

1981
FARNBOROUGH AND RAE
AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
present



Carmen

**Support the
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- 8th SYNCHRO SWIMMING DISPLAY
- 9th "MISS RUSHMOOR" Competition
- 10th CARNIVAL PROCESSION
- 11th Athletics Meeting
- 12th CARNIVAL DANCE
- 13th LIDO FUN DAY
- 14th HORSE SHOW. Songs of Praise

**PRINCES HALL
SATURDAY 23rd MAY**

**'African
Sanctus'**

(first performance in this area)

RUSHMOOR CHOIR

(MD: Peter Mound)

with **DAVID FANSHAW**
Composer

**SAVOY SINGERS
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PATIENCE

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RAE Players

present

**"HABEUS
CORPUS"**

*Comedy by
Alan Bennett*

APRIL 9th, 10th, 11th

RAE Assembly Hall



FARNBOROUGH & R.A.E. AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
(founded in 1920)

*presents by arrangement with
J. B. CRAMER & CO. LTD.*

CARMEN

Opera in Four Acts

Taken from the Novel of Prosper Mérimée

Libretto by
H. MEILHAC AND L. HALÉVY

English version by
HERMAN KLEIN AND HENRY HERSEE

Music by
GEORGES BIZET

PRINCES HALL, ALDERSHOT

MARCH 23rd-28th, 1981

Nightly at 7.30, Saturday matinée 2.30

Producer — **ELIZABETH HILLIER**

Musical Director — **PETER MOUND**

Choreographer — **LIZ RILEY**

Stage Manager — **JOHN MITTEN**

Violins
Ann Garlick, Leader
Sidney Fincham
Margaret Dines
Margaret Beaumont
Jenny Arthur
Gordon Arthur
Robert Perry

Violas
Anne Lloyd
Constance Fincham

'Cellos
Peter Torrent
Richard Toll

Bass
Charles Cudmore

Flutes
Janet Maddox
Alan Browning

Oboes
Barry Collison
Reginald Kirkpatrick

Prelude

Clarinets
John Young
Cyril Meeres

Bassoon

Horns
William Evans
Lesley Darlington

Trumpets
Roy Falshawe
Annette Peters

Trombones
Jill Falshawe
Edwin Harmer

Percussion
Frances Tull

Harp
Caroline White

ACT I

Chorus of Soldiers and Scene (*Morales and Micaela*)
Chorus of Boys and Scene (*Morales, Don Jose, and Zuniga*)
Chorus of Men and Cigar-Girls
Habanera (*Carmen*) and Chorus
Duet (*Don Jose and Micaela*)
Chorus of Cigar-Girls and Scene
Seguidilla and Duet (*Don Jose and Carmen*)
Finale

ACT II

Entr'acte
Gipsy Air and Dance (*Carmen, with Frasquita and Mercedes*)
Scene and Chorus
Toreador's Song (*Escamillo*)
Quintet (*Dancairo, Remendado, Carmen, Frasquita, and Mercedes*)
Canzonet, unaccompanied (*Don Jose*)
Duet (*Don Jose and Carmen*)
Flower Song (*Don Jose*)
Finale

ACT III

Entr'acte
Smugglers' Chorus and Sextet
Card Trio (*Carmen, Frasquita, and Mercedes*)
Quintet and Chorus
Air (*Micaela*)
Duet (*Don Jose and Escamillo*)
Finale

ACT IV

Entr'acte
Chorus of Street Vendors
March (*Procession to the Bull-fight*) and Chorus
Duet and Finale

CARMEN

The Story

ACT I
A Square in Seville

Micaela, a peasant girl, comes to inquire of the guard for Don José, a young brigadier whom she loves. His mother hopes to see them married one day. José has not yet arrived so Micaela leaves, to return later. José arrives with the new guard and is bitterly disappointed to have missed Micaela but equally delighted when he hears she is to return. Meanwhile the girls of the cigar factory have returned from their midday break, smoking their cigarettes, and are accosted by the guards and townsmen. Carmen, a gypsy working in the factory, is especially popular and receives attention from all, save Don José. Piqued by his indifference, she throws a sprig of cassia at him and runs off. José is immediately and fatally attracted to her. When Micaela returns he treats her as a brother, not a lover, but after receiving from her a letter from his mother, and a kiss, he tries to regain his former feeling and obey his mother's wishes. Later a quarrel occurs in the factory and Carmen is arrested for stabbing one of her comrades. Whilst waiting to be taken to prison she further fascinates José and after arranging a rendezvous with him, persuades him to let her escape. He does so, with the result that he is himself arrested, imprisoned for one month, and reduced to the ranks.

ACT II
Lillas Pastia's Tavern, near Seville

Carmen and her gypsy friends, Frasquita and Mercedès, are singing while others dance, for the amusement of some officers, including Zuniga, a lieutenant of Don José's regiment, who ordered her arrest, but is one of her admirers. The revels are interrupted by a brief visit from a famous Toreador (or bull-fighter), Escamillo, who is much struck by Carmen's beauty. His advances receive no immediate encouragement, for Carmen is expecting Don José, just released from prison. When the crowd has departed, the three gypsy girls are joined by their friends Dancairo and Remendado, who invite them to aid in one of their smuggling expeditions. Carmen refuses on the ground that she has fallen in love, but promises to ask her new lover to join the band. Don José arrives. Carmen dances for him and strives in vain to induce him to desert. He is about to leave her when Zuniga returns. A quarrel ensues and José draws on his officer. The whole gypsy band rush in and stop the fight. Don José then has no alternative but to go off with Carmen and her companions.

ACT III
A Mountain Pass

Some weeks have elapsed. The smugglers halt at night on one of their journeys across the Sierra, whilst Dancairo goes forward to reconnoitre. Carmen has now tired of Don José, and would fain be rid of him. His love is of a more enduring type. She watches the girls telling their fortunes with cards, and seeks to learn her own fate in similar fashion. The cards invariably predict her death at the hand of Don José. At daybreak a move is made, and when the pass is clear Micaela comes to seek José, who has been left some distance below to watch the bales of contraband. He does not see her, but subsequently perceives and fires at Escamillo, who in turn has come in search of Carmen. Micaela speedily hides, while José and Escamillo have an explanation which makes their mutual position plain. They start a duel with knives, but the smugglers return and separate them. Escamillo invites them all to the bull-fight at Seville, and takes his leave. Micaela, discovered and dragged from her retreat, informs Don José that his mother is dying, and ultimately, after a bitter scene with Carmen, he decides to leave her and accompany Micaela to their home. As they are going off the Toreador is heard in the distance, singing the refrain of his well-known song.

ACT IV
Outside the Bull-ring at Seville

The day of the bull-fight has arrived. A busy crowd watches the gay procession of the "Quadrillas" entering the circus. Escamillo, with Carmen on his arm, brings up the rear. The gypsy remains outside, and is warned by Frasquita and Mercedès that Don José is lurking near. Like the fatalist she is, Carmen does not shirk this final interview. Her despairing and haggard lover duly appears and strives to persuade her to rejoin him. It is useless; she first refuses, then insults him. Not heeding his menaces, she at last throws at him the ring which he had given her. He then stabs her to the heart.

LADIES' CHORUS

Audrey Andrews
 Colette Astill
 Fiona Birchall
 Christine Bond
 Leslie Blythe
 Jacki Fox
 Ruth Hepworth
 Chris Hicks
 Beryl Holmes
 Jean Horsey
 Mavis Inker
 Janet Jones
 Mary Kitson
 Jenny Meadows
 Rita Moore
 Millie Mound
 Anne Nelson
 Marion Payen
 Rosemary Philpott
 Tessa Smith
 Doris Short
 Eileen Stevens
 Paula Still
 Maureen Strike
 Hilary Tattershall
 Lorna Walters
 Mary Walden
 Kathryn Wolstenhome

DANCERS

Kim Ball
 Julie Cronshaw
 Loraine Elsworth
 Kay Jones
 Debbie Mitten
 Siân Thomas

*Carmen***PRINCIPAL SINGERS**

Carmen — a gipsy girl

Micaela — a childhood friend of Don José

Frasquita — a gipsy, friend of Carmen

Mercédés — a gipsy, friend of Carmen

Don José — a Corporal of Dragoons

Matador Escamillo — a bull-fighter

El Dancaire — a smuggler

Le Remendado — a smuggler

Zuniga — Lieutenant of Dragoons

Morales — Corporal of Dragoons

Lillas Pastia — Inn Keeper

*Gill Canfield

†Marie Little

Diana Hart

Elizabeth Francis

Caroline Smith

*Michael Barker

†John Esau

John Kidson

Handel Hall

Ron Walker

Dan Payen

Chris Pakula

John Mack

*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday evening

†Tuesday, Friday, Saturday afternoon

Act 1 A square in Seville. About 1820

Act 2 Lillas Pastia's tavern, a month later

INTERVAL

Act 3 A mountain pass, some weeks later

Act 4 Outside the Bull-ring at Seville

MEN'S CHORUS

Philip Alner
 Maurice Binning
 Richard Brown
 Bob Butt
 Tony Doherty
 Roy Duffett
 John Edwards
 Lloyd Jones
 Fred Jewell
 John Mack
 Trevor Mann
 Arthur Nelson
 Michael Phillips
 Huw Prall
 Mark Reason
 Paul Redstone
 David Sillett
 Eric Smith

Assisted by

Doug Gilbey
 Fred Hammick
 Ernie Leedale
 Peter Viveash
 Mike Williams

BOYS' CHORUS*Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat. evening*

David Brown
 Timothy Canfield
 Simon Evans
 Stephen Garrood
 Robert Horton
 Jonathan Lane
 Simon Meadowcroft
 Richard Still
 Adrian Thomas

Tues., Fri., Sat. afternoon

Nicholas Chapman
 Damon Cotterill
 Alec Cox
 Graham Head
 Andrew Jackson
 Simon Lynch
 Simon Milligan
 Jonathan Ramage
 Philip Reakes

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Assistant Musical Director — Mrs. D. Pike, B.Mus., G.R.S.M., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
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Choreographer — Mrs. E. Riley, A.R.A.D., A.I.S.T.D.
Costume Manager — Mr. H. Thomas
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Scenery constructed and painted by:

Bill Bleasdale, Jeremy Freke, Ted Freke, Wendy Gilbey, Fred Hammick, Ted Hills, Ernie Leedale, Doris Mack, John Mitten, Peter Viveash, Mike Williams

Stage Crew:

Bill Bleasdale, Mike Davall, Jeremy Freke, Ted Freke, Doug Gilbey, Fred Hammick, Ted Hills, Ernie Leedale, Doris Mack, Haydn Thomas, June Thomas, Peter Viveash, Mike Williams

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Stage Door — Bert Evans
Accompanists:
Rehearsals — Pearl Reed, Robin Walker, Derek Canfield
Dancing Rehearsals — Brenda Woolger
Backstage Chorus conducted by Derek Canfield
Fight choreographed by Col. Ian Bradley

Programme cover design — Trevor Andrews
Foyer photographs taken by Terry Hallett

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A glance at the past record on this programme of the spectrum of our performances over the 60 years of our existence, shows that while we have performed an astonishing variety of light operas and musicals this is our first venture into grand opera. Most grand operas are not well suited to the amateur stage, if only because we look for shows that have the necessary public appeal, require a large cast, have plenty of demanding work for principals and chorus alike and are financially practicable.

"Carmen" handsomely meets these criteria; in particular the lead principal roles of Carmen and Don José are vocally so demanding that we have thought it politic to duplicate the principal for them. It says much for the pool of amateur talent on which we are able to draw that duplication of the high calibre talents needed for these roles has proved possible.

Unfortunately, escalating costs in every quarter, and an orchestra for "Carmen" that is almost double the numbers normally required, have necessitated a modest increase in seat prices to ensure that we finish "in the black" to the benefit of local charities.

I am sure that you will get as much pleasure and entertainment from "Carmen" as from any of our previous productions, and I look forward to seeing you again for our production of "Brigadoon" in the Autumn.

Guil Molyneux

PAST PRODUCTIONS

1921 The Golden Amulet	1944 The Vagabond King	1964 South Pacific
1922 The Pirates of Penzance	The Gondoliers	1965 Show Boat
1923 Patience	1945 Good Night, Vienna	1966 The Land of Smiles
1924 The Mikado	Iolanthe	1967 Oklahoma
The Yeoman of the Guard	1946 The Rebel Maid	1968 Merrie England
1925 Les Cloches de Corneville	1947 The Yeoman of the Guard	1969 Orpheus in the Underworld
1926 The Gondoliers	1948 H.M.S. Pinafore	1970 Chu Chin Chow
1927 The Pirates of Penzance	1949 The Mikado	1971 Camelot
1929 The Rebel Maid	1950 The Pirates of Penzance	1972 Die Fledermaus
1930 The Geisha	1851 The Arcadians	1973 Fiddler on the Roof
1931 H.M.S. Pinafore	1952 The Quaker Girl	1974 Kismet
1932 Iolanthe	1953 A Country Girl	1975 Music Man
1933 Patience	1954 Rose Marie	1976 Merry Widow
1935 The Mikado	1955 Waltz Time	Robert and Elizabeth
1936 The Gondoliers	1956 The Desert Song	1977 La Belle Helene
1937 Ruddigore	1957 The Gondoliers	The King and I
1938 Les Cloches de Corneville	1958 The Vagabond King	1978 Kiss Me Kate
1939 The Yeoman of the Guard	1959 The Gypsy Baron	My Fair Lady
1940 The Pirates of Penzance	1960 Iolanthe	1979 Rose Marie
1941 The Mikado	1961 White Horse Inn	Half a Sixpence
1942 A Waltz Dream	1962 Brigadoon	1980 Carousel
1943 The Desert Song	1963 Night in Venice	Oliver

Next production:

BRIGADOON

Princes Hall, Aldershot
SEPTEMBER 21st-26th, 1981

The Society welcomes new members, both active and Associate. Particulars of membership may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Y. Sutton, 3 Woodside Park, Forest Road, Bordon. Telephone: 4481. Auditions early April

In accordance with the requirements of the Hampshire County Council:

All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction, whether permanent or temporary.
NO STANDING IS ALLOWED NO VISITORS ALLOWED BACKSTAGE
AND NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM

Photography or recording during performances in the hall are prohibited. The Management Committee reserve the right to refuse admission



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The Society gratefully acknowledges the valuable support received from Patrons, Programme Sellers, Stewards and all those who have contributed to the production. Special thanks are due to those who have worked so hard with the construction and painting of the scenery. Thank you also to the members of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade who are on duty in the Hall throughout the week.

The Society takes this opportunity of thanking the Theatre Manager, and his staff, for their help and co-operation.

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