EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES

April 4 — April 6, 2024 | 7:30 PM
April 7, 2024 | 2:30 PM
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
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**Artistic/Music Director**
Timothy Long

**Stage Director**
Pat Diamond

**Scenic Designer**
Michael Bennett Lewis

**Lighting Designer & Photographer**
Nic Minetor

**Assistant Scenic Designer**
Oscar Escobedo

**Prop Designer**
Mary Reiser

**Costume Designer**
Nicole LaClair

**Choral Director**
Hannah Duff

**French Diction Coach**
Brock Tjosvold

**Assistant Conductors**
Ömer Aziz Kayhan
Luke Poeppel

**Technical Director**
Mark Houser

**Audio Engineer**
Greg Thompson

**Production Stage Manager**
Josh Lau

**Wigs & Hair/Makeup**
Renee Proulx

**Scenic Construction**
José Maisonet
Dylan Skwirba
Steve Woznick

**Rachel Singh**

**Jessamyn Slon**

**Kathryn Piña***

**Guo Wu***

**Scenic Artists**
Shelbie Colombo
Katherine Duprey
Megan Lancy

**Assistant Stage Managers**
Jessica Kodsi*
Evan McMahon*
Mackenzie Minguillo*

**Electrician**
Justin Gommel
Logan Simpson

**Supertitles**
Stephen Carr

**Light Board Operator**
Katherine Duprey

*denotes student production assistants

GRADUATE OPERA ASSISTANTS/PIANISTS

Cynthia Chun-Hsin Liu
Jeongmin Oak

Sunmin Anna Park
Guhan Peng
CAST

April 4, 7:30 PM  April 5, 7:30 PM  April 6, 7:30 PM  April 7, 2:30 PM

Minghang Wang  Marquis de la Force  Gino Pinzone
Benjamin Krutsch  Chevalier de la Force  Xuyue Qing
Darby Schmidt  Blanche de la Force  Sofia Scattarreggia
Simon Lea  Thierry  Simon Lea
Grace Lauther  Madame de Croissy  Emily Skilling
Carolina Sullivan  Sister Constance  Jenna Justice
Joelle Lachance  Mother Marie of the Incarnation  Emma Unkrich
Holden Turner  M. Javelinot  Holden Turner
Faith Dowley  Madame Lidoine  Sarah Spurlin
Jack Merson  L’Aumonier  Adam Holthaus
Hannah Reich  Sister Mathilde  Liz Jackson
Sydney Cornett  Mother Jeanne  Alicia Guan
David Griffith  1st Commissioner  Caleb Meyerhoff
Logan Dubner  2nd Commissioner/1st Officer  Elizabeth Healy
Jack O’Leary  Jailer  Finn Bucci

Covers:
Ghalib Ekber & David Griffith for Chevalier de la Force
Mary Fetterman for Blanche de la Force
Alicia Guan for Madame de Croissy
Caroline Duers for Sister Constance
Hutton Stiller for Mère Marie
Alanna Beilke for Madame Lidoine
Andrew Miller for L’Aumonier
CAST

**LES CARMÉLITES**

**Mother Gerald**  
Emily Kondrat

**Sister Claire**  
Katharina Watzke

**Sister Antoine**  
(Neuylan Loffredo)

**Sister Catherine**  
Alanna Beilke

**Sister Felicity**  
Emily Krasinski

**Sister Gertrude**  
Amy Pressman

**Sister Alice**  
Savannah White Heximer

**Sister Valentine**  
Lily Bogas

**Sister Anne of the Cross**  
Caroline Cooke

**Sister Martha**  
Christine Sheng

**Sister St. Charles**  
Hutton Stiller

**LA FOULE – CHORUS OF CITIZENS:**

**SOPRANO**  
Caroline Duers  
Izabella Gozzo  
Jessica Pope  
Sarah Schexnayder  
Ashley Schlusselberg

**ALTO**  
Freddie Kartoz  
Anastasia Maritsas  
Joelle Lachance  
Grace Lauther  
Emily Skilling  
Emma Unkrich

**TENOR**  
Finn Bucci  
Logan Dubner  
Elizabeth Healy  
Simon Lea  
Jack O’Leary  
Gino Pinzone  
Ashton Rapp  
Holden Turner

**BARITONE**  
Jonathan Ellwanger  
David Griffith  
Adam Holthaus  
Benjamin Krutsch  
Jack Merson  
Caleb Meyerhoff  
Andrew Miller  
Xuyue Qing
Timothy Long, conductor

**Violin I**
Noah Arcenas
Grace Belsie
Leo Liao
Paige Griffin
Jia Wen Lin
Aviva Bock

**Violin II**
Anne-Marie Wnek
Alex Tada
Isabel Chen
Alisha Stafford
Leila Fanien
Enyu Ye

**Flute**
Alex Stokes
Kaja Hammerschmidt
Emily Claman

**Oboe**
Lauren Smith
Alexis Wilson
Vincent Chang

**Clarinet**
James Julian
Evyn Levy
Ethan Morad

**Bassoon**
Trey Barrett
Alistair Picken
Ryan Zych

**Horn**
Alana Knowles
Jack Finlay
Aliceyn Covington
Dan Soya
Jennelle Williams

**Trumpet**
Derek Gong
Diego Turner
Seth Henderson

**Trombone**
Rose Cantrell
Charley Hibschweiler
Talia Berenbaum

**Viola**
Ethan Shin
Megan Wike
Anna Denfeld
Hannah Esquivel
Matthew Vu

**Cello**
Danny O’Connell
Juewen Zhang
Jacob Hinton
Cori Trenczer

**Bass**
Wynter McCray
Nadia Magalski
Rey Sunglao

**Percussion**
Brandon Berlanga
Cass Lo
Aiden Hughes
Ryan Cozzolino

**Harp**
Catherine Caton
Lindsay Haukom

**Flute**

**Oboe**

**Clarinet**

**Bassoon**

**Horn**

**Trumpet**

**Trombone**

**Flute**

**Oboe**

**Clarinet**

**Horn**
PARIS, APRIL 1789. THE FIRST SIGNS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION ARE BEGINNING TO SHAKE THE COUNTRY. THE MARQUIS DE LA FORCE AND HIS SON, THE CHEVALIER, ARE WORRIED ABOUT BLANCHE, THE CHEVALIER'S FEARFUL, NERVOUS SISTER, Whose CARRIAGE HAS BEEN HELD UP BY A MOB ON HER WAY HOME. WHEN BLANCHE ARRIVES SHE MAKES LIGHT OF THE INCIDENT, BUT HER ANXIETY IS REVEALED WHEN A SERVANT’S SHADOW FRIGHTENS HER AS SHE LEAVES THE ROOM. SHAKEN, SHE RETURNS TO TELL HER FATHER THAT SHE HAS MADE UP HER MIND TO BECOME A NUN.

WEEKS LATER AT THE CARMELITE CONVENT IN COMPIÈGNE, BLANCHE IS INTERVIEWED BY MADAME DE CROISSY, THE AGED AND AILING PRIORRESS, WHO MAKES IT CLEAR TO BLANCHE THAT THE CONVENT IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER, NOT A REFUGE. THE PRIORRESS IS Touched BY BLANCHE’S RESOLVE TO EMBRACE HER NEW LIFE.

BLANCHE AND YOUNG SISTER CONSTANCE DISCUSS THEIR FEAR OF DEATH, WHICH CONSTANCE CLAIMS TO HAVE OVERRCOME. BLANCHE ADMITS HER ENvy OF HER COMPANION’S STRAIGHTFORWARD AND EASYGOING NATURE. CONSTANCE SHOCKS BLANCHE BY TELLING HER THAT SHE KNOWS THEY WILL BOTH DIE YOUNG AND ON THE SAME DAY.

MADEME DE CROISSY IS LYING ON HER DEATHBED, STRUGGLING TO APPEAR CALM. SHE BLESSES BLANCHE AND CONSIGNS HER, AS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE ORDER, TO THE CARE OF THE LOYAL MÈRE MARIE. THE PRIORRESS CONFESSIONS HER FEAR IN THE HOUR OF DEATH, THEN SHE FALLS BACK LIFELESS.

ACT II

THAT NIGHT IN THE CHAPEL, CONSTANCE AND BLANCHE KEEP VIGIL BY THE PRIORRESS’S BIER. BLANCHE IS OVERRCOME BY FEAR AND ABOUT TO RUN OFF, WHEN MÈRE MARIE Appears. REALIZING THAT BLANCHE IS GENUINELY AFRAID SHE TRIES TO CALM HER.

CONSTANCE HOPES THAT MÈRE MARIE WILL BE THE NEW PRIORRESS. She TELLS BLANCHE THAT SHE Wonders WHY A GOD-FEARING PERSON LIKE MAeME DE CROISSY HAD TO DIE SUCH AN AGONIZING DEATH. PERHAPS, SHE SAYS, PEOPLE DON’T DIE FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR OTHERS. SOMEONE ELSE WILL BE SURPRISED ONE DAY TO FIND DEATH EASY.
Madame Lidoine has been appointed the new prioress. In the chapter room, she addresses the convent, counseling patience and humility. A visitor is announced—it is the Chevalier, Blanche’s brother, who is about to flee the country. He urges Blanche to leave the convent and return to their father. Blanche replies that her duty is to her sisters.

In the sacristy, the chaplain, forbidden to perform his duties, celebrates his last mass. The nuns discuss the fear that has grabbed the country and Mère Marie wonders if self-sacrifice will be their destiny. Madame Lidoine reminds them that martyrs are not chosen by their own will, only by God’s. Knocking is heard and the sounds of an angry crowd. Two Commissioners enter and tell the sisters that they have been expelled from the convent. One of them, speaking quietly to Mère Marie, adds he will do what he can to help them get away safely. One of the sisters gives Blanche a figurine of the Christ Child. When revolutionary cries are heard from outside, Blanche nervously drops the figure, breaking it. She is horrified by this omen.

**ACT III**

In the devastated chapel, Mère Marie suggests in Madame Lidoine’s absence that they all take a vow of martyrdom by unanimous decision. Noting Blanche’s reaction, the others suspect she will vote against it. When the secret ballot reveals one dissenter, Constance claims it was she and asks to reverse her vote so the vow can proceed. Blanche, afraid to live or to die, runs away. The sisters are led from the convent.

Blanche is forced to work as a servant in the ransacked mansion of her father, who has been sent to the guillotine. Mère Marie finds her there to take her back to the sisters. On the streets, Blanche learns that the nuns have been arrested.

At the Conciergerie prison, Madame Lidoine joins the sisters in their vow of martyrdom. Constance says that she has dreamed of Blanche’s return. A jailer enters and reads the death sentence. Madame Lidoine blesses the sisters. When Mère Marie learns from the chaplain that the nuns will die, she wants to join them, but the chaplain reminds her that it is for God to decide whether or not she will be a martyr.
SYNOPSIS

A crowd has gathered on the Place de la Révolution. The Carmelites walk towards the guillotine, led by Madame Lidoine and singing the Salve Regina. With each stroke of the blade, their voices are cut off one by one, finally leaving only Constance. On her way to the scaffold, she sees Blanche step up from the crowd, take up the chant, and follow her to her death.

— The Metropolitan Opera
SETTING

COMPIÈGNE AND PARIS, FRANCE
1789 – 1794

ACT I

SCENE 1: The Library of the Marquis de la Force, Paris, April 1789
SCENE 2: The Receiving Room of the Carmelite Convent, Compiègne, a few weeks later
SCENE 3: The Workroom of the Convent, a few weeks later
SCENE 4: The Infirmary

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

SCENE 1: The Chapel
INTERLUDE 1: The Workroom
SCENE 2, INTERLUDE 2: The Chapel
SCENE 3: The Receiving Room
SCENE 4: The Chapel

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT III

SCENE 1: The Chapel, October 1792
INTERLUDE 1: A Street Outside the Convent, later that day
SCENE 2: The Library (of the Marquis de la Force), Paris
SCENE 3: The Conciergerie Prison, Paris, July 11, 1794
INTERLUDE 2: A Street in Paris, later that day
SCENE 4: Place de la Nation, Paris, July 17, 1794
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In Honor of Stella Dyer Long, Choctaw StoryTeller, and mother of Timothy George Long, Music Director, Eastman Opera Theater
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For more information, please check the Eastman School of Music website at http://www.esm.rochester.edu.

If you would like to register to receive e-mail notification of Eastman events, please go to http://www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts/mailing/
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UPCOMING EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE EVENTS

Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition
Winner's Concert
Kilbourn Hall
Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 7:30 PM

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

JAMES E. CLARK CHAMBER MUSIC RESIDENCY

WindSync
Hatch Recital Hall
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:30 PM

Versatile and vibrant, the musicians of WindSync “play many idioms authoritatively, elegantly, with adroit technique, and with great fun” (All About the Arts). In the span of one performance, the quintet can cover vast musical ground from revitalized standard repertoire to freshly inked works to folk and American Songbook, the common thread telling a compelling story about music history and our human selves.

*This concert does not require tickets and is free to attend.

EASTMAN RANLET SERIES

Takács Quartet
Kilbourn Hall
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM

In a highly anticipated return to Eastman’s Ranlet Series, the Grammy Award-winning Takács Quartet present a program of ‘the natural world’, featuring Hadyn’s “Sunrise” Quartet, Beethoven’s 8th string quartet, inspired while contemplating the starry skies and the music of the spheres, and a new work by Phoenix-based composer, Nokuthula Ngwenyama.
For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.