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## **SCOTTISH OPERA INVESTS IN STARS OF THE FUTURE**

Scottish Opera, in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, is piloting a new programme to give graduate singers the opportunity of a lifetime – a year of full time work with the company to help them launch their careers.

The Emerging Artists programme offers the graduates a wide range of opportunities over the year to help them at the start of their careers. Principally designed to build performance experience, the singers will have the chance to perform, understudy or shadow principal roles, as well as taking vocal coaching, acting, movement and language sessions, and gaining professional guidance on working in the industry.

The programme will begin in August.

Scottish Opera's Alex Reedijk said, 'We are seeking to give opportunities to young singers in Scotland that they would not otherwise have here. We've worked hard with the RSAMD to create a fantastic programme, which will provide an exciting, professional, safe yet challenging environment where some of the best young singers can be nurtured and encouraged as they begin their careers.'

The three singers this year are soprano Nadine Livingston, mezzo Louise Collett and soprano Miranda Sinani.

Nadine, a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music is from Bearsden in Glasgow. Spotted by Scottish Opera last year, the Company immediately identified Nadine as a promising young artist. She has already performed in concert with Scottish Opera and is cast in the title role in Leoš Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová*, which premieres this Autumn, and as Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème* next Spring.

Both Louise and Miranda are graduates of the RSAMD and successfully auditioned for the Emerging Artists programme earlier this year. Louise will be understudy for Karen Cargill, (an alumna of the RSAMD) in the role of Isabella in Rossini's *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. Miranda is currently performing the role of Giulietta in the RSAMD's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. They will sing in the Company's annual tour, *Opera Highlights*, as well as performing in the Chorus of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* this Autumn. The RSAMD will host an Emerging Artists Recital as part of their Friday lunchtime series, and will provide continuing vocal tuition for Miranda and Louise.

Nadine said, 'The first time I ever saw an opera was with Scottish Opera. I'm thrilled to be joining them and exploring some amazing roles with such an exciting and supportive company.'

RSAMD Principal John Wallace said, 'The Opera training at the RSAMD has acquired an international reputation which brings singers from all round the world to study in Scotland alongside the outstanding home-bred talent. We are delighted with this further and very significant step in an already fruitful collaboration with Scottish Opera.'

The Emerging Artists programme is supported by funding from the Scottish Opera Endowment Trust, which has a longstanding commitment to encouraging young artists at the start of their career.

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**[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)**

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