

OPERA AND RECITALS / XXXV OPERA SEASON



Teatro Cervantes

friday 16 february 20.00 h  
sunday 18 february 19.00 h

Inicio venta 05/09/2023

Prices 120€B 90€C 66€D 28€  
Usual discounts apply

## DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES

Opera in three acts with music by Francis Poulenc and libretto by the latter and Emmet Lavery, based on the play with the same name by Georges Bernanos, who in turn was inspired by the novel *The Song at the Scaffold* by Gertrud von Le Fort  
Premiered at Teatro alla Scala in Milan on the 26th of January, 1957

Musical production Teatro Cervantes de Málaga  
Stage production Teatro Villamarta de Jerez de la Frontera and Teatro Cervantes de Málaga

Blanche de la Force Ainhoa Arteta  
Madame Lidoine Maite Alberola  
Madame de Croissy Ana Ibarra  
Mother Marie Eglè Wyss  
Sister Constance Nuria García-Arrés  
Chevalier de la Force David Alegret  
Chaplain Luis Pacetti

Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga  
Coro de Ópera de Málaga

Stage director Francisco López  
Choir director María del Mar Muñoz Varo  
Musical director Pedro Halffter

photo ©Jose Carlos Nievas

The true story of sixteen Carmelite nuns from the city of Compiègne who lived under Robespierre's Reign of Terror. The religious services performed by this congregation were prohibited, and the nuns were accused of conspiring to reestablish the monarchy. In addition to being persecuted, they were arrested on June 22nd, 1794 and later judged by a revolutionary tribunal that condemned them to capital punishment. They were guillotined on July 17th, 1794. Only Mother Marie de l'Incarnation managed to escape, writing about her experiences in a book that was published after her death in 1836. Almost a century later, this story was taken up by the German writer Gertrud von Le Fort in 1932 in her novel *The Song at the Scaffold*, in which she added the fictional character of Blanche de la Force. In 1947, the

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Catholic novelist George Bernanos wrote a screenplay for its film version, but the project was suspended in 1948 when the director chosen for the film died. Finally, Bernanos' text was published in the form of a play, *Dialogues des carmélites*, first performed in 1952. Poulenc identified himself completely with its content, and was chosen to conceive both the music and the libretto for the opera.

In this deeply spiritual lyric creation, the composer succeeded in merging a profane melodic style with defined aesthetics that appeal to deep religious feelings. The dialogues are mainly recitative, with a melodic line that closely follows the text. The harmonies are sumptuous, with occasional captivating turns that are characteristic of the composer's style.