



THE NEEMRANA MUSIC FOUNDATION

in association with

THE ASHOK

Present

Georges Bizet's

CARMEN

producer : **Francis Wacziarg**
conductor : **Claire Levacher**
stage director : **Patricia Panton**
chorus conductor : **Gabriella Boda-Rechner**

Carmen – **Elsa Lévy**
Don José – **Franck Asparte**
Micaela – **Aude Priya**
Escamillo – **Matthieu Lecroart**
Frasquita – **Menaka de Fonseka Sahabandu**
Mercedes – **Peshali Yapa**
Morales and Dancaire – **Vikrant Subramanian**
Remendado – **Prabhat Chandola**
Zuniga – **Edwin Mathias**

assistant conductor : **Frédéric Rouillon**
executive producer : **Antoine Redon**
set and costume designer : **Vanessa d'Ayral de Serignac**
assistant stage director : **Yeashu Yuvraj**
costumes and props maker : **Dal Chand**
sets builder : **Amarjit Sharma**
light: **Patricia Panton** in collaboration with Batra Electricals

Neemrana Music Foundation chorus
Menaka singers
Mozart Children choir
Deepalaya School
Vasant Valley School

Ballets : Aditi Mangaldas Company
choreographer : **Aditi Mangaldas**
Gauri Diwakar, Rashmi Uppal, Anindita Acharjee,
Rachana Yadav, Mahesh Pawar, Piyush Chauhan

Ostinato Orchestra from Paris with Indian violonists
Administration : **Anne Maurel**
Orchestral reduction by Derek Clark © Pocket Publications



FRANCIS WACZIARG

Producer

Coming to India in 1970 as a journalist, Francis Wacziarg joined the French consulate in Bombay. Shifting to New Delhi in 1974, he took up the reins of Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) before setting up his own company to help Indo-French trade and joint ventures. In 1990 he took Indian citizenship.

Apart from his professional involvements, Francis has co-authored two books on the frescoes on the Marwari havelis of Shekhavati and on the Art & Crafts of Rajasthan with Aman Nath. Now they are both actively involved in the restoration of romantic ruins, run as the Neemrana 'non-hotel' Hotels.



CLAIRE LEVACHER

Conductor

Claire Levacher is Music Director of the Paris Conservatoire Graduates Orchestra. She earned three first prize awards at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, a Master degree of conducting from the University of Michigan (USA) and won the second prize from the International Prague Conducting Competition.(2000). She has to her credit work with number of prominent orchestras, including among others the Orchestre National d'Ile de France, the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie, the Orchestre de Bayonne - Côte Basque, the Prague Radio Orchestra, the Prague Academy of Music orchestra, the Franz Liszt Orchestra of Budapest, the Filarmonia Veneta (Italy), the National Orchestra of Lebanon. As assistant she has worked under conductors as Pierre Boulez, Kurt Masur, Christoph Eschenbach and contributed for productions at Opera de Nice, Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Opéra de Lyon, Theater an der Wien. She has to her credit musical direction of several opera productions, namely for the State Opera of Prague.



PATRICIA PANTON

Stage Director

South African born, Patricia Panton began her singing and musical training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. After taking her final degree in music from the Conservatoire Giuseppe Verdi in Milano, Italy, and a singing career, Ms Panton met Margarita Wallmann – the first woman director in the world– and was soon chosen as her assistant. She is now a world-renowned stage director.

She has worked with all the greatest singers and conductors. Resident producer and director of productions at the Opera of Monte Carlo for over 20 years, Ms. Panton lives on the French Riviera and dedicates herself to staging operas all over the world. She has staged “The Pearl Fishers” by Bizet in January 2008 in Colombo.



ELSA LÉVY

Soprano

At a young age, Elsa Lévy began in Paris her musical training on the flute, then she moved on to classical dance, contemporary dance and theatre. In 2002, she entered the Opera studio of the national Paris Opera of the Paris Opera for her training in classical music singing and was awarded first prize of Spedidam at the competition of the Union des Maîtres du chant Français in 2003. Elsa Lévy has sung Lisa in “The Land of Smiles” and the woman in “La Voix Humaine” (literally ‘The Human Voice’), an interpretation well received by the critics, the supervisor in Elektra, la Boulotte in Blue Beard by Offenbach, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* at the Festival of Shanghai...



FRANCK ASPARTE

Tenor

Franck Asparte is a tenor lyrico-spinto with an award-winning performance at the San Remo's international singing competition and a first prize (voted unanimously) at Beziers. He has sung the role of *Angelo* in *l'Opéra d'Aran* (Gilbert Bécaud), *Mario Cavandossi* in *Tosca* (Puccini), *Don José* in *Carmen* (Bizet), *Radames* in *Aïda* (Verdi), *Faust* in *Faust* (Gounod), *Rodolfo* in *Bohème* (Puccini), *le Duc* in *Rigoletto* and *Manrico* in *Il Trovatore* (Verdi), *Turridu* in *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Mascagni), *Werther* in *Werther* (Massenet), *Macduff* in *Macbeth* (Verdi), *Steuerman* in *Der Fliegende Holländer* (Wagner) and *Hoffmann* in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Offenbach). His vocal technique, power and capacity to communicate emotions, has won favourable press reports for all his performances in Canada, Japan, Italy, France, Albany, Spain...



AUDE PRIYA

Soprano

Mumbai-born Aude Priya started acting at the age of sixteen, and discovered her opera voice with Situ Singh Buehler in New Delhi when she was 20. She then completed her curriculum in classical music and singing at the National Conservatory of Toulouse, France, and at the Bernstein School of Musical Theatre in Bologna, Italy. Aude Priya has performed in many parts of the world: Paris, Bruges, Manila, Cap Town – accompanied in recitals with a piano or an orchestra, as well as in opera productions. She sang the role of Sundra in *The Fakir of Benares* in New Delhi and Mumbai, Leila in *the Pearl Fishers* (India and Sri Lanka), Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* and Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.



MATTHIEU LECROART

Baritone

Matthieu Lecroart received his singing training at the famous Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, and graduated *summacam laude*. With his wide ranged voice and talent for acting, he has performed various roles in classical opera such as Orfeo (Monteverdi), Papageno (The Magic Flute), Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro), Germont (La Traviata), Don Alfonso (Cosi fan tutte) et Don Giovanni (lead role) but also in many rare and rediscovered operas. He has sang at the most prestigious auditoriums and opera houses in France and abroad (Palais Garnier, Opéra Comique, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Madrid, London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Amsterdam, Zurich, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Berlin, Chicago, Shanghai, Tokyo, New-York...).



VIKRANT SUBRAMANIAN

Baritone

Young baritone of 18, Vikrant Subramanian began to sing with the Neemrana choir in Delhi. The Neemrana Music Foundation decided to offer him a deeper training and sent him in France to participate to several French workshops (in Grillon, Messery and the “Moulin d’Andé”). He played Zurga, the leader of the fishermen, in the opera “The Pearl Fishers”, staged in Colombo in January 2008. The show has received a tremendous response in Sri Lanka.



MENAKA DE FONSEKA SAHABANDU

Soprano

Menaka, a Fellow of the Trinity College, London and a Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music in both piano and singing. She made her debut with The Symphony Orchestra in Sri Lanka playing Saint Saens’ 2nd Piano Concerto in G minor. She has also been soloist with the Orchestra in Handel’s *Messiah*, Arias from Faust, Marriage of Figaro, Don Pasquale, Die Fledermaus to name but a few. Menaka’s teaching career goes back 22 years. She directs her own choir *Menaka Singers*. She has been Chorus Conductor of the Sri Lankan singers of *The Pearl Fishers* 2008. In recognition of her contribution to western classical music in Sri Lanka, she was a recipient of the Award of Excellence in Music presented by the SAARC Women’s Association.



PESHALI YAPA

Mezzo Soprano

Peshali Yapa graduated with Honours from the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, Netherlands with a double Bachelor of Music degree in Performance and Teaching, she is presently one of the Music Directors at the Asian International School, Colombo and has her own teaching practice. She has given a number of solo performances in many cities in the Netherlands and was a member of the conservatory choir and the choir Quod Libet of which she was a frequent soloist. She has performed as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka on many occasions. She is the Chorus Master of the Chamber choir Camerata Musica.



PRABHAT CHANDOLA

Tenor

Prabhat Chandola started singing opera as a chorus member with Neemrana Music Foundation in The Pearl Fishers by Georges Bizet. His voice has been trained under Situ Singh Buehler and under her tutelage, performed as a solo artist at various concerts in New Delhi. He is currently a member of Delhi Opera Ensemble and Delhi Chamber Choir.



EDWIN MATHIAS

Bass

Edwin was only introduced to Western classical music and the choral tradition at the age of seventeen; but within a few years, his undying passion for music and opera in particular, has seen him tour Europe and South Korea with the Paranjoti Academy Chorus, as well as be part of opera productions in India and Sri Lanka with TNMF. He is also a chorister and Bass soloist with the Newman choir, Mumbai and makes his debut as soloist on the opera stage with the role of Zuniga in this production.



GABRIELLA BODA-RECHNER

Chorus Conductor

Specialist in the “Kodály Method” (Hungarian pedagogy of teaching), Gabriella created the choruses of children and adults and a school of music in Morocco to train future choir conductors. In France she worked with the children's chorus of the Opera House of Paris & has worked with students in China. In India since October 2006, she has created Vasant Valley School choir and directed The Neemrana Opera Choir, Jubilate-Golden Jubilee Alliance Francaise, Delhi Opera Ensemble, The Capital City Minstrels.

She has won the Kodály prize, Media prize (Hungary), Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et lettres (France).



ADITI MANGALDAS

Choreographer

Aditi Mangaldas is a leader dancer and choreographer in both the classical Indian dance form and the contemporary idiom. With extensive training under the leading exponents of kathak, Shrimati Kumudini Lakhia and Pandit Birju Maharaj, Aditi is today recognised for her artistry, technique, eloquence and characteristic energy that mark every performance. She has created a new and fascinating style of contemporary aesthetics using kathak, and incorporating different dance styles (contemporary dance, Chhau, Flamenco...). She is the choreographer and principal dancer of the Aditi Mangaldas Company - Drishtikon Dance Foundation.



FRÉDÉRIC ROUILLON

Assistant Conductor

After having received the first prizes in piano and accompanying at the National Conservatoire of Boulogne, Frédéric Rouillon studied musical coaching and conducting at the National Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique of Paris. In France he has been coach for The Bassarids by Hans Werner Henze, « Götterdämmerung » by Wagner, « Candide » by Bernstein at Théâtre du Châtelet, « Così fan tutte » by Mozart, « Der fliegende Holländer » by Wagner, « Rigoletto » by Verdi and « l'Histoire du soldat » by Stravinsky at The Opéra of Rouen, « Ariadne auf Naxos » by Strauss at The Opera of Limoges. He has also worked in Frankfurt and Algiers.

Frédéric Rouillon is also highly solicited concert pianist.



VANESSA D'AYRAL DE SERIGNAC

Set & Costume Designer

Vanessa d'Ayral de Serignac did her musical and drama studies at the Academy of music in Monte Carlo where she obtained a bursary from the French Ministry of Culture after her first staging of "Dido and Eneas" by Purcell under the guidance of the world renowned baritone Gabriel Bacquier. She has been the assistant to many important stage directors such as John Cox in "Othello" for the Monte Carlo Opera, Paul Emile Fourny in the Opera of Nice for "Faust" and "Ariane and Blue Beard", Patricia Panton for "Treemonisha" and "Carmen" in Monte Carlo and Albania, in the Theatre des Variétés (Paris) for "Orphée aux Enfers" and "Il Barbier di Siviglia". She is at present writing a staged recital, "Explicit Lyrique", which will be performed in Monte Carlo next autumn.



YEASHU YUVRAJ

Assistant Stage Director

Yeashu is born in a theatrical family, where both the parents were trained actors, he was brought up with stage as his first home. Having acted in many drama productions and musicals at a very early age, the passion for the stage grew to a level where he took music as his full time profession. Not being satisfied by just performing on stage, Yeashu then moved his attention to stagecraft. He is presently teaching in Modern school Vasant Vihar and working freelance, he is still exploring his avenues.



ANTOINE REDON

Executive producer

Starting from the music industry in France (Warner and XIII bis Music) Antoine has been President of the association Infinitiff for five years. Infinitiff produced 15 shows in Paris France of the two musicals "Hair" by Jerome Ragni and "Jesus Christ Superstar" by Andrew Loyd Webber with thirty singers dancers and musicians. Antoine himself sang main roles as baritone. After being director assistant of the Pearl Fishers in Mumbai and Delhi 2005, with 150 artists on stage, Antoine became Programmes Coordinator of the Neemrana Music Foundation. After two years in India he has taken part in the organisation of around fifteen concerts and operas as Dido & Aeneas by Purcell in Delhi and the Pearl Fishers by Bizet in Colombo 2008 and continue to educate and develop Western Classical Music in South Asia.

CHORUS

conducted by **Claire Levacher**

The Neemrana Music Foundation chorus
Children Chorus from Vasant Valley school
Mozart Children choir
Deepalaya School

choir conductor

Gabriella Boda Rechner

Sri Lanka chorus conductor

Menaka de Fonseka Sahabandu

chorus pianists

Frederic Rouillon & Svetlana Radashkevich

Sopranos

Marianne Lechère Ghosh
Alexandra Meier-Kuhn
Andrina De Mel
Aniko Palanky
Catherine Lacoste
Eriko Perera
Fiona Dias-Miranda
Laurence Genin
Monika Sharma
Nandini Sra
Natasha Vaz
Nilima Das
Payal John
Rachna Sandhu
Riitta Rutanen
Sharmila Panditaratne
Shilpa Surendran
Tahanee Aluwihare
Takayo Mitsumata

Tenors

Aman Arora
Anand Prakash
Johann Peiris
Lenin Pinto
Lionel Pinto
Martha Leviol
Nitin Mukesh
Pascal Fautrat
Prabhasharan Singh Kang
Ratan Paik
Xavier Houot
Rocky D'Souza
Rakesh Borar

Altos

Bina Kang
Carine Kjelsen
Catherine Prakash
Cecilia Leviol
Christelle Celerier
Doris Canter Visscher
Karen Joseph
Marie-Ange Houot
Shireen Sinclair
Sureka Amerasinghe
Taruna Chakravorty
Zita Ballaman
Akane Osawa
Isabelle Jaitly
Shinjini Mehta
Anne Pereira
Tessie Goodwin
Zelia Monsorate

Basses

Avijit Misra
André Pavageau
Bernard Heulin
Biswaraj Gurung
Laknath Seneviratne
Milinda Perera
Philippe Juszcak
Reuben Israel
Siegfried Huber
Geethika Cooray

Children

Devika Agrawal
Sonalika Arora
Preeti Badwal
Sumer Bhatia
Tanvi Bhatia
Pia Chatterjee
Kamala Chunara
Priya Das
Dewan Divya
Kushan Dhawan
Francis Divya
Kunti Golder
Ishita Gopal
Gaspard Houot
Juliette Houot
Arushi Jain
Sahiba Joher
Poorva Joshi
Tuhina Kapoor
Kamakshi Khanna
Amit Kumar
Shivam Kumar
Deepa Kumari
Papiya Malder
Simran Monga
Nilofar Khan
Jayanti Pandey
Kinshuk Sen
Sharang Sharma
Mamta Shankar
Mekhalin Sinha
Jahanvi Srinivasan
Sherry Varghese
Tara Venkatesan
Ayushi Vijay
Malika Yadav
Bharti Yadav

ORCHESTRA

conducted by **Claire Levacher**

Assistant Conductor

Frederic Rouillon

Orchestra Manager

Anne Maurel

Orchestra Ostinato with Indian Violonists

Violon 1

Emmanuelle Garcia

Raja Singh

Violon 2

Marie L'Homme

Sandeep Dey

Alto

Anne Renaud

Cello

Florent Maigrot

Double-bass

Claire-Elise Tenet

Flute

Rémi Vignet

Oboe

Raphaël Cohen

Clarinet

Antoine Cambruzzi

Bassoon

Benjamin El Arbi

Horn

Diane Ragé

Trumpet

Jeremy Lecomte

Trombone

Alexandre Mainz

Timpanis

Anne Briset

Percussion

Alexandre Espéret

Harp

Lucie Marical

Aditi Mangaldas's musicians

Tabla

Yogesh Gangani

Pakhawaj

Mahaveer Gangani

Vocals

Samiullah Khan