



**Milestone 35<sup>th</sup> Season**

**Joseph R. Pucciatti, Artistic Director**

**Jerrold C. Kalstein, President**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Passion Sets the Boheme Opera NJ Stage Ablaze In Bizet's "Carmen"**

Hamilton, NJ – February 1, 2024 -- Boheme Opera NJ ("Boheme") continues its milestone 35th main stage season with Georges Bizet's fiery "Carmen" on March 15, 2024, at 8:00 pm and March 17, 2023, at 3:00 pm at Kendall Hall Performance Theater on the campus of The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ. The college address is: 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

Bizet's torrid tale of lust and vengeance is consistently in the top-five operas performed around the world – and Boheme Opera brings it to the stage with a world-class cast, stunning virtual sets by J. Matthew Root and the outstanding musicians of the Boheme Opera NJ Orchestra and Boheme Opera NJ Chorus under the baton of Conductor and Artistic Director Joseph Pucciatti. "Carmen" also features members of the exciting Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre and the Princeton Boychoir and Girlchoir.

Stage Director Stefanos Koroneos takes a story already brimming with volatile characters and intrigue and turns up the sizzle by setting "Carmen" in the equally explosive Spain of the 1940s, when Franco ruled with an iron fist and war raged around the globe. Koroneos directs a cast of established and rising international performers, most in their Boheme and role debuts.

Award-winning contralto Alison Bolshoi embodies the lusty, free-spirited Carmen in her role debut, following starring performances with Boheme as Amneris ("Aida") and The Witch ("Hansel and Gretel"). The dashing, lovestruck Corporal Don José is portrayed by internationally acclaimed tenor Gregory Turay, making his company and role debuts. Coming off his celebrated performance in the title role in "Nabucco" with West Bay Opera, baritone Jason Duika makes his company and role debuts as the flamboyant toreador, Escamillo. Thrilling Boheme newcomers include soprano Rachael Long as Don José's spurned love, Micaëla; soprano Alize Francheska Rozsnyai and mezzo-soprano Erin Rosales as Carmen's seductive friends, Frasquita and Mercédès; and baritone Zachary Angus as Corporal of Dragoons, Moralès. Returning to the Boheme main stage are rising stars Kevin Patrick as the tempestuous Lieutenant Zuniga, and Mathew Tartza and Dante Doganiero as sinister smugglers Remendado and Dancairo.

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[www.bohemeopera.org](http://www.bohemeopera.org)

Sung in French with English supertitles, each performance will be preceded, one hour before curtain, by a talk presented by Boheme Board President Jerrold Kalstein.

Visit <https://www.bohemeopera.org/carmen> for more information and to purchase tickets. Call the Boheme office at (609) 581-9551 with questions and to learn about sponsorships and group tickets.

#### About Boheme Opera NJ

Since its founding in 1989, Boheme Opera's mission continues to be making world-class musical performance accessible and available to artists and audiences through fully staged opera, concerts and outreach. The Company promotes community involvement, business partnerships and collaborations with other arts organizations, and has been recognized by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts with three Citations of Excellence. Funding for Boheme Opera NJ programs is made possible in part by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Princeton Friends of Opera; Boheme Opera NJ Guild; Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Association; Northfield Bank, Northfield Bank Foundation; Investors Foundation; Roma Bank Community Foundation; NJM Insurance Group; Northwest Criterion Asset Management LLC; corporations, businesses, individuals; and collaborative/corporate matching gift contributions.