

presents

# Carmen

by Bizet

HASTINGS MUNICIPAL THEATRE April 25, 27, 29 and May 1, 1993

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veryone looks forward to the announcement of the Festival programme highlights. This year, on 30 June, the Festival Artistic Director, Rob Brookman, will unveil the programme at a special gala occasion in the Michael Fowler Centre. Make a note of the date, the evening will have special performances to enhance the stunning visual presentation of the programme for the 1994 Festival.

# If you would like to know more

ere in the Hawkes Bay, the local contact person for the Friends of the Festival is Rosalind Elliott, a Trustee of the Hawkes Bay Opera.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to you all and thank you for your support.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and donors for subsidising the costs of "Carmen".

The aim of the Trust is to produce opera in Hawke's Bay using the best directors and performers available, while providing a forum to show and r local talent.

ood to have a beautiful building in which to present opera, to if through lack of funding the very purpose of this theatre ulfilled? Without the soonsors the aim cannot be achieved.

Board of Trustees and Management Committee for their commitment and voluntary effort.

Our fourth opera marks another milestone, with the leading role being performed by a Napier singer who is fulfilling early promise of a successful singing career.

Enjoy now the character of the opera; majestic music, intrigue, wilful passion and tragedy, the essence of "Carmen" herself.

Naomi Baker Chairman

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# THE STORY OF THE OPERA

ACT 1

A square in Sewille on a hot day in 1820. On one side a tobacco factory; on the other the guardhouse in front of which soldiers watch the townsfolk. Micaella, a young country girl enters looking for a corporal called Don José. Morales tells her that José is due to arrive soon but Micaella rather than face the attentions of the dragotons says she will come back. Shortly afterwards the relieving guard files in headed by Lieutenant Zuniga and Corporal Don José. Zuniga, who is new to Seville asks if the factory girls are pretty but Josés says he has never noticed.

The cigarette girls erupt from the factory for a break and the ardent young men gather round — but their fascination is primarily with the gypsy Carmen who has made her entrance heralded by a quick little version of her "Fate" theme. She provocatively sings the "Habanera" which expresses the capriciousness of her nature. — "If you love me then beware". Don José however pays her no attention. Annoyed, she throws a flower at him and disappears, José picks it up — but it is only when he smells it that we detect the beginning of a subtle change in his

Micaēla returns bringing messages from his mother whose letter urges him to marry Micaēla. She retires in confusion when she hears this leaving him to read it alone. Suddenly there is uproar in the factory and the girls rush out. There has been a fight and Carmen has wounded Manuellial Carmen refuses to answer Zuriga's guestions and he decides to arrest her. While he is writing the order Carmen exerts all her charms on Don José and he agrees to let her escape. As she is led away Carmen pushes José violently to the ground and escapes. José is placed under arrest.

#### INTERVAL — 8 MINUTES

ACT II

The tavern of Lillas Pastia two months later: Carmen dances and sings with her friends . . . Zuniga tells Carmen that Don José who has been in prison for helping her escape has just been released. A procession in honour of the famous toreador Escamillo goes by and he is invited in and tells of his exploits. He is instantly attracted by Carmen but her resoonse is equivocal.

He leaves and Lillas Pastia chases everyone out. Carmen, Frasquita and Mercedes are left alone with two gypsy smugglers, Dancairo and Remendado who have a plan for which they need the gris' help. Frasquita and Mercedes are willing but Carmen is expecting a visit from Don Josés. She is in love! She says she will try to persuade Josés to join them, José arrives, she dances and sings for him but on hearing the bugle signalling a return to barracks he says he must leave. Carmen furiously accuses him of not loving her at all and dismisses him scorrfully. In answer he produces the tlower she had flung at him two morths before. Carmen is unconvinced, if he really loved her he would desert and join the smugglers. Shocked at this suggestion José is about to leave but Zuniga appears. The rivals confront each other but the cytosies rush in and disarm Zuniga. José realises that he has no polion but to in the covasier.

#### INTERVAL — 12 MINUTES

Act III

The gypsies' camp in the mountains, a wild rocky spot where they rest before smuggling their goods into the city. The love-affair of Carmen and José has run its course: she is fired of him and he, though still obsessed with her, is tense and unhappy. Mercedes and Frasquita read their fortunes in the cards but when Carmen cuts the cards they foretell only death.

Remendado and Dancairo bring word that three Customs officers have been sighted and Carmen and friends leave to lure them away. Furious, José is left to guard the camp.

A lonely frightened Micaëla now appears to Try and recall José to a sense of duty. She is about to speak to José when he fires a shot at an approaching stranger. She hides. The stranger is Escamillo who has come looking for Carmen on hearing that she is tired of her current lover. They fight but the smugglers return and stop them thereby saving the life of Escamillo. He then invites everyone to a bullfight in Seville in which he is appearing a few days later.

Micaëla's hiding place is now discovered. She tells José that his mother is dying and persuades him to return home with her. Carmen exults but José declares that she is still his and that he will return.

Act IV

Outside the arena in Seville. It is the day of Escamillo's bullfight and Carmen is by his side. The crowd, the urchins and the gypsies cheer the toreadors as they pass in procession. Frasquita and Mercedes warm Carmen that they have seen José in the crowd but typically, rather than escape, she turns to confront her fate. José desperately implores her not to leave him but she declares their affair is finished and that she now loves Escamillo. Goaded beyond endurance and still hopelessly in love with her. José draws his knife and stabs her. Inside the arena the crowd cheers Escamillo's victory.







#### PHILLIPA READE

#### Carmen

In 1983 Philipa was a finalist in the Dame Sister Mary Leo Scholarship and represented New Zealand in the Australian Marianne Mathy Scholarship. In the same year she was the Auckland Competitions' Society vocal champion, won the S.K. Phillips Memorial Scholarship and gained her ATCL performance examination. In 1994 Phillipa won the Mathy Scholarship and went to the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. She completed her studies with a post-graduate year at the Royal College of Music, London. In 1986 she attained her ARCM performance examination and took the post-graduate singing prize. In 1999 Phillipa won the Petrocorp Scholarship to sing in 'Die Meistersinger' in the Wellington International Festival of the Arts. She played the part of Cherubino in Auckland Opera's 'The Marriage of Figaro' and was chorus mistress for 'The Pearl Fishers' for Hawke's Bay Opera. In 1992 she won the Dame Sister Mary Leo Scholarship, Phillipa leaves us soon to continue per studies in Vienna.



#### HOWARD SPICER

#### Don José

Born in Victoria, Australia, Howard Spicer made his debut with the Victorian Opera Company in Weill's Mahagonny'. He has sung Romeo in Gounod's 'Romeo et Juliette', Pinkerton in Madame Butterfly', Des Grieux in 'Manon', Allredo in 'La Traviata' and Cavaradossi in 'Tosca' and for Australian Opera Turiddu in 'Cavalleria Rusticana'. He was commissioned to write a work for a schools' programme and for a film on his work with children and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Dance Theatre. In 1980 Howard studied in Germany under Hendrikus Rootering, performed with the Stadtische Buhne Munster and in concerts throughout Germany. He has sung in New Zealand for the Dunedin Opera Company in 'Yeoman of the Guard' and 'La Traviata', and for Hawke's Bay Opera as Rootolpho in 'La Bohem' and understudied Patrick Power for 'The Peaf Fishers'.



#### **IOSEFA ENARI**

# Escamillo

losefa was born in Western Samoa. He was runner-up in the North Shore and Rotorua Aria finals in 1935. In 1987 losefa won the New Zealand Herald Aria competition and was a semi-finalist in the Mobil Song Quest. In that year he played Papageno in 'The Magic Flute' for Perkel Opera for whom he has also played Germont in 'La Traviata'. He has performed lead roles in 'Madame Butterfly, 'Turandot', 'The Barber of Seville', 'The Mariage of Figura' and Porgy and Bess' for Mercury Opera. Iosefa is a keen oratorio soloist and has performed in 'The Messjain', 'Eligha' and 'Sk Matthew's Passion'. Later this year he travels to Boston and New York to further his vocal studies with the help of Te Waka Toi, The Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and a Fulliprioth Scholarshio.



# GAYE CARRINGTON-SMITH

#### Micaëla

Gaye Carrington-Smith of Palmerston North was a semi-finalist in the 1985 Mobil Song Quest. Her first operatic role was in 1986 when she played Lelia in 'The Pearl Fishers' for Wellington City Opera. She also played Countess Ceprano in 'Rigoletto'. She has performed and understudied in 'Il Seraglio', 'Madame Butterfly', 'Il Trovatore' and 'La Boheme'. She understudied he role of Lelia for Hawke's Bay Opera's 'The Pearl Fishers' in 1991. In 1992 Gaye was quest soloist in Patrick Power Presents at the Century Theatre.



#### JILLIAN ANDERTON

#### Frasquita

Originally from Auckland, Jillian is now living in Christchurch. In the early 1980's whilst completing her Bachelor of Arts, Jillian studied with Frances Wilson in Auckland, then in London with David Harper. This was followed by studies with Ed Zambara at the Boston Conservatory with Lorraine Nubar of New York. Between 1986 and 1989 she performed numerous roles for the Auckland Opera Company, including the title roles in Lucia di Lammermoor. Madame Butterfly and Suor Angelica. In 1987 Jillian won second prize in the Dame Sister Mary Leo Competition and was a finalist in the Australian Singing Competition. In 1990 Jillian studied and performed in Germany, taking classes with Margaret Singer at the Karlsruhe Music Conservatory and with Uli Windfuhr at Nuremberg Opera. Jillian has most recently made her debut with Canterbury Opera as Zerina in Don Giovanni.

#### Mercedes

#### TRACEY MELLELIEU

Tracey is a fulltime voice and music student at Hawke's Bay Polytech. In 1992 she won the Hawke's Bay Song and Opera Scholarship for attendance at the National Singing School, and in 1993 was awarded the National Singing School Royal Overseas League Scholarship. In 1989 she played Eva Peron in Evita for Palmerston North Operatic and in 1991 was Lady Bellaston in Napier Operatics' Tom Jones. Tracey is also a Medical Laboratory Scientist.



#### Remendado

#### HAMISH MORRISON

Hamish is from Wellington. He has completed Grade VIII in piano and singing. He has worked as a drama teacher in London where he was also a graphic design studio manager. He has performed in operatic roles in Germany, Sussex, London and in the N.Z. Opera Gala at Covent Garden as the Apprentice in 'Die Meistersinger'. He has sung with the English Chorale Chamber Choir and the Orpheus Choir, Wellington. He has also performed for Wellington City Opera.



#### Dancairo

#### DAVID SKINNER

David has sung some forty operatic baritone roles for Auckland Opera Trust, Auckland Symphonia Opera, Perkel Opera, Auckland Opera and Ballet Trust, TVNZ Opera and Wellington City Opera. He has played both Figanos, Scarpia in "Tosca", Schaunard and Marcello in 'La Boheme', Escamillo and Dancairo in 'Garmen', Guiglielmo in 'Così fan Tutte' and Tonio in 'Pogliacci'. He has also played principal roles in light opera and musical comedy including Petrucchio in 'Kiss Me Kate', Ravenal in 'Showboat' and Tevye in 'Fiddler on the Roof'. David is a geologist-science manager with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd. He is married to Shirley Kauter from Napier.



#### Zuniga

## **ALEX BURNS**

A love of theatre and music has lead to T.V. and nightclub appearances in Australia and New Zealand. Alex has played leads in 'The Sound of Music', 'And So to Bed', 'Patience' and 'My Fair Lady'. He has appeared in 'Dido and Aneas', 'Ginna Schicc' and 'Cavalleria Rusticana'. He sang for Hawke's Bay Opera in 'La Traviata' and 'The Pearl Fishers' and played Benoit in 'La Boheme'.



#### Morales

#### MICHAEL HEWITT

Morales is Michael's first role in professional opera. Michael is a foundation member of the "Hawke's Bay Song and Opera Workshop" and has performed many baritone lead roles in local opera productions, including Papageno in "The Magriage of Figaro', Guglielmo in 'Cossi Fan Tutte' and The Consul in 'Madame Butterfly'. He is interested in all aspects of classical singing, especially Lieder and French song, He is a busy family operal practitioner and runs a vineward of classical grape varieties.



#### Lillas Pastia

#### WAYNE LISTER

Wayne's first experience with musicals was in 1960 playing in Kismet for the Napier Operatic Society. He has since played lead roles for the Hastings Operatic Society, Napier Frivolity Ministrels, the Hastings Musical Comedy Company and Hastings Group Theatre. He was the Customs Official in Hawke's Bay Opera's 'La Bohème'.





# Carmen

An opera in four acts Music by Georges Bizet Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

#### Characters

Phillipa Reade Carmen A cigarette girl and gypsy Howard Spicer Done José A corporal Fecamillo A toreador Insefa Fnari Micaëla Gave Carrington-Smith A peasant girl Mercedes Carmen's friend Tracey Mellelieu Frasquita Carmen's friend Jillian Anderton Hamish Morrison Remendado A smuggler Dancairo A smugaler David Skinner Alex Burns Zuniga A lieutenant Michael Hewitt Morales A corporal Lillas Pastia Wayne Lister Andres Ross Lange Manuelita Deborah Percy

### Ladies and gentlemen of the chorus

Lillian Chittenden Adele Cochrane Fileen von Dadelszen June Farmer Valda Gillies Elaine Goodwin Anne Hiha Deborah Percy

Margaret Sloane Glen Sutherland Frances Tod Alison Wall Glen Ward Eve Weir Jenny Leu Williams Lex Barker Sam Browne Warwick Bull Scott Cormack Callum Dodunski Chris Gibbs Tarver Graham

Henk van Hooiidonk Ken Keys Boss Lange

John Latton Wayne Lister Ray McHalick Peter McNeill John Pryce David Reefman Hans Spiikaer Simon Thompson Jon Warren

#### Dancers

Joanna Gregory

Rick Behague

#### Children

Angela von Dadelszen Helen von Dadelszen John von Dadelszen

Louise von Dadelszen Tom Hewitt Dane Isherwood

Jenny Lyons Tom McArdle Marguerite Paku

#### Understudies

Carmen Don José Escamillo Micaela Frasquita

Kathleen Craig Michael Kyle Bernard Jennings Catherine McDonald Caroline Hickman

Mercedes Dancairo Zuniga

Morales

Valda Gillies Remendado Ross Lange Michael Hewitt Ken Keys Jon Warren

Rachel Plummer Peter Simpson Trygve Wakenshaw





#### RICHARD CAMPION

#### Director

Richard was born in Wellington and educated at Victoria University and Wellington Teachers' College, His introduction to opera came in London while he was attending the Old Vic Theatre School. He has directed plays for The New Zealand Players and the first opera for the New Zealand Opera Company, 'The Consul' by Menotti. He has directed 'Die Fledermaus' by Offenbach, Carmen' starring Dame Kin' Te Kanawa, La Traviata' and 'Lucia Di Lammermoor' starring Dame Malvina Major and 'Carmen' again for Wellington City Opera. In 1990 he arranged and co-directed the 'Re-enactment of the Signing of the Treaty' at Waitangi. Richard directed 'La Traviata' in 1988, 'La Boheme' in 1990 and 'The Pearl Fishers' in 1991 for Hawke's Bav Opera, all to high acclaim.



#### KEITH BRAZIER

## Set Designer

Keith's connection with theatre goes back 40 years. He took part in Hastings Musical Cornedy Company productions over 32 years and designed and painted scenery for many of their shows. He designed and painted the sets for 'La Bohème' and 'The Pearl Fishers' for Hawke's Bay Opera. Keith is a graphic artist with his studio in Hastings. He and his wife Pegov are involved in the restoration of the Hastings Municial Theatre.



### **SHIRLEY JARRETT**

### Choreographer

Shirley studied for her qualifications in London and Los Angeles. In 1988 she wrote 'An Evening with Gershwin' which was staged by the Napier Operatic Society and went on to win the J.C. Williamson Award for New Zealand. She was choreographer for Hawke's Bay Opera's 'The Pearl Fishers' and in 1992 she wrote. The Life of Jerome Kern' for Napier Operatic. Shirley is also working on the opening extravaganza for the Napier Friority Ministrels' new Variety Theatre. Shirley is a tutor in dance and stage movement at the hawke's Bay Polvtechnic's new course for singers and musicians which beaan in March.



#### GWYN ACE Lighting Adviser

Gwyn has worked in theatre for over 30 years mainly in the areas staging, lighting and make-up. Productions he has lit include 'Man of La Mancha', 'Wh Fair Lady', 'Chicago', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Cabaret', 'Music Hall' and for Hawke's Bay Opera 'La Bohème' and 'The Pearl Fishers'



# ROBIN JOHNSON

#### Lighting Manager

Robin has been involved in most aspects of theatre over the last 23 years and attends overseas performances whenever possible. he has been involved in lighting 'La Traviata', 'La Boheme' and 'The Pearl Fishers' for Hawke's Bay Opera and is a great enthusiast for 'Carmen'.



#### LOIS REEFMAN Wardrobe Mistress

Lois, a qualified designer, has organised the wardrobes of Hawke's Bay Opera's 'La Traviata', 'La Bohème' and 'The Pearl Fishers'. She has spent over 20 years in theatre production, mainly in the costume department working with most theatre groups in this region and also with the Levin Operatic Society.



# BARBARA JONES Properties Manager

Barbara is skilled at sellecting just the right pieces for the productions she works on. Barbara works regularly with local operatic societies and has been properties' mistress for Hawke's Bay Opera for 'La Traviata', 'La Bohème' and 'The Pearl Fishers'.

#### Conductor

#### ALAN FOSTER

Conductor Alan Foster has spent the last twenty-two years as a viclinist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. During this time he has conducted the NZSO, the Wellington Chamber Orchestra, Opera-Technique, Mobil Song Quest finals, De La Tour Opera, Opera Guild, and was resident Musical Director of the Wellington City Opera 1987 to 1989. In 1984 Alan took a year's leave from the NZSO, when he conducted concerts in Sydney with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, played in the Sydney Symphony and Sydney Bach Orchestra, Dilowed by a period of study with the Cologne Opera in German. Upon his return he conducted a season of La Bohème for the Hawke's Bay Opera, followed by concerts with the St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra of Auckfand, Wellington Chamber Orchestra and the directorship of the Walkato Music School. He is engaged in 1993 for St Matthew's, Wellington Chamber Orchestra, Walkato Music School and the Dunedin Sirloria. Alan as spent many hours adapting the "Carmen" score for this production.



#### Chorus Mistress DARYN ELSTON-SMITH

Daryn is a music graduate of Canterbury University and has her F.T.C.L. in solo singing. She has sung several lead and supporting operatic roles in New Zealand as well as performing in numerous recitals and concerts. Daryn was a foundation member of the New Zealand National Youth Choir, and has directed many secondary school choirs and tutored at National Secondary Schools Choral Courses. She presently maintains a busy teaching practice both in Wellington and Hawke's Bay. This is the second time she has been Chorus Mistress for Hawke's Bay. Opera, the first being for the 1988 production of 'La Traviata's.



# **ORCHESTRA**

		OICOIDO	TIME		
Leader: Helen Tipple	er				
First Violin		<b>Double Bass</b>		Bassoon	
* Helen Tippler	H.B.	* Karen Tebay	H.B.	Mark McEwan	Auck
Gretchen Anderson	H.B.	* Rosemary Severinsen H.B.			
Tiffany Anderson	H.B.	C. POSCOS CONTROL . CONTROL CONTROL CO		Horn	
Christiana Stevens	H.B.	Flute and Piccolo		Michael Winter	H.B
Penni Taylor	H.B.	Dana Parkhill	H.B.	Charlotte Maddren	Wgtr
Beatrice Wilson	Wgtn	Briar Towers	Wgtn		
	-			Trumpet	
Second Violin		Oboe		Jonathon Krebs	H.B
Jan Thompson	H.B.	Merran Cooke	Wgtn	* Graeme Harrington	H.B
* Kate Holden	H.B.	* Julian Pook	H.B.		
* Elizabeth Ralph	H.B.			Trombone	
* Robyn Smith	H.B.	Cor Anglais		Kali Barton	Watr
		Merran Cooke	Wgtn	*Raewyn McIndoe	H.B
Viola					
* Marian Stronach	H.B.	Clarinet		Harp	
* Sue Branch	H.B.	* Karen Edwards	H.B.	Natalia Mann	Auck
* Kathy Brenstrum	H.B.	Frances Morgan	H.B.		
				Tympani	
Cello				Grant Myhill	H.B.
* Stephen Gibbs	H.B.	* members of			
Wendy Johnson	H.B.	Hawke's Bay		Percussion	
Melanie Johnson	H.B.	Regional Orchestra		Grant Myhill	H.B.
Paula Watson	H.B.			Darvn Elston-Smith	Watn

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

#### 'Carmen' in the Bay

This is the people's opera. Everybody knows the music! There are 'Dance Carmens', 'Cute Carmens', Outdoors with Bulls, films and all and probably 'Carmens on Ice'.

This will be Bizet's original version — music, song and dance, and dialogue. We follow the story by the Frenchman Prosper Mérrimée, as Bizet fashioned it.

Yes, but what will the Hawke's Bay 'Carmen' be like?

Well, who sings Carmen? Somebody from 'Oz'? No.

The best prepared and the most 'suited-to-the-role' mezzo-soprano we could find was here in the Bay — Philippa Reade.

Like Dames Malvina and Kiri before her she was the latest star of that producer and protector of fine voices, Sister Mary Leo.
 She studied the role of Carmen with Don Smith — an outstanding tough José to Kiri's young, seductive Carmen in my first production of the opera.

And José? The tenor role of the serious northerner who succumbs to the gypsy magic — and kills and dies for it — will be the Rodolfo from our Bohème — Howard Spicer over from Aussie.

From Auckland comes the young, handsome, vibrant and Spanish-looking baritone losefa Enari who sang the Count in 'Marriage of Figaro' at the Aolea and was recently in the Bay bringing opera to the schools.

Gaye Carrington-Smith leaves her husband's Palmerston North dairy farm to sing the country girl Micaela. And yes, Christchurch and Wellington provide other too singers.

Who will conduct? The man from 'Bohème', Alan Foster, has been practically living in the Bay training top talent.

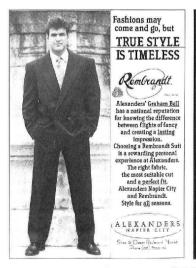
But the power-house of 'Carmen' is the chorus. And we have 34 singers from the towns, farms and hills of the Bay. (Scott drives in from Dannevirke). Real people with trained voices. Both are important in this people's opera.

Remember Violetta in La Traviata and Musetta in Bohème? Well Daryn has devoted her extraordinary energy and musical 'savvy' this time to the chorus.

But this is all front-line — behind are twice as many. Down at Farmlands — a big area on loan for the show — you will find working day after day for nothing but the joy of achievement Len and his mates who are building all four sets!

The theatre itself, believe it — you'll see it — is built in the Spanish Mission style. Made for 'Carmen'. 'Carmen' is a treasure for musicians and a sure success with the public. The story is real. The characters live. The passions blaze in the common heart of human nature. This is one of the finest musico-dramatic creations of any age.







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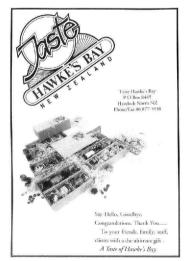
We would like to take this opportunity to wish Hawke's Bay Opera

another successful season



Flowers for all occasions, locally, throughout New Zealand and the world. Flowers speak an international language and express our often held-back feelings





# Production Personnel

Conductor Alan Foster

Director Richard Campion

Set Designer Keith Brazier

Chorus Mistress Daryn Elston-Smith

Choreographer Shirley Jarrett

Production Manager Sam Browne

Stage Manager Maxine Andersen

Asst Stage Manager Jill Greia

Rehearsal Secretary Morva Crofskey

Rehearsal Pianists Marie Stothart Corrie Hughes

Elizabeth Curtis Shirley Bell Geraldine Power

Wardrobe Lois Reefman with Jan Simmers Rev Flms Jill Taylor

Wardrobe continued Pam Anyon Rev Hawke Julie Smith Frances Murray

**Properties** Barhara Jones with Allison Bullack Simon Howard John Lowe Maureen Mullany

Liz Pega Alexandra Pego Mike Smith Pam Winfield

Hastings Boys' High School

I an Evans Carl Wright Owen McMillan

Gwyn Ace Lighting Manager

Robin Johnson **Lighting Crew** Ngaire Anderson

Russell Anderson Warren Harris Jason Kyle Catherine Pegg Stephanie Pegg

Painters Baloh Cleland and friends

Mechanist Staveley Tankersley

Stage Crew Alan Adams Brian Cochrane Len Evans Owen McMillan Steve Badley Dan Ricketts Staveley Tankersley Gordon Vogtherr

Fly Floor Dave Austin Stu Doig Mike Eagle Barry Hughes

Brian Wilkinson

Make-Up Dawn McCowatt with Cath Barker Maureen Brady Judy Dagg Barbara Hodoson Helen Jackson Isohel Martin Diana Newdick Brian Overend Minnie Wright

Call Stowards Rhonda Browne

Morva Crofskey Children's Supervisor

Flora Ross Bookings Rosalind Elliott Phillipa Yorke John Averill and friends

Front of House James Baker Mark von Dadelezen Ken Hutchison

Set Construction

and friends Lighting Adviser

Theatre Decoration Pat Stewart with

Woodford House and friends Refreshments

Annetta Keys and friends Resources John Pryce

Programme Cover Piera McArthur

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# Hawke's Bay Opera Scholarships

Following each opera season a recipient of a Hawke's Bay scholarship is chosen. These scholarships are awarded in different areas of performance or production and are seen as encouragement for future training to the betterment of theatre in ceneral.

Past recipients are:—

Joe Christensen Scott Cormack Maxine Andersen La Traviata La Bohème The Pearl Fishers

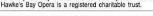
## Thanks

Hawke's Bay Opera is grateful for continuing financial support from sponsors, patrons, donors and members. Without this, opera in Hawke's Bay would not survive.

Many people say that they do not have the means at present to support Hawke's Bay Opera. This is understandable in the current economic situation.

However, there is one way in which supporters can help and that is by bequest

If you are considering making or updating a will you may like to consider making a bequest to Hawke's Bay Opera. This would be a very real way to ensure a future for opera in the Bay.





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The Hastings Municipal Theatre Trust formed four and a half years ago has almost completed the task of refunishing and redecorating the theatre. Certain structural alterations have been carried out to enable the entrance foyer to be enlarged and a new look given to the front of the theatre. Other major work includes the grand circle (formerly the "Gods") now equipped with individual seats and completely carpeted in line with the dress circle and the stalls. The dress circle foyer has been enlarged, a new male toilet area created and a link formed joining the previous council and mayoral chambers to the theatre itself.

Ron Goodwin, famous international composer and conductor, recently assured the people of the district that, "This theatre is the best little opera house in Australasia".

The Trust is engaged in raising finances for the redecorating and the refurbishing of the previous council and mayoral chambers and the ground floor entrance and stairway.

The Hastings District Council is turning its attention to major backstage upgrading work in the Municipal Theatre itself.







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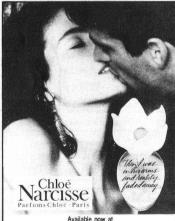
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## GEORGES BIZET AND CARMEN

#### **Historical Note**

Georges Bizet was delighted when the Opéra-Comique commissioned him to write a piece. He had recognised the excellent operatic possibilities of Prosper Mérimée's novel Carmen (written in 1845) and he was fortunate in getting Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halley to collaborate on the libretto.

Of his finished work he said to a friend "... This time I have written a work that is all clarity and vivacity, and full of colour and melody. I think you will like it." Delays ensued, partly because the plot was considered scandalous and obscene, but eventually Carmer reached the stage on 3 March, 1875. It most a success. The subject — the seduction and corruption of a young soldier by a voluptuous and amoral gypsy — was considered shocking and immoral in its day, especially in an opera destined for the Opéra-Comique, a theatre frequented by the staid and conservative bourgeoisie of Paris. Bizet died three months later at 37, never knowing the success of his opera.

The opera was given 45 performances during the year and though its plot won for it a certain success de scandale it was not well attended. It was not revived in Paris until 1883 — despite the fact that a production in Vienna in October 1875 achieved a striking success. This production paved the way to Carmen's world-wide reputation, since when it has remained one of the half-dozen most popular operas ever written. For Vienna, Ernest Guiraus replaced the solone dialouse with accompanier deritatives, and it is this

version that has usually been performed. In the present production we are returning to spoken dialogue and Bizet's own version of the

opera, published in 1875 .



Bizet's Pearl Fishers is still frequently performed today, but it lives for its music, not for its story and its characters. With Carmen, Bizet hoped to extend and transform the gener. That he certainly did. Carmen did more than give opera one of its most alluring female characters: it opened an era of realism and naturalism, not only in France, but also in Italy, where the new style became known as verismo, from the Italian word for truth. For Carmen gave Bizet the opportunity to compose music for real flesh-and-blood characters; characters who sprang from the soil of Spain, and who were recognisably Spanish; who were carried away by their obsessive but believable passions, into violence and tragedy. The fact that Bizet had never set foot in Spain and that most of his melodies weren't Spanish at all doesn't really matter. It is Spain as we think of it. And after all, as someone asked — "Was Darite ever in Heil?"

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