



**KIRSTIN CHÁVEZ –
MEZZO-SOPRANO**

American mezzo-soprano Kirstin Chávez's opera repertoire includes *Carmen* (which she has sung internationally including in the UK, US, Australia, China, Italy and Austria), Octavian

(*Der Rosenkavalier*), Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Orfeo in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Eurydice* at the Metropolitan Opera, New York and most recently Amneris in *Aida* for Opera Southwest in the US. She has also performed in several contemporary American operas. Kirstin made her Royal Opera House debut in 2014 as Marquise de Merteuil in Luca Francesconi's *Quartett*, a role with which she also made her Swedish debut with Malmö Opera in 2015.

Kirstin also presents a wide repertoire of oratorio and concert pieces, and she gave her London concert debut with her recital programme "A World of Love" at Cadogan Hall in June 2016.

Kirstin was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and grew up in Kuala Lumpur. She studied at New Mexico State University and the Eastman School of Music.

JAMES LONGFORD

James Longford has a wide-ranging career as a chamber & orchestral pianist, répétiteur & continuo player, and in music theatre and education. He studied at the Royal College of Music, winning the Tagore Gold Medal.

He works regularly with the Royal Opera House and Royal Ballet, English National Opera, BBC Singers, Southbank Sinfonia, Garsington Opera, Ensemble NAYA, London Concert Choir, and Kokoro, and has appeared at the Avignon, Chichester, Aix-en-Provence, Aldeburgh, Latitude, Deal, Sounds New, Anghiari, London Schubert and the Israel festivals.

In 2001 he established the longfordbrown piano duo with Lindy Tennent-Brown. They are laureates of several international competitions and were placed in the top nine piano duos in the world at the 2008 Dranoff International Two Piano Competition in Miami.

He is also a member of the Galos Piano Trio, established in 2009, specialising in the lesser-known corners of the piano trio repertoire by English and women composers. James was delighted to be selected as a Steinway Artist in 2014.



JOHNATHON PAPE

The dynamic and eclectic work of Johnathon Pape crosses many borders – director, writer, teacher, coach, and frequent consultant for artistic projects spanning many disciplines.

Recent work includes *Eugene Onegin* and *Falstaff* for The Seagle Music Colony, Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* for Tulsa Opera; and *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Flight*, and *Iphigénie en Tauride* for The Boston Conservatory, where he serves as Director of Opera Studies. Career highlights include the world premiere of *Griffelkin* by Lukas Foss for New York City Opera; the U.S. premiere of Daniel Catán's *La Hija da Rappaccini* for San Diego Opera; the Los Angeles premiere of Richard Greenberg's *Eastern Standard*; and Terrence McNally's *Master Class* for *HaBimah*, the National Theater of Israel. He is thrilled to once again collaborate with Kirstin Chavez on *Carmen: Fire and Fate*.



**GLENDA SOL
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Glenda Sol Koeraus "La Argentinita," is one of the top flamenco dancers/choreographers in New York City. She has appeared at illustrious venues such as Lincoln

Center, Town Hall, Symphony Space, and The Joyce Theater. She has been featured as a solo dancer in the pre-production of Tony Award-winning Christopher Gatelli's *In Your Arms* (Powerhouse Theater), *Zorro! The Musical* (Alliance Theater, GA) and *Carmen* (Metropolitan Opera). Most recently she choreographed and perform as a solo dancer for Portland Opera's production of *Carmen* (Keller Auditorium). Sol has been a staple in the NYC flamenco scene, and can be seen regularly in local tablaos such as Sala, Alegrias, El Circulo Español and Tapas España, among others.



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Credits



MUSIC from Carmen by Georges Bizet

CARMEN Kirstin Chávez
www.kchavez.com

PIANO James Longford
www.jameslongford.com

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Johnathon Pape

CHOREOGRAPHER Glenda Sol Koeraus, 'La Argentinita'
www.flamencoysol.com

MUSICAL ARRANGER Jeffrey Price

SCRIPT Johnathon Pape and Kirstin Chávez

SPANISH TRANSLATOR Pablo Zinger

PRODUCER Kate Herbert for Global Arts Promotions Ltd
www.globalarts.org.uk

MARKETING CONSULTANT Hardish Virk
www.hardish.moonfruit.com

PR CONSULTANT Kim Morgan
kim@kimmorgan-pr.com

DESIGN Eureka!
www.eureka.co.uk

Carmen – Fire and Fate

Kirstin Chávez

Why are we doing Carmen – Fire and Fate?

After singing *Carmen* in nearly 40 different productions in so many countries around the world, including the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Taiwan, France, Germany, Austria, and the UK, this iconic character has become a part of me. I feel passionately about her way of living, her way of being, and, too often, I have seen her performed in a base 2-dimensional fashion which does not do justice to the fullness of her personality and which does not demonstrate the depth of her convictions, her feelings, and her passion for life. So, I decided to create a production which will illuminate many of the inner most feelings and realizations that I have come to believe that Carmen has during the course of Bizet's wonderful opera.

Together with my Artistic Director, Johnathon Pape, my choreographer, Sol la Argentinita, my composer/arranger, Jeffrey Price, my translator, Pablo Zinger, my producer Kate Herbert, and my pianists, we have created a one-woman show with text, dancing, and acting, over a continuous flow of Bizet's stunning music. During this one hour performance you will be treated to an intimate view of Carmen's experiences and feelings, and will hopefully come to understand her lust for Life and Freedom that led her to her ultimate need to embrace death.

The creation of this show has been a huge undertaking for me, and a true divergence from my normal artistic experience of simply singing the role I am assigned to sing with an opera company that takes care of all of the production issues and questions. In this case, I am running the show, myself! Naturally, I could never do this without the help of some extremely talented people who have come to demonstrate a passion for Carmen and her story that is equal to my own. I hope you feel this is a very unique experience: a chance to get an inside view into what Carmen was truly thinking and feeling; her struggles, her frustrations, her reactions to the words of others. And, because I have garnered experience in, and a love for, the art of flamenco, I finally get to truly utilize those skills as I dance my way through several selections of the piece. I hope you will gain a beautiful understanding of Carmen through this show, but I know that I also find so much joy and fulfilment in expressing her so completely.

Carmen – Fire and Fate, is a culmination of many years of my professional exploration of this glorious role. After gathering this experience, I feel that I may have a unique ability to offer this inside view, and my hope is that, through these performances, I will be able to shed some light on what I believe to be the true nature of her character, and the Carmen that I know and love will finally be so much better understood.



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