



PRESS RELEASE

23 October 2017

SCOTTISH OPERA CELEBRATES 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THEATRE ROYAL GLASGOW WITH *LAUDER*

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Theatre Royal Glasgow, Scottish Opera is delighted to present three performances of *Lauder* starring **Jamie MacDougall**.

An exploration into the public and private personas of the legendary Scottish entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, this new production of the musical play has been adapted by director **Kally Lloyd-Jones** and tenor and broadcaster **Jamie MacDougall** from the original script by comedian, actor and impresario Jimmy Logan. **Derek Clark**, Scottish Opera's Head of Music, is Music Director. He accompanies Jamie on the piano, and has curated the featured Harry Lauder songs.

Lauder will be performed in the Theatre Royal's Upper Circle Foyer, during the run of Scottish Opera's *La traviata* in November and December.

Sir Harry premiered his classic song 'I Love a Lassie' onstage at Theatre Royal in 1905 when he appeared in his first pantomime, *Aladdin*, and in *Red Riding Hood* in 1910 he performed 'Roamin' in the gloamin'', making *Lauder* a fitting celebration of the theatre's 150th year. Featuring these well-known songs as well as 'Keep Right on to the End of the Road' and other familiar favourites, the show will also include news footage of Sir Harry's funeral and film reel from the trenches. Greatly affected by his son John's death at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, Sir Harry raised huge sums of money for injured servicemen by establishing the Harry Lauder Million Pound Fund and was awarded a knighthood for this and his contribution to the entertainment world.

Starring as Sir Harry is Glasgow-born **Jamie MacDougall**, who has established himself as one of the country's most versatile singers and performers. Since 2001 he has been the nation's voice of classical music for BBC Radio Scotland, and he will be making his debut on the Scottish Opera stage in Spring 2018

as the Dancing Master in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Jamie has sung Lauder's songs around the world and is thrilled to be bringing this tribute to his hero back to a Scottish audience for these intimate performances in Theatre Royal, the oldest theatre in Glasgow. Established in 1867, the theatre reopened in 1895 following two fires and was bought by Scottish Opera in 1974.

Jamie MacDougall said: 'I was 10 when I was taken twice to see Jimmy Logan in *Lauder* at the King's Theatre Glasgow. That was the start of my life-long association with these wonderful songs and Sir Harry Lauder, an entertainer who was the first truly global star. For me, bringing back *Lauder* is a dream come true, and with Scottish Opera co-producing the show to mark the 150th anniversary of its home, the Theatre Royal, I believe they are recognising a very important aspect of Scottish cultural history.'

Jimmy Logan wrote and starred in *Lauder* which he performed for the first time in 1976 in Edinburgh, before it toured around the world. It was also broadcast on television and Logan revived the show in 2000 for the Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

Lauder is directed by **Kally Lloyd-Jones**, founder and artistic director of Company Chordelia, which has been performing original dance work to critical acclaim throughout Scotland since 2002. Her previous directing credits for Scottish Opera include *Seven Deadly Sins* (2013) and *Katya Kabanova* (2010).

Scottish Opera extends thanks to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Archives & Collections, custodians of the Jimmy Logan Archive including the *Lauder* scripts and scores.

Cast List

Sir Harry Lauder	Jamie MacDougall
Director	Kally Lloyd-Jones
Music Director	Derek Clark
Designer	Janis Hart

Performance Diary

Wed 29 Nov, 6pm

Fri 1 Dec, 6pm

Sat 2 Dec, 3.30pm

Theatre Royal Glasgow, Upper Circle Foyer, Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

Jamie MacDougall biography:

Born in Glasgow, Jamie MacDougall has established himself as one of the country's most versatile singers and performers. Since 2001 Jamie has been the nation's voice of classical music for BBC Radio Scotland and now regularly presents for BBC Radio 3. In 2003 he presented the first BBC Proms in the Park in Scotland and has anchored it ever since. He's appeared at various International Music Festivals with many of the world's top orchestras and toured Australia and New Zealand as well as North and Central America and Europe with his solo show including Berlin's famous Wintergarten. He now has over 40 CD titles to his name for such labels as Deutsche Grammophon, Hyperion Records and Chandos Records as well as his solo disc, 'Inspirations'.

Scottish Opera:

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.

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