



Press Release  
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## Charlottesville Opera Announces 48<sup>th</sup> Swashbuckling Season

On Sunday, July 14 at the final performance of Charlottesville Opera's 47<sup>th</sup> Season, General Director Dr. Leanne Clement and Artistic Director Dr. Caroline Worra announced the company's plans for its 48<sup>th</sup> season which begins in June of 2025. The two shows, *Carmen* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, are both tales of people who live life without concern for social norms, preferring to forge their own paths whether at sea or on land.

The company will kick off the season with the wildly popular opera *Carmen*. The most frequently performed opera of all time, *Carmen's* passionate characters, familiar melodies, and dramatic storyline have drawn in audiences since its premier 150 years ago in 1825. *Carmen* is a French opéra-comique written by Georges Bizet with a libretto written by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy. The term opéra-comique doesn't imply comedy. Operas in this tradition include spoken dialogue as well as the traditional arias and ensemble numbers expected in the operatic tradition. *Carmen* is filled with suspense, the enchanting rhythm of Flamenco, and music that exudes an intoxicating passion.

The season's other headliner is *The Pirates of Penzance* with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W. S. Gilbert. Although often considered an operetta for its challenging vocal line and refined orchestral score, *The Pirates of Penzance* premiered on Broadway in 1879. Gilbert and Sullivan's pirate tale is not one of high seas adventure and a quest for gold, but instead an engaging comedy of misunderstandings, exaggerated loyalties, and tender-hearted pirates. Audiences will recognize the often parodied, Modern Major General's song and enjoy the tuneful score shared by the large choruses of pirates and General Stanley's daughters.

True to its mission focused on education and entertainment, Charlottesville Opera's 48<sup>th</sup> Season will also present no-cost educational programs for children and adults to enrich their musical experience.

Performances of *Carmen* and *The Pirates of Penzance* will be held at The Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, Virginia during June and July of 2025. Dates to be announced in September 2024. [www.charlottesvilleopera.org](http://www.charlottesvilleopera.org)