

## MEDIA RELEASE

April 13, 2011

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Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative presents

## ***Carmen*** (In Concert)

By **George Bizet**

Based on the novella by **Prosper Mérimée**

Conducted by **Robert Ashens**

Narration by **Bernard Cuffling**

**May 14, 2011** IN VANCOUVER – ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

**May 22, 2011** IN VICTORIA – ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

**IN BRIEF:** Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative presents an **encore performance** of ***Carmen*** at Canadian Memorial United in Vancouver (15<sup>th</sup> & Burrard) on May 14, 2011 at 7:30pm and at St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Victoria (Douglas & Broughton) on May 22, 2011 @ 4:30pm. Opera "in-concert" sung in French with English narration. Advance tickets are \$18 and \$22 and can be purchased online at [vancoco.ca](http://vancoco.ca). CASH ONLY (\$21 and \$25) at the door.

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Back by popular demand! January's sold-out performance was described as "***riveting, passionate, poignant and totally satisfying***" (Opera Canada 2011). "***Love is a rebellious bird that no one can tame ... He has never known law. If you don't love me I love you, if I love you watch yourself!***" The story is set in Seville, Spain, and concerns the eponymous Carmen (**Natalie Burdeny**), a beautiful Gypsy with a fiery temper. Free with her love, she woos the corporal Don José (**Eric Olsen**), an inexperienced soldier. Their relationship leads to his rejection of his former love Micaela (**Arianna Sovernigo**), mutiny against his superior, and joining a gang of smugglers. His jealousy when she turns from him to the bullfighter Escamillo (**Andrey Andreychik**) leads him to murder Carmen.

Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative ("VanCOCO") is "***all about the music***". We offer unique in-concert operatic experiences to our audiences, focussing solely on the beauty of the music. As a co-operative, we gather teams of creative minds, seasoned industry professionals, and top-notch vocalists to produce events that bring the highest standard of musical excellence to the concert stage.

Conducted by **Robert Ashens** | Piano Accompaniment by **Kinza Tyrrell** | Narration by Jessie Award  
Winning Actor **Bernard Cuffling** | Starring **Natalie Burdeny** (Contralto), **Eric Olsen** (Tenor), **Arianna Sovernigo** (Soprano), **Andrey Andreychik** (Baritone), **Peter Alexander** (Bass-Baritone), **Kathleen Morrison** (Soprano), **Jeanine Fynn** (Mezzo-Soprano), **Ed Moran** (Baritone), and **Andrzej Jeziorski** (Tenor) | Stage Manager **Matthew Bissett** | Assistant Stage Manager **Wayne Gilbert** | Poster Design **Jana Curll**