



# CARMEN

**Montréal, September 29, 2022** – Les Grands Ballets and its Orchestra are excited to present *CARMEN* a special four-piece performance, October 20–23, 2022, in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier.

Choreographer Étienne Béchard's work is inspired by Rodion Shchedrin's 1967 *Carmen Suite*, composed after Bizet's opera. *CARMEN* is Béchard's second production for Les Grands Ballets. In this 3.0 version, our heroine is transported to a virtual universe where everything goes, in stark contrast to an oppressive real-world society.

Étienne Béchard blends various dance styles, including contemporary, hip hop, circus and floorwork, as well as futuristic sets and costumes, to immerse us in a stunning social allegory that explores how new technologies and the "society of the spectacle" affect our behaviour. The result is an utterly fresh and avant-garde take on Carmen, a symbol of freedom and rebellion.

**"Carmen is both an avatar for the Don José character and, above all, an idea, the embodiment of free love, protest and hope, which everyone can relate to."**

**- Étienne Béchard, choreographer**

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## A bold 4-piece performance

The evening kicks off with *The Waves*, Les Grands Ballets dancer Kiara Flavin's first-ever choreography for the company, set to Stravinsky's *Violin Concerto*. *The Waves* was inspired by Virginia Woolf's novel of the same name, published in 1931, the year Stravinsky composed his concerto. Flavin uses Woolf's text to explore Stravinsky's complex, unpredictable music, as both works reject the comforts of linearity and harmony. She navigates uncharted seas through the medium of dance.



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancers: Vanesa G. R. Montoya & André Santos

The program will also feature a *pas de deux* choreographed by Uwe Scholz, set to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 in E  $\flat$  major, K. 271, aka, the *Jeunehomme* concerto. The late German choreographer described Mozart's composition as wholly melancholic, fuelled not by narcissism, but by a sense of tragedy.

The evening will end with Bécard's *The Rite of Spring*, which was a huge hit when it made its world premiere at Les Grands Ballets in 2017. In this retelling, Stravinsky's groundbreaking work is transposed to a dystopian setting where two clans are at war.

A spirit of protest suffuses this contemporary Rite of Spring, which denounces a society corrupted by lies, indifference and dangerous obsessions.

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Mixed bill

**October 20th, 21st and 22nd** at 8 P.M.

**October 22nd and 23rd** at 2 P.M.

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Presented with Les Grands Ballets Orchestra, conductor : Dina Gilbert

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## About the show

***The Waves* by Kiara Flavin** | Music: *Violin Concerto in D* by Igor Stravinsky | Costumes: Anne Armit | Solo violin: Uliana Drugova | Running time: 22 minutes

***Jeunehomme (pas de deux)* by Uwe Scholz** | Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Piano Concerto No. 9 in E ♭ major, K. 271, known as the *Jeunehomme* concerto | Costumes: Uwe Scholz | Duration: 14 minutes

***CARMEN* by Étienne Béchard** | Music: Rodion Shchedrin, based on the opera by Georges Bizet | Costumes: Emma Paris | Sets: Till Kuhnert | Duration: 45 minutes

Intermission: 20 minutes

***The Rite of Spring* by Étienne Béchard** | Music: Igor Stravinsky | Costumes and sets: Étienne Béchard | Duration: 30 minutes

Les Grands Ballets would like to thank Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada Council for the Arts, and Conseil des arts de Montréal for their precious support.

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### About Les Grands Ballets

A creation and production company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, building on the discipline of classical ballet.

Under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, some fifty Canadian and international dancers - accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra - bring the great classics of ballet to the stage, as well as the creations and repertoire of established and emerging contemporary artists.

Located in the heart of Montréal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets is wholly committed to give to as many people as possible access to dance, whether through the Nutcracker Fund for Children, leisure activities in the Grands Ballets STUDIOS or with the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT), which is devoted to greater wellbeing through the benefits of dance.

Through the excellence of its productions and the scope of its cultural and social actions, the company seeks to inspire discovery and conjure emotions, stimulate the imagination, convey a passion for dance and create a lasting impact.

### Media inquiries:

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