



Bizet

**La fleur que tu
m'avais jetée**

(‘Flower Song’)

from Carmen

Azer Zada

Kiev Virtuosi

Symphony Orchestra

Dmitry Yablonsky



Georges BIZET (1838–1875)

Carmen (1874)

Act II: La fleur que tu m'avais jetée ('Flower Song')

Based on a novella by Prosper Mérimée, Bizet's four-act *opéra comique*, *Carmen*, was completed in 1874 and first performed the following year, three months before the composer's death on 3 June. Set in Seville, the tumultuous tale of love and obsession startled audiences with its realism and its premiere provoked mixed reactions. The gypsy girl Carmen, working in a cigarette factory, flirts with the corporal Don José, eventually inducing him

to desert the army and to follow her and her smuggler friends. Carmen soon finds new interest in the toreador Escamillo, leading to the dramatic climax when Don José, inflamed by jealousy, confronts Carmen outside the bullring where her new lover is competing. In *La fleur que tu m'avais jetée* ('The flower you threw me'), Don José pleads with Carmen as she urges him to join her and the smugglers.

La fleur que tu m'avais jetée

La fleur que tu m'avais jetée
Dans ma prison, m'était restée
Flétrie et sèche, cette fleur
Gardait toujours sa douce odeur
Et pendant des heures entières
Sur mes yeux, fermant mes paupières
De cette odeur je m'enivrais
Et dans la nuit je te voyais
Je me prenais à te maudire
À te détester, à me dire
Pourquoi faut-il que le destin
L'ait mise là sur mon chemin
Je m'accusais de blasphème
Et je ne sentais rien moi-même
Je ne sentais qu'un seul désir
Un seul désir, un seul espoir
Te revoir, ô Carmen, oui, te revoir
Car tu n'avais eu qu'à paraître
Qu'à jeter un regard sur moi
Pour t'emparais de tout mon être
Ô ma Carmen
J'étais une chose à toi
Carmen, je t'aime

The flower you threw to me

The flower you threw to me
stayed with me in my prison.
Though withered and dry, it
never lost its sweet fragrance.
And for hours at a time
I would close my eyes
and drink in its perfume,
picturing you there in the dark.
I started to curse you,
to hate you and ask myself,
'Why did destiny have to
make her cross my path?'
Then I berated myself,
because in my heart I felt nothing
but a single desire,
a single desire, a single hope:
to see you again, Carmen, yes, to see you again!
For all you had to do was appear
and glance at me
and I was utterly bewitched.
O my Carmen!
I meant nothing to you.
Carmen, I love you!



Azer Zada

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Azer Zada began his singing career as a soloist with the Azerbaijani State Opera. In Italy he entered the Accademia d'Arte Lirica Osimo where he attended the masterclasses of Magda Olivero, Raina Kabaivanska, Renata Scotto and Renato Bruson. He is a laureate of the Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino and Concorso Voci Verdiane, where he won First Prize. After studying at the Accademia Teatro alla Scala he appeared at Teatro alla Scala as the Prince of Persia in *Turandot*, Borsa in *Rigoletto* and The Messenger in *Aida*, and in *Don Carlos*, *La traviata* and *I due Foscari* under Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Chailly, Nello Santi and Myung-Whun Chung. Other roles include Macduff in *Macbeth*, Don José in *Carmen*, Rodolfo in *La bohème* and Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. He has sung Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* under Jader Benjamini and performed at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Recent highlights include singing *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* under Riccardo Muti and his house debut at Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in *La Wally*.

www.azerzada.com

Kiev Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor:
Dmitry Yablonsky

Based in the capital of Ukraine, the Kiev Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra has gained national and international recognition from listeners and critics as one of the country's leading orchestras. With an average age of 30, this youthful ensemble unites talented musicians from all over Ukraine, most of whom are competition winners. The Orchestra built its reputation by bringing Western music to

Ukrainian audiences and has also become known for its collaborations with outstanding contemporary composers such as Krzysztof Penderecki, Valentin Silvestrov and Myroslav Skoryk. Many internationally acclaimed soloists and conductors have performed with the ensemble over the years. Under current artistic and musical director Dmitry Yablonsky, the Kiev Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra continues to bring Ukrainian musical talent to audiences the world over, most recently to Switzerland, France, Spain and Azerbaijan, among other countries.



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Dmitry Yablonsky

Born in Moscow, GRAMMY Award-nominated cellist and conductor Dmitry Yablonsky's career has taken him to Carnegie Hall, Teatro alla Scala and Théâtre Mogador, among other such celebrated venues. As a conductor he has worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra and Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM, Mexico. In 2010 he received the Diploma of Honorary Academician at the Independent Academy of Liberal Arts at the Russian Academy of Sciences. He has transcribed and edited works for cello which have been published by the International Music Company and Dover Publications. In 2008 Naxos released his recording of Popper's *Forty Études* for solo cello (8.557718–19) to critical acclaim. He is a professor at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University and has served as artistic director of the Wandering Stars Music Festival in Israel since 2019. The 2021–22 season marks his debut conducting the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He plays two cellos, a Joseph Guarnerius, filius Andrea and a Matteo Goffriller. www.dmitryablonsky.com

Bizet's 'Flower Song' from *Carmen* is sung here by the stellar Baku-born tenor Azer Zada. In this ravishing aria, Don José pleads with Carmen as she urges him to join her and her smuggler friends. Azer Zada's album *Italian Tenor Arias* is available on 8.573499.

**Georges
BIZET**
(1838–1875)

Carmen

Opera in four acts (1874)
Libretto by Ludovic Halévy (1834–1908)
and Henri Meilhac (1831–1897)

1 Act II: La fleur que tu m'avais jetée ('Flower Song')

4:12



Azerbaijan
Cultural Center

Azer Zada, Tenor
Kiev Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra
Dmitry Yablonsky

The French sung text with an English translation can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/70324.htm
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