

CarmenCo “A Pocket Opera” Promoter Information Document

“A Pocket Opera”:

Written, arranged and performed by
CarmenCo

Emily Andrews mezzo, flute
David Massey & Francisco Correa guitars

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CarmenCo website: [here](#)
Download promo photos: [here](#)



Introduction and Context

CarmenCo's “A Pocket Opera” is more than a concert: It occupies the borders between a play and a concert, with 80/20 music to spoken word. It is a concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music **presented as a play, with costumes, props and a storyline** which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen, but told from her point of view. Dare you consult the cards with her? What does she think of the men in her story? Did she foresee her gruesome ending? And does she like the opera Bizet wrote about her?

The three musicians perform entirely from memory, enabling them to act with each other, and to engage the audience members in the show, frequently walking amongst them and involving audience members in the dialogue. They even dance while playing, in a fully choreographed party scene which wows audiences.



CarmenCo will have the audience in turn laughing out loud, and listening with absolute silence to the immersive and evocative music. It's a brilliantly accessible and fun way to present classical music.

A fun-filled evening of fantasy, comedy, drama and tremendous music arranged from Bizet's Carmen and Spanish and Spanish-inspired music by Boccherini, Falla, Garcia-Lorca, Granados, Ravel and Albeniz, all arranged by the musicians for guitars and flute / voice.

CarmenCo as a show is flexible and can be performed in a church, theatre, concert hall or even more unusual performance spaces such as vaults, museum settings etc, to help promoters reach a new kind of audience.

Press Quotes and Reviews

"Bouts of intimacy, creativity and comedy... nearly all the best Spanish tunes I can think of?"

★★★★ The Latest magazine

"An unusual, highly entertaining evening... The three first-rate musicians rose to the challenge of acting and dancing as well as musical performance... Superb range of musical colour and artistry throughout the programme" - Ayrshire Post

"What an outstanding performance by the extraordinarily talented and delightful CarmenCo ensemble. It was a magnificent evening ending with rapturous applause" - concert organiser, Arts in The Langfords

"The feedback from your concert has been huge, universally everybody loved it. The number of times I have been stopped in the street this week to compliment the performance is countless." - concert organiser, Portesham for ArtsReach Dorset

"The musicianship was wonderful, I love Emily's beautiful voice and the story telling was spellbinding. What I had absolutely not expected was that it would be so entertaining as well as dramatic and touching - I laughed out loud when I was listening. A lot!" - concert organiser, Frome Concerts Group

"There certainly was a "buzz" as people left having thoroughly enjoyed the evening!" - Margaret McIntosh, artistic director of Ayr Music Club, Dec 2023

CarmenCo "A Pocket Opera" selected previous performances



Ayr Music Club - Cowal Dunoon - Stoke Gifford Retirement Village - Langford Parish Hall - Portesham Village Hall - Sixpenny Handley - Mere - Grittleton Village Hall - Frome Concerts Group - Ashburton Arts Centre - Bath - Brighton - Faversham - Liverpool - Music in Peebles - Linlithgow - Buxton Festival - Bristol - Stranraer - Llanstadwell - Sandwich - Leatherhead - Dumfries - Artsreach Dorset - Pound Arts Wiltshire - Tetbury Goods Shed - Dorchester Arts

Artist Biographies

CarmenCo is an ensemble comprising Emily Andrews, flautist/mezzo; David Massey & Francisco Correa, guitars.

Formed in 2017, prizewinning trio CarmenCo have performed all over England, Scotland and Wales, honing their distinctive approach and performing their own arrangements of orchestral pieces, opera, folk and world music. They often perform from memory and incorporate movement, dance and storyline into their concerts, as well as varying instrumentation from solo guitar through to voice/flute and two guitars, making their concerts and shows as unique and colourful as the players in the trio.



CarmenCo pride themselves on their originality - finding new, unique and entertaining ways to present classical music -

as well as their portability - not needing a piano means they can tour to remote and rural villages and perform in venues where traditional opera or chamber music does not reach, thus engaging new and very appreciative audiences all over the country. They are currently touring A Pocket Opera - a comedic concert presented as a play, with costumes, props and a storyline roughly following Bizet's Carmen, but told from her point of view. The rave reception this Pocket Opera is receiving has inspired them to start work on their next show, which will be ready for 2026 - watch this space!

CarmenCo grew out of the Andrews Massey flute and guitar duo (Emily and David) when they added extra guitarist Francisco (himself an internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician), enabling richer textures to accompany singing, and adding more variety of instrumentation. The Andrews Massey Duo was formed in 2009, and has won the Tunnell Trust Award 2012-2013; were Royal Overseas League Competition semi-finalists 3 times, have appeared at Wigmore Hall, St Martin in the Fields, Kings Place and in Germany, Italy and Sweden. They have made 3 CDs.

Never ones to stand still, CarmenCo continues to expand their concert repertoire, and their latest concert additions include an ambitious arrangement of Elgar's song cycle "Sea Pictures" (the two guitars take on the entire orchestra's parts and it sounds fantastic), and Mozart's virtuosic and playful flute quartet in D-major (the two guitars share the violin, viola and cello parts with dexterity).

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Listen to CarmenCo on [Spotify](#) [Apple Music](#)

Emily Andrews studied Maths at Cambridge University before following her heart and becoming a full time musician. She graduated in 2010 with Distinction from her Masters degree in flute performance at the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied with Clare Southworth and Kate Hill. Since graduating from the RAM she has been studying classical singing with acclaimed teacher Neil Baker.

Emily's musical tastes and influences are far-reaching — equally at home with classical, folk or world music, and playing panpipes, quena, whistles and flutes as well as singing; her career is varied. She has a strong interest in Latin-American music, and performs and records Colombian music with her husband Francisco Correa: this pair set up and run a community Brazilian-music band called Clube do Choro Bristol.

Emily is also highly in demand as an orchestral freelancer, working regularly with the UK's top orchestras including Opera North, Welsh National Opera, The Oxford Phil, Scottish Opera, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

David Massey began his studies with David Burden at his local music centre in Hertfordshire. In 2006 he was the strings finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition, performing Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* live on BBC2 from the Sage Gateshead.

He studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Michael Lewin, where he graduated with distinction in 2010 & undertaking an MMus in 2012. He has performed recitals at venues such as Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Sage Gateshead, King's Place, St Martin in the Fields & expanded his musical experience in chamber music & orchestral playing, taking up instruments such as mandolin & banjo in orchestral, music theatre & opera from Mozart to John Adams.

His solo performances have been described as “*intense and intimate*”, marked by a “*remarkable energy and range of tone and dynamics*”. Julian Bream praised his sound & communication of musical structure. From performances in multi-storey carparks to art galleries, he is a musician willing to take risks and try new approaches.

Francisco Correa was born in Colombia, moving to Europe to study. He graduated in 2015 with a Masters from the Royal Academy of Music.

Praised by Gramophone for its “eloquence” and by Soundboard Magazine for its “beautiful and expressive interpretation”, the Colombian guitarist has captivated the public with his virtuoso and nuanced interpretations. He has appeared on stages in more than 20 countries, performing with prestigious orchestras, appearing on important radio programs and television, such as BBC's 'In Tune, Radio 3' and Radio France. Active chamber musician, especially with the Correa-Andrews duo and the CarmenCo ensemble.

Francisco's passion for new music leads him to associate with prominent composers, making to date more than 50 premieres. He is a prominent figure in the classical guitar community, serving as president of the Bristol Classical Guitar Society, artistic director of the International Guitar Foundation classical Summer School in Bath, and as a faculty member of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Dance. Francisco plays a guitar by Philip Woodfield, he is a D'Addario artist and is sponsored by Mundo Music Gear.

Repertoire list

Music as played in **CarmenCo** show:

BIZET - L'Aragonaise from Carmen (fl, 2 gtr)
DE FALLA - La vida breve (2 gtr)
ALBENIZ - Cordoba (2 gtr)
RODRIGO - Fantasia para un Gentilhombre (fl, 2 gtr)
BIZET - Habanera from Carmen (voice, 2 gtr)
ALBENIZ - Mallorca (gtr)
BOCCHERINI - Night watch in Madrid (fl, 2 gtr)
RAVEL - Piece en forme de Habanera (fl, gtr)
BIZET - Seguidilla from Carmen – (voice, 2 gtr)
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BIZET - Entr'acte from Carmen (fl, 2 gtr)
GARCIA-LORCA - Nana de Sevilla (voice, gtr)
BIZET - Toreador from Carmen (fl, 2 gtr)
DE FALLA - Fire dance (2 gtr)
DE FALLA - El Paño Moruno (voice, gtr)
BIZET - Card Aria from Carmen (voice, 2 gtr)
ALBENIZ - Recuerdos de l'Alhambra (gtr)
BORNE - Fantasy on themes from Carmen (fl, 2 gtr)



Technical requirements

We play acoustically so no amplification is required. If the venue is too big then we will use ambient mics to lift up the sound. We require three armless chairs and a small table. If the stage is raised, we will need steps to walk up and down and be able to interact with the audience.