is arrested for his weakness but is soon released. He sees the flower she threw at him as a token of her love and dreams of spending his life with her. He hides out with her band of smugglers, ignores Micaëla's words of warning, and even imagines he's more than a match for Escamillo, the swaggering bullfighter. The latter, however, has long since captured Carmen's heart...

Bizet's captivating music with its Spanish flavour took the world by storm: Carmen's *Habanera* and *Seguidilla*, like the *Toreador's* Song, are known to one and all. The French opera will be staged at Bregenz with a set designed by British artist Es Devlin. She has designed sets for pop stars like Adele, U2, Take That and Kayne West. In collaboration with the stage director Kasper Holten, Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House in London, she has worked on productions at Covent Garden as well as in Vienna, Helsinki and Copenhagen.

PREMIERE

19 July 2017 at 9.15 pm

PERFORMANCES

21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 July at 9.15 pm

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 August at 9 pm

Lake stage / Festspielhaus

Music director **Paolo Carignani**

Stage director **Kasper Holten**

Stage designer **Es Devlin**

Costume designer **Anja Vang Kragh**

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Prague Philharmonic Choir

Bregenz Festival Chorus

The 2017 Bregenz Festival runs from 19 July to 20 August 2017. For tickets and information, please visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com or call tel. 0043 5574 4076.