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**Press Release**

18 May 2022

**SCOTTISH OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS
2022/23 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

* **Sir David McVicar directs Puccini’s trio of operas, *Il tabarro* (The Cloak), *Suor Angelica* (Sister Angelica) and *Gianni Schicchi*, known collectively as *Il trittico,* ina first for him and the Company**
* **Opera performances in over 60 locations across Scotland to celebrate the Company’s 60th Anniversary**
* **Open-air opera with a promenade production of Bernstein’s *Candide* in Glasgow, and Pop-up Opera – miniature, intimate performances across the country**
* **Scottish premiere of Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar (The Fountain of Tears),* in which opera meets the world of flamenco dance and song**
* **New production sung in English of Bizet’s *Carmen,* directed by John Fulljames**
* **Revival of Sir Thomas Allen’s *Don Giovanni,* including a performance at Festival Theatre Edinburgh to celebrate the Company’s 60th Birthday on 5 June**
* **World premiere of *Rubble* performed by Scottish Opera Young Company**

Scottish Opera has unveiled its 2022/23 Season which includes four new mainstage productions, with one of the four a community opera, a revival of *Don Giovanni*, the world premiere of a Scottish Opera Young Company production, two Operas in Concert productions, two *Opera Highlights* tours, a Pop-up Opera tour, and the return of the hit ‘opera for babies’, *BambinO*. The Company travels to over 60 locations across the length and breadth of Scotland, demonstrating its commitment to bringing opera to as many communities as possible.

A truly international line-up of singers appears throughout the Season. Making their debuts with the Company are **Zachary Altman**, [**Viktor Antipenko**](https://www.google.com/search?q=viktor+antipenko&spell=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiCobuShMv3AhVTgFwKHZxhAVYQkeECKAB6BAgBEDI)**,** **Pablo Bemsch**, **Francesca Chiejina**, **Julian Close, Lauren Fagan, Samantha Hankey, Andrew Henley, Emyr Wyn Jones, Julieth Lozano, Christopher Nairne, Paula Sides, Holly Teague, Alfredo Tejada** and **Shakira Tsindos.**

There are welcome return visits from **Susan Bullock, Osian Wyn Bowen, Karen Cargill, Sioned Gwen Davies,** **Zoe Drummond, Máire Flavin, Justina Gringyte, Aled Hall, Charlotte Hoather, Jessica Leary, Hye-Youn Lee, Jamie MacDougall, Jonathan McGovern, Andrew McTaggart, William Morgan, Colin Murray, Samuel Pantcheff, Sarah Power, Annie Reilly, Shengzhi Ren, Phillip Rhodes,** **Ronald Samm, John Savournin, Shuna Scott Sendall, Lea Shaw, Dan Shelvey, Richard Suart, Elgan Llŷr Thomas,** **Sinéad Campbell-Wallace,** **Keel Watson, Kitty Whately**, **Louise Winter**, **Roland Wood** and **Dingle Yandell.**

**Stuart Stratford**, Scottish Opera Music Director said: ‘I’m so pleased to have the opportunity to unearth several operatic treasures with audiences across Scotland in our 60th Anniversary Season. Each production has such a rich aesthetic. They are all so vividly different, both visually and musically. There is much for audiences to look forward to, from the somewhat berserk promenade production of Bernstein’s *Candide*, to the beauty of Puccini’s triptych *Il trittico,* and the physical, theatrical opera-meets-flamenco of *Ainadamar* in what will be a directorial debut for the world-renowned choreographer Deborah Colker. This is a must-see for all fans of dance, theatre, music and of course opera. I am really excited by the many wonderful singers joining us this Season, from fresh new talent, including current and former Scottish Opera Emerging Artists, to well-known names.’

**Alex Reedijk**, Scottish Opera General Director said: ‘We are truly delighted to be able to launch our 2022/23 60th Anniversary Season, our first Season announcement since 2019. We are incredibly proud of our work throughout the pandemic, so much so that we have decided to continue our open-air productions with both a large-scale community opera in Glasgow and our intimate Pop-up Opera that tours throughout Scotland.

‘Partnerships are so crucial to the Company, and we’re thrilled to develop a new relationship with Maryhill Integration Network, an organisation bringing migrants, asylum seekers, and settled inhabitants of Glasgow together through art. We’ll be collaborating again with Opera Ventures after past successes with Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking the Waves* and Mark-Anthony Turnage’s *Greek*. And we are delighted to return to the Lammermuir Festival with a hidden gem – Massenet’s *Thérèse*. We continue our mission to ensure communities right across Scotland can experience live opera on their doorsteps, with performances in over 60 locations in our 60th Anniversary Season. We are also launching a new series of Access Opera to help those who have difficulty attending general performances. These offer a stress-free environment, without the worry of crowded spaces or the need to be silent. We hope that the popular and wide-ranging repertoire available this Season offers something for everyone, and encourages those who haven’t yet experienced the thrill of live opera.’

**Season 2022/23 productions**

***Don Giovanni***

A revival of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, its first since the 2013 premiere, opened on 15 May at Theatre Royal Glasgow. Directed by renowned baritone and newly appointed Scottish Opera President **Sir Thomas Allen**, this dark and atmospheric productiontours to Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, with a special performance on 5 June in Edinburgh to mark Scottish Opera’s 60th Birthday.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** (15 May - 25 June)and Head of Music **Derek Clark** (16 -18 June) conduct an exciting cast that includes **Roland Wood** (*Falstaff* 2021) and **Jonathan McGovern** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022), sharing the role of the titular anti-hero. They are joined by **Hye-Youn Lee** (*Nixon in China* 2020), **Kitty Whately** (*Hansel and Gretel* On Screen2021), **Keel Watson** and Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Lea Shaw** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022). Set in the backstreets of 17th century Venice, designs are by **Simon Higlett**, who worked with Sir Thomas on his much-loved 2019 production of *The Magic Flute.*

*Don Giovanni* is supported by **The Scottish Opera Syndicate**.

***Candide***

This August, a second year of Live at No. 40 takes place in Glasgow with a new outdoor promenade production of Leonard Bernstein’s *Candide*. There will be six performances of this vibrant and contemporary take on Bernstein’s satirical opera held under a purpose-built marquee tent at Scottish Opera’s Production Studios. The Citizens Theatre, who performed at last year’s Live at No.40, will also present a production with more details to be announced soon.

*Candide*, written by Bernstein before he composed his hit musical *West Side Story* and based on the novel by Voltaire, follows larger-than-life characters in chaotic adventures across Europe and South America. Full of imagination and comedy, the production is updated for the specific challenges of capitalism and globalism in today’s world, celebrating all of life’s beautiful, messy stories along the way.

Directed by **Jack Furness** (*Opera Highlights* 2018) and designedby **Tim Meacock** (*Pagliacci* 2018), **William Morgan** (*The Gondoliers* 2022) plays the idealist Candide, with **Paula Sides** as his beloved Cunegonde. They are joined by an ensemble cast that includes **Ronald Samm** (*Pagliacci* 2018), **Susan Bullock** (*Breaking the Waves* 2019), **Jamie MacDougall** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022), **Dan Shelvey** (*The Gondoliers* 2022) and Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Lea Shaw** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022). **Stuart Stratford** conducts The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and an 80-strong community chorus, in partnership with Maryhill Integration Network, an organisation bringing migrants, asylum seekers and settled inhabitants of Glasgow together through art.

*Candide* is supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera, Scottish Opera’s Education Angels,** and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

***Ainadamar (The Fountain of Tears)***

This October, the Scottish premiere and first fully-staged UK production of *Ainadamar* (the Spanish pronunciation of the Arabic name ‘Ayn al-dam’, meaning ‘The Fountain of Tears’) by Argentinian composer **Osvaldo Golijov** and acclaimed American librettist **David Henry Hwang,** takes place at Theatre Royal Glasgow, before transferring to Festival Theatre Edinburgh.

Exploring the life and work of playwright and poetFederico García Lorca*, Ainadamar* premiered in 2003 in Tanglewood and is Golijov’s first opera, combining opera with flamenco dance and song. This new co-production with Opera Ventures (*Breaking the Waves* 2019 and *Greek* 2017), Detroit Opera, The Metropolitan Opera and Welsh National Opera, is directed by Olivier Award-winning choreographer and director **Deborah Colker** and designed by **Jon Bausor**. Known for her intensely physical dance work with Cirque du Soleil and the 2016 Olympics Opening Ceremony, as well as her own Companhia de Danca, Deborah is making her much-anticipated opera directorial debut**.**

**Stuart Stratford** conducts the internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano **Samantha Hankey** in the role of Lorca, whose anti-fascist stance and open homosexuality led to his death in 1936 at the hands of Franco’s Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War. The story, which reimagines the political drama of the early 20th century, centres around Lorca, his muse Margarita Xirgu, sung by **Lauren Fagan**, and her student Nuria, sung by **Julieth Lozano.**

*Ainadamar* is supported by **Scottish Opera’s** **New Commissions Circle** and **Sarah and Howard Solomon Foundation.**

***Il trittico:*** *Il tabarro, Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*

Following the success of his 2021 *Falstaff* production, **Sir David McVicar** returns to Scottish Opera in March 2023 with a new staging of *Il trittico*. This is the first time Sir David has directed Puccini’s epic triptych, and the first time Scottish Opera has staged it.

A new co-production with Welsh National Opera, with set designs by **Charles Edwards**, the trio of glorious one-act operas about love and loss will tour to Theatre Royal Glasgow and Festival Theatre Edinburgh. *Il tabarro* (The Cloak) sees a wife trapped in a marriage she longs to escape, *Suor Angelica* (Sister Angelica)tells the story of an outsider forced in to a life for which she has no vocation,and *Gianni Schicchi* focuses on a dysfunctional family caught in the snare of a shameless conman.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** conducts **Roland Wood** (*Falstaff* 2021), **Sinéad Campbell-Wallace** (*The Puccini Collection* 2021), **Viktor Antipenko, Julian Close,** **Aled Hall** (*Falstaff* 2021), **Francesca Chiejina, Louise Winter** (*Falstaff* 2021), **Máire Flavin** (*Opera Highlights* 2018) andinternationally-acclaimed Scottish mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill** (*Bluebeard’s Castle* 2017). They are joined by former Scottish Opera Emerging Artists **Elgan Llŷr Thomas** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022) and **Sioned Gwen Davies** (*The Gondoliers* 2022).

Puccini’s scores, including the favourite ‘O mio babbino caro’ in *Gianni Schicchi,* each boast their own vivid sound world yet fit together into a satisfying whole. With *Il trittico’s* earlier start, and a long second interval for dinner and drinks, audiences can expect a truly memorable theatrical experience and the chance to hear all three operas in one night as Puccini intended.

The productionis supported by **Dunard Fund**, **The Alexander Gibson Circle, Scottish Opera’s ‘Play a Supporting Role’ Appeal**, and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

***Carmen***

Following his much-lauded production of *Nixon in China* in 2020, **John Fulljames** returns to Scottish Opera in May 2023 to direct Georges Bizet’s *Carmen*, concluding the Company’s 60th Season. This bold new production is sung in English with set and prop design by **Sarah Beaton** and costumes by **Christina Cunningham**.Taking placein 1970s Spain amidst the unrest and upheaval of that time, the investigation into Carmen’s murder runs alongside the systems that led to her death.

**Justina Gringyte** (*Edgar* 2018)sings the title role in this classic opera of jealousy, lust, and an outsider struggling to carve out a life by her own rules in a militaristic and patriarchal society. Also in the cast are **Hye-Youn Lee** (*Nixon in China* 2020) and **Phillip Rhodes** (*Falstaff* 2021), along with four of Scottish Opera’s Emerging Artists **Zoe Drummond**, **Lea Shaw**, **Osian Wyn Bowen** and **Colin Murray**.

Audiences can enjoy such hits as the Habanera, Flower Aria and Toreador Song, alongside Bizet’s magnificent orchestral interludes and spectacular chorus numbers. Conducted by **Dane Lam** (*La Traviata* 2017), *Carmen* tours to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness, and Aberdeen.

*Carmen* is supported by **The Scottish Opera Syndicate.**

**Opera in Concert: *Thérèse* & The Verdi Collection**

In September 2022, Scottish Opera returns to Lammermuir Festival in East Lothian with Jules Massenet’s *Thérèse*, at St Mary’s Church in Haddington. This heart-wrenching work of French Romanticism then travels to Perth Concert Hall.

These concert performances of *Thérèse*, with **Justina Gringyte** (*Edgar* 2018) in the title role, are directed by **Roxana Haines** and conducted by **Anu Tali**, making her Scottish Opera debut. Also in the cast are **Shengzhi Ren** (*Opera Highlights* 2022), **Dingle Yandell** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* 2022), **Dan Shelvey** (*The Gondoliers* 2022) and Emerging Artist **Colin Murray**.

Telling the story of a woman who finds herself at a crossroad, caught between her husband, a revolutionary representative, and her former lover, who is a deposed nobleman and her husband’s close friend, Massenet’s sumptuous opera sits against the backdrop of the French Revolution and Robespierre’s infamous Reign of Terror.

Touring to Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh in November and February, is **The Verdi Collection**. These concerts, conducted by **Stuart Stratford** with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, will feature the romance of *La traviata*, the intrigue of *Un ballo in maschera*, the passion of *La forza del destino*, the domestic tragedy of *Otello*, and *Don Carlo*.

*Thérèse* and The Verdi Collection are supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera** and **The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust**.

**Emerging Artists**

The Company is thrilled to once again offer a group of young artists a period of full-time work at the beginning of their careers. The Emerging Artists have opportunities to perform with Scottish Opera in live productions throughout the year, as well as work in-house with staff and visiting coaches to develop their skills.Our 2022/23 artists are soprano **Zoe Drummond**, mezzo-soprano **Lea Shaw** (returning for a second Season), tenor **Osian Wyn Bowen,** baritone **Colin Murray** and repetiteur **Kristina Yorgova**.

The Emerging Artists, supported by **Scottish Opera’s Emerging Artist Benefactors** and **Elizabeth Salvesen**, will perform in the Company’s productions as well as three recitals in University of St Andrews, University of Glasgow and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

***Opera Highlights***

There will be two tours of the much-loved *Opera Highlights* in Autumn this year and Spring 2023, when four talented singers and a pianist travel to local venues all over Scotland. **Emma Jenkins** (National Opera Studio’s *Anarchy at the Opera* 2022) directs Scottish Opera Emerging Artists **Zoe Drummond** and **Osian Wyn Bowen**, along with **Shakira Tsindos**, and **Christopher Nairne** in the Autumn, and **Holly Teague**, **Annie Reilly**, **Andrew Henley** and Emerging Artist **Colin Murray** in the Spring. Once again, the music is skilfully curated by Scottish Opera’s Head of Music **Derek Clark**, who combines operatic favourites with lesser-known gems. The Music Director/Pianist is Emerging Artist repetiteur **Kristina Yorgova** (Autumn tour), and **Janis Hart** returns as designer.

The Autumn Tour, from22 September to 29 October visits Dundee, Markinch, Fraserburgh, Forres, Banchory, Cullivoe, Lerwick, Linlithgow, Town Yetholm, Stranraer, Castle Douglas, Dunlop, Gartmore, Biggar, Glenuig, Gairloch and Durness. Tickets are on sale this summer.

The Spring Tour, from14 February to 25 March in 2023 visits East Kilbride, Crail, Garvald, Perth, Stonehaven, Boat of Garten, Invergarry, Wick, Kirkwall, Ullapool, Torridon, Isle of Skye, Oban, Campbeltown, Bowmore, Gretna, Hawick and Ayr. Tickets are on sale this winter.

*Opera Highlights* is supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera**.

**Pre show talks, Accessible and Audio-described performances**

The Company recently launched new afternoon Accessible shows to allow audience members the flexibility and freedom to relax and move about as required during performances. This Season there will be Accessible performances (supported by **Scottish Opera's Education Angels**) of *Don Giovanni*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Carmen* in Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

With Dementia Friendly values at their core, these shorter performances (under two hours including an interval) are open to all, whether you’re recovering from an operation, have breathing difficulties, are living with dementia, have a young baby or on the autism spectrum.

The Access performances, which include a presenter to help guide audiences through the story, are conducted by Head of Music **Derek Clark**, and performed by a cast of singers. Doors open 45 minutes before the start time so there’s no need to rush, brighter lighting levels than usual in the auditorium and there are television screens around the theatre if you’d prefer to watch in the lobby or sit in a quiet area.

Half-hour pre-show talks, delving into the detail of *Ainadamar*, *Il trittico* and *Carmen* are also available this season. Those who are visually impaired can take advantage of audio-described performances, where a live commentary is provided, describing the action on stage without compromising the music. As part of the experience a recorded introduction to the opera is provided in advance, and there is a free Touch Tour of the set and a live audio introduction before the start of the performance.

**Education and Outreach**

***Pop-up Opera***

This summer, audiences can look forward to three brilliant half-hour Pop-up Opera shows. Touring around Scotland in June and July are *A Little Bit of Barber* and *A Little Bit of Figaro,* two cleverly-rewritten versions of Rossini’s and Mozart’s classic comedies. Arranged by Scottish Opera’s Head of Music, **Derek Clark**, they follow the adventures of the mischievous barber Figaro.

Children aged four to eight can enjoy *Be A Sport, Spike!,* a Scottish Opera original composed by **Karen MacIver** with words by **Ross Stenhouse**, first commissioned for the 2018 European Championships Festival in Glasgow. It tells the story of Mike ‘The Spike’ McTavish, the greatest sportsman the world has ever seen. There’s no-one who can run faster, jump higher or swim further than mega-fit Spike. But there is one thing that Spike can’t do – sing! Audiences will join Spike and his friends as he starts to exercise those vocal chords, and finds out that a little perseverance can go a long way.

Each outdoor performance is brought to life by a series of colourful illustrations, storyteller **Allan Dunn**, sopranos **Sarah Power** and **Jessica Leary**, baritone **Andrew McTaggart**, cellist **Andrew Drummond Huggan** and guitarist **Sasha Savaloni**.

The tour kicks off on 3 June in Glamis, then travels to Dundee, Glasgow, Mugdock, Aberdeen, Ellon, Stonehaven, Inverness, Strathpeffer, Coatbridge, Greenock, North Bragar, Carradale, Rothesay, Dumfries, Musselburgh, Bearsden, Stirling, Perth and Edinburgh Park.

Pop-up Opera is supported by **Friends of Scottish Opera**.

***BambinO***

This August and September, audiences have the chance once again to see former Scottish Opera Composer in Residence **Lliam Paterson’s** five star ‘opera for babies’, *BambinO*, in East Kilbride, Perth, Inverness, Banchory, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Motherwell with more venues to be announced.

A co-production with Manchester International Festival and Improbable, director **Lissa Lorenzo** revives this delightful piece of music theatre for infants up to 12 months, originally directed by **Phelim McDermott**. With stunning designs by **Emma & Giuseppe Belli**, *BambinO* tells the story of a young bird leaving its nest for the first time. **Charlotte Hoather** and **Samuel Pantcheff** reprise the roles of Ulcellina and Pulcino, accompanied by cellist **Andrew Drummond Huggan**, and percussionist **Darren Gallacher**. The musical director is **Chris Gray**.

Since it premiered in 2017, *BambinO* has toured around the world to great acclaim, including to New York and Paris, as well as Manchester International Festival, Edinburgh Fringe and Glasgow.

*BambinO* is supported by **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels** and **New Commissions Circle**.

***Rubble***

This July, Scottish Opera’s Elmbank Crescent premises hosts the world premiere of *Rubble*, a new piece from acclaimed composer **Gareth Williams** and Scottish theatre legend **Johnny McKnight**. Specially commissioned for Scottish Opera Education’s 50th Anniversary, members of Scottish Opera Young Company, who are aged 17 to 23, are joined by professional soprano **Shuna Scott Sendall** (*The Tsar Has His Photograph Taken* 2021), to tell this searingly honest, at times darkly comedic, story. **Roxana Haines** directs and **Chris Gray**, Scottish Opera Young Company Artistic Director, is the conductor.

*Rubble* follows a group of young people as they stand amongst the debris of Findenterran Farm, until recently a children’s home. As they pick through the shattered fragments of their childhood, they speak of what really went on in that largely ignored property on the outskirts of town. *Rubble* gives a voice to those who were ignored and overlooked by society while their youth was quietly stolen from them, and the cast and creative team have worked with ARTiculate Art Therapy to being this world safely to life.

This production is supported by **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels,** **Scottish Opera’s New Commissions Circle** and **The Leverhulme Trust Arts Scholarship Grant**.

***Breath Cycle***

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The Company’s groundbreaking *Breath Cycle* returns for three more 10-week blocks in October, January and April. The free online project, designed to benefit those suffering from a range of conditions affecting lung health, in particular long Covid, was made with support from key NHS consultants.

Composer **Gareth Williams** and singers **David Douglas**, **Jessica Leary** and **Daniela Hathaway** lead the weekly sessions via Zoom, introducing participants to fun and stimulating songs, vocal exercises and breathing techniques in the comfort of their own home. The benefits of singing regularly are widely recognised, from improved lung function, posture and circulation to a strengthened immune system and core, better breath control and relief from stress and anxiety.

Participants can also sign up for song writing workshops with performance poet, **Martin O’Connor**, which run for eight weeks alongside each *Breath Cycle* block. These sessions are aimed at giving participants tools to get songs on paper and into the world. The songs will be arranged and recorded by Scottish Opera to create a free digital resource for individuals and singing groups worldwide as a positive musical legacy of the past two years. The Covid Composer’s Songbook will officially launch later this year, and a selection of songs composed during the song writing workshops are available to hear now on Scottish Opera’s website.

*Breath Cycle* is supported by **Cruach Trust**, **The Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust**, **W M Mann Foundation**, **Souter Charitable Trust,** and **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels.**

***Memory Spinners***

*Memory Spinners*, a project designed to engage with people living with dementia through music and art, returns for more free sessions in Glasgow. First launched in 2012, these use music, storytelling, movement and the visual arts to help participants and their carers relax, get creative, and form new support networks. Over an eight-week period, rehearsals and visual arts activities build towards a short performance inspired by the music, characters and storyline of a popular piece from the operatic repertoire to which friends and families are invited.

**The R S Macdonald Charitable Trust**, **Life Changes Trust**, **Sylvia Aitken Charitable Trust**, **Bellahouston Bequest Fund**, **RKT Harris Trust**, **J Macdonald Menzies Charitable Trust**, **Trades House of Glasgow (Commonwealth Fund),** and **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels** supports *Memory Spinners*.

***Sweet Sounds in Wild Places***

On display this Season in the Borders, Edinburgh and Glasgow (venues to be announced on the Scottish Opera website) is original art from *Sweet Sounds in Wild Places*, a series of free workshops led by Scottish Opera to help build creative skills and increase self-confidence and self-expression, in partnership with The Abbotsford Trust and Live Borders!

During the sessions artists from the Company used music, creative writing, film and photography to empower those who have been struggling during lockdown. Forming part of the 250th anniversary celebrations of Sir Walter Scott, his novel *The Bride of Lammermoor* was used as inspiration to explore issues such as loneliness, isolation and lack of empowerment, as well as the impact, for good and bad, that landscape and environment can have on mental health and well-being.

*Sweet Sounds in Wild Places* is supported by **The Cruden Foundation** and **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels.**

**School activity**

This Season, *The Last Aliens* and *The Curse of the MacCabbra Opera House* are available to schools. Teachers can sign up to access online teaching resources to work through with their pupils, which includes audio and video teaching aids, as well as a series of practical tasks and exercises, or choose to work in person with our highly-trained artists.

*The Last Aliens*, a newly commissioned work from composer **Alan Penman** with lyrics by **Ross Stenhouse,** is an intergalactic adventure for primary 5 to 7 pupils. A funny and relevant story about saving Planet Earth, they learn five fantastic songs in their own classrooms, and then the Scottish Opera Teaching Artists team arrive at the school for a morning to teach movement and choreography to prepare for a 30-minute performance in front of fellow pupils, friends and family. In a normal year, close to 9,000 children across Scotland take part in these performances with many more thousands of friends and families coming to see them in action.

*The Curse of the MacCabbra Opera House*, on tour in 2023, is a 30-minute opera for primary 5 to 7. A chilling gothic tale with a good dose of comedy, *The Curse of the MacCabbra Opera House* features music from **Alan Penman** and lyrics from writer and director **Johnny McKnight**.

Scottish Opera has expanded its resources for school-aged children to reach secondary students. A series of special lessons for students are designed around Donizetti’s classic comedy, *L’elisir d’amore*, where they will learn about history, drama and storytelling. This includes several newly-written endings devised by the Company. More information will be available soon from the Scottish Opera website.

There is also *The Water Rabbit*, a brand new online resource for all Primary Confucius Classroom Hubs.

These projects are supported by **Harbinson Charitable Trust**, **David & June Gordon Memorial Trust**, **Hayward Sanderson Trust** and **Scottish Opera’s Education Angels**.

**Disney Musicals in Schools**

Scottish Opera and Disney Musicals in Schools are once again collaborating to give primary schools in Scotland the opportunity to learn and produce their own Disney KIDS musical, which are shorter stage adaptions of classic Disney stories written expressly for primary school performers. The programme aims to build skills and confidence in both pupils and teachers, encourage participation and collaboration, and leave a sustainable arts legacy for years to come, especially in schools that are actively seeking greater engagement with the arts.

Over a 17-week period, the Scottish Opera teaching artists guide pupils through music and movement, and work with staff to give them experience in singing, stage directing, choreography and stage management. The schools are also provided with a Disney Show Kit including scripts, director’s guide, music score, choreography DVD, and rehearsal and accompaniment CDs.

The programme with Disney and Scottish Opera first took place in Scotland in 2019 and involved primary schools in Irvine, Paisley, Stirling, Galashiels and Johnstone, but was sadly cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The schools involved, from Glasgow, Wemyss Bay, Faifley, Renfrew and Kilmarnock, have since been able to continue the project over the last few months, and will present their shows in Spring 2022.

-ENDS-

Further information on the 2022/23 Season can be found at [**www.scottishopera.org.uk**](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk) from 18 May.

Tickets go on sale on Tuesday 24 May for Scottish Opera Supporters, and Tuesday 31May for general bookings.

You can follow Scottish Opera on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram **@ScottishOpera**

Performances

***Don Giovanni***

Theatre Royal Glasgow

15 May, 3pm

18, 21 May, 23, 25 June 7.15pm (Audio-described performance)

Access *Don Giovanni* 24 June, 3pm

Eden Court Inverness

24, 26, 28 May, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance)

Access *Don Giovanni* 27 May, 3pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

5 June, 3pm

7, 9, 11 June 7.15pm (Audio-described performance)

Access *Don Giovanni* 10 June, 3pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

16, 18 June 2022, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance)

Access *Don Giovanni* 17 June, 3pm

**Pop-up Opera**

*A Little Bit of Barber*

Rossini arr. Derek Clark

*A Little Bit of Figaro*

Mozart arr. Derek Clark

*Be A Sport, Spike!*

Music Karen MacIver; Words Ross Stenhouse

For children aged 4 to 8

**Summer Tour, 1 June - 10 July 2022**

Touring to Glamis, Dundee, East Kilbride, Mugdock, Aberdeen, Haddo House, Stonehaven, Inverness, Strathpeffer, Summerlee, The Beacon, Grinneabhat, Oban, Carradale, Mount Stuart, Dumfries, Musselburgh, Bearsden, Stirling, Royston, Ruchill Park, Perth and Edinburgh.

***Rubble***

Scottish Opera, 39 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow, G24PT

30, 31 July, 2pm & 7pm

***BambinO***

**Summer Tour, August – September 2022**

Touring to East Kilbride, Perth, Inverness, Banchory, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Motherwell with more venues to be announced on Scottish Opera’s website.

***Candide***

New Rotterdam Wharf, Scottish Opera Production Studios, 40 Edington Street, Glasgow, G4 9RD

11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 August, 6pm

**Operas in Concert**

*Thérèse*

St Mary’s Church, Haddington

8 September 2022, 7.30pm (Part of Lammermuir Festival)

Perth Concert Hall,

10 September, 7.30pm

*The Verdi Collection*

His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen

19 November, 7.30pm

Eden Court, Inverness

26 November, 7.30pm

City Halls, Glasgow

10 February 2023, 7.30pm

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

11 February, 7.30pm

***Opera Highlights***

**Autumn Tour** 22 September to 29 October 2022

The Autumn Tour, from22 September to 29 October visits Dundee, Markinch, Fraserburgh, Forres, Banchory, Cullivoe, Lerwick, Linlithgow, Town Yetholm, Stranraer, Castle Douglas, Dunlop, Gartmore, Biggar, Glenuig, Gairloch and Durness. Tickets are on sale this summer.

**Spring Tour** 14 February to 25 March 2023

The Spring Tour, from14 February to 25 March in 2023, visits East Kilbride, Crail, Garvald, Perth, Stonehaven, Boat of Garten, Invergarry, Wick, Kirkwall, Ullapool, Torridon, Isle of Skye, Oban, Campbeltown, Bowmore, Gretna, Hawick and Ayr. Tickets are on sale this winter.

***Ainadamar***

Theatre Royal Glasgow

29 Oct, 2, 5 November, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Pre-show talk, 5 November, 6pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

8, 10, 12 November 2022, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Pre-show talk, 12 November, 6pm

**Emerging Artists recitals**

16 November, St Andrew’s University

1 December, University of Glasgow

2 December, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

***Il trittico***

Theatre Royal Glasgow

11, 15, 18 March 2023, 6pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Access *Gianni Schicchi*,16 March, 3pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

22, 25 March 2023, 6pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Access *Gianni Schicchi*, 23 March, 3pm

***Carmen***

Theatre Royal Glasgow

12, 16, 18, 20 May 2023, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

14 May, 2023, 3pm

Access *Carmen,* 19 May 3pm

Pre-show talk, 20 May, 6pm

Eden Court Inverness

23, 25, 27 May 2023,7.15pm (Audio-described production with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Access *Carmen*, 26 May 2023, 3pm

Pre-show talk, 27 May, 6pm

His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen

1, 3 June 2023, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

Access *Carmen,* 2 June 2023, 3pm

Pre-show talk, 3 June, 6pm

Festival Theatre Edinburgh

9, 13, 15, 17 June 2023, 7.15pm (Audio-described performance with Touch Tour at 6pm)

11 June 2023, 3pm

Access *Carmen* 16 June 2023, 3pm

Pre-show talk, 17 June, 6pm

Notes to Editors

Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. The 2022/23 season marks its 60th Anniversary.

The Company’s performance repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly-commissioned world premieres. Scottish Opera collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, together with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and choruses for each opera. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, a Herald Angel, and a 2020 RPS Award. In 2021 the Company returned to live audiences with Sir David McVicar’s new production of Verdi’s *Falstaff* performed in Glasgow and at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The Company tours extensively across Scotland to ensure performances are within reach of as many of the country’s very dispersed population as possible. Specially-adapted 40-foot long trailers bring Pop-up Opera performances to thousands of people each year. In 2021 the Company performed nearly 200 performances of its Pop-up Opera Roadshow to socially distanced audiences of 11,014 people. This is one of the most extensive touring programmes of any European opera company and a much-valued contribution to Scotland’s cultural and artistic life, particularly in remote and island communities.

The Company’s Education & Outreach programme, which celebrated 50 years in 2021, includes an annual Primary Schools Tour, bringing children the opportunity to perform their own specially-commissioned piece alongside professional singers. Around 120 schools and 9,000 pupils take part each year. Scottish Opera aims to be inclusive and affordable through availability of free and cheap tickets, as well as performances offering audio description and specially-devised shorter access performances.

The Company’s Opera on Screen productions are available to watch at: [www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen). The collection includes Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*, Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, *Opera Highlights*, Menotti’s *The Telephone*, and Samuel Bordoli and Jenni Fagan’s *The Narcissistic Fish*. The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers*, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer.

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