



CARMEN

GEORGES BIZET

Opera in four acts (1875)

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

based on *Carmen* by Prosper Mérimée (1845)

Sung in French with German surtitles

“Diamonds! Spades! ... Death!” The cards Carmen is using to tell her own fortune do not augur well. She will die, followed by Don José. Briefly in love with him, she then spurns him because he’s not ready to follow her unconditionally and live as a smuggler. She then welcomes the advances of the bullfighter Escamillo.

The fateful moment when Carmen throws the cards into the air gave Es Devlin the idea for her stage design on Lake Constance. The playing cards in Kasper Holten’s production can do much more than tell fortunes: they are performing areas for soloists, choral singers, dancers and stuntmen. Also, projections on their surface conjure up the different worlds of bullfighting, smuggling and passionate love.

The melody that French composer Georges Bizet found for the passion of soldier Don José has become immortal, as has the song Carmen sings when she comes out of the cigarette factory where she works, her famous Habanera about the unruliness of love.

PREMIERE

19 July 2018 at 9.15 p.m.

FURTHER PERFORMANCES

20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 July at 9.15 p.m.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 & 20 August at 9 p.m.

Seebühne | Festspielhaus

Music director **Antonino Fogliani** | **Jordan de Souza**

Stage director **Kasper Holten**

Stage designer **Es Devlin**

Costume designer **Anja Vang Kragh**

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Prague Philharmonic Choir

Bregenz Festival Chorus

The 2018 Bregenz Festival runs from 18 July to 20 August 2018. For tickets and details visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com or call 0043 5574 4076.