



Opera Western Reserve
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PRESS RELEASE

Opera Western Reserve presents *Carmen* November 11, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opera Western Reserve continues its 13th anniversary season with Georges Bizet's *Carmen* Friday, November 11, 2016 in the iconic 2500-seat Stambaugh Auditorium. Tickets to the general public are available June 1.

Carmen is seen as the epitome of opera. Famous stagings of it abound, theatrical and film versions of it are enormously popular, and its music has been featured in countless commercials, advertisements and movies. *Carmen* is one of the most popular and accessible operas for the first time opera goer. Both the story and the music are exciting and people would be surprised how much of the music is already familiar to them. If you have any curiosity about opera, this is an ideal opportunity to satisfy it." David Vosburgh, Artistic Director.

With its extraordinary popularity today, it is hard to realize just how revolutionary *Carmen* was when it premiered in 1875. Bizet's brilliant score followed none of the rules of the day, breaking musical and theatrical boundaries of every sort. The title character was an exotic gypsy who dominated every man she encountered, a temptress who could be tamed only by death.

Rhea Olivacce makes her Opera Western Reserve debut in the title role as Carmen. Returning for their 13th season Susan Davenny Wyner will lead the 25-person professional orchestra and David Vosburgh will serve as overall production director and set director. Scott Skiba will serve as stage director. Singers in the Young Artists program will sing supporting roles in the chorus.

Tickets can be purchased in person or by calling the Florence and Ward Beecher Box Office at Stambaugh Auditorium (330) 259-0555. The box office is open daily 9:00am – 6:00pm Monday-Friday and Saturdays 10:00am-2:00pm or through the Opera Western Reserve website operawesternreserve.org. Tickets range from \$25-\$75.

A significant part of the mission of Opera Western Reserve is to provide a performance platform for local and regional artists. OWR is a professional opera company which presents high quality productions while giving priority casting to gifted and regional singers in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

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