

# Annual Report

April 2016-March 2017



Scottish  
Opera

A year in the life  
of Scotland's  
national opera  
company





## APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017

### Partnerships

It was a year of developing new and existing relationships: Scottish Opera collaborated with D'Oyly Carte Opera Company on *The Mikado*; Edinburgh International Festival on *H.M.S. Pinafore*; Music Theatre Wales, The Royal Opera and Theater Magdeburg on *The Trial*; and Vanishing Point on *Bluebeard's Castle & The 8th Door*. March 2017 saw the welcome return of director **Sir David McVicar** with his first ever production of *Pelléas and Mélisande*, his seventh production for the Company, and, in March 2017, Scottish Opera favourite Karen Cargill sang her first ever Judith in Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*.

Composer in Residence **Liam Paterson** was commissioned to write two major pieces – *The 8th Door* and *BambinO*, an opera for 6-18 month old babies. Former Emerging Artist **Ben McAteer** returned in Autumn 2016 to sing the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro*. The winners of Opera Sparks 2018 – a competition for young Scottish-based composers and librettists – were announced, and the Company also hosted a week long residence for students of the **National Opera Studio**.

### Crossing Borders

Scottish Opera's productions of *Don Pasquale*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Jenufa* were presented by opera houses across the globe, and the Cross Border Touring Fund enabled *The Mikado* to tour to Belfast, Newcastle, Southampton and Bristol, and *The Marriage of Figaro* to Liverpool. The ever-popular Primary Schools Tour continued with visits to 117 schools in Scotland, and also visits to schools in Newcastle, China and Hong Kong. In total, over 11,000 children took part.

The Company staged the UK's – possibly the world's – first dementia friendly opera in November 2016 in Edinburgh, with a specially-created performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*. As well as conducting *Rusalka* and *The Elixir of Love*, Music Director **Stuart Stratford** introduced **The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert** at the Theatre Royal Glasgow. Silver Cloud Studios, a new rehearsal space for The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, was opened, and a new website launched.

### On the Road

The commitment to performing in venues across Scotland was maintained with a 17-date tour of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* in Autumn 2016. *Opera Highlights*, directed by Emerging Artist Jim Manganello, travelled to a further 15 venues in Spring 2017. The Pop-up Opera trailer tour visited 18 venues, with a total of 84 performances.

### Young People

Inspired by the work of 'Glasgow Girls' artist Jessie M King, Scottish Opera Education presented *The Little White Town of Never Weary* to children aged 5–8 across Scotland, as part of the 2016 Year of Architecture and Design. As well as a new production of *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, **Connect Company** performed at Aberdeen International Youth Festival and the prestigious International Society for Music Education conference in Glasgow.

### In the Community

The *Memory Spinners* programme, for those living with dementia, entered its 6th season in Glasgow, and a new group launched in Edinburgh in Autumn 2016. Preliminary development work for a new intergenerational project, *Spinning Songs*, was also undertaken. The **Community Choir** performed at an Open Day at Theatre Royal Glasgow in April 2016, and numbers continued to grow in its fourth year.

### Award-winning work

**Jane Davidson**, Director of Education & Outreach, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. The Company won Best Musical Group at the inaugural Sunday Herald Culture Awards 2016, and former Emerging Artist **Ben McAteer** won 'Outstanding Opera Performance' at the Toronto 2016 My Ent World Awards for *The Devil Inside*. Scottish Opera also won Best Campaign at the Emcees Arts & Culture Awards for the Theatre Royal Glasgow campaign.

# The year in numbers

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**248 public performances...**

**...in 56 towns, cities and villages**

**89,675 tickets issued**

**29 of 32 Local Authorities visited**

**9,802 free *Unwrapped* tickets**

**14 education projects**

**4,456 under 26 tickets**

**Alexander Gibson Circle donations reach £2.25million\***

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**The Scotsman**  
*Rusalka*



**The Herald**  
*The Mikado*



**Scottish Daily Express**  
*The Marriage of Figaro*



**The Telegraph**  
*Pelléas and Mélisande*



**The Herald**  
*Bluebeard's Castle  
& The 8<sup>th</sup> Door*



**Opera Now**  
*The Elixir of Love*



**The Scotsman**  
*The Trial*



**Scottish Daily Express**  
*Opera Highlights 2017*



**The Herald**  
*The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*

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***'Witty, elegant, accomplished  
and so accessible for those of  
us far from a cultural centre.'***

Audience Member, *The Elixir of Love* 2016

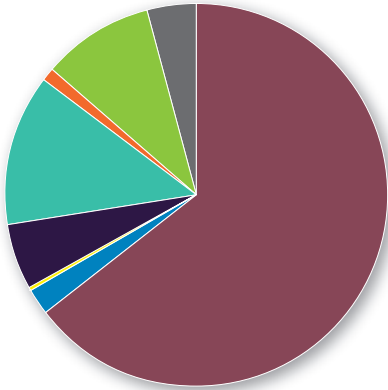
***'The performance was  
amazing. I loved performing  
in front of all the people.'***









Pupil, Primary School Tour 2016

\*Income since AGC established in 2000

## INCOME

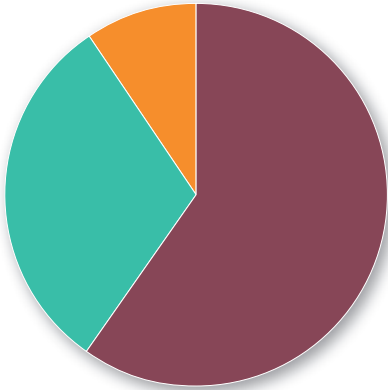
In the financial year 2016/17, Scottish Opera's total income was just under £12.5million, made up as follows:






	<b>Scottish Government</b>	<b>64.7%</b>
	<b>Cross Border Touring Fund</b>	<b>2%</b>
	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
	<b>Theatre Tax Credit</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
	<b>Box Office</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
	<b>Education</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>4%</b>

## FUNDRAISING

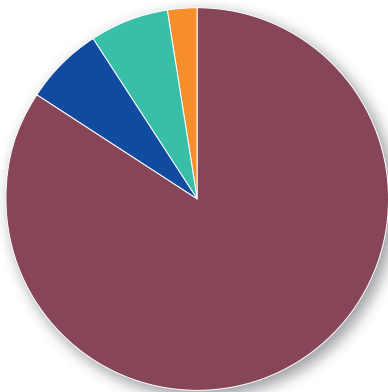
The total amount raised through fundraising (shown above) is made up as follows:







	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>59.9%</b>
	<b>Trusts &amp; Foundations</b>	<b>30.7%</b>
	<b>Corporate (incl. in-kind)</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

## EXPENDITURE

In the financial year 2016/17, Scottish Opera's total expenditure was just under £12.5 million, made up as follows:



	<b>Productions</b>	<b>84.4%</b>
	<b>Education</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
	<b>Support Costs (incl. Governance)</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>2.4%</b>