

9 January 2012

## ***HANSEL AND GRETEL GO BACK TO THEIR ROOTS***

This February, Scottish Opera's production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* features the first new translation of the opera in the UK for 25 years.

In this new translation, director Bill Bankes-Jones (Artistic Director of Tête à Tête and its contemporary opera festival), takes the opera back to its roots, with dialogue true to the original libretto and a focus on rich characterisation.

French conductor Emmanuel Joël-Hornak, who was last with the Company for Verdi's *La traviata* in 2008, returns to conduct Humperdinck's lush, folk-inspired score.

Former Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artist Kai Rüütel sings Hansel, with Irish soprano Ailish Tynan as Gretel (fresh from the same role at Covent Garden), Leah-Marian Jones as the Witch, Paul Carey Jones as Peter and The John Mather Charitable Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist and Radio 2 Dame Kiri Prize Winner Shuna Scott Sendall singing Gertrude.

Featuring a children's chorus of 22, a host of 14 angels and an orchestra of 65, the traditional staging of this new production makes for a lustrous, enchanting tale true to the Grimm's original fairytale.

Running time approx. 2 hours.

***Opening Night: Saturday 4 February, 7.15pm, Theatre Royal Glasgow.***

-ENDS-

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

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## Cast

Hansel	Kai Rüütel
Gretel	Ailish Tynan
Peter	Paul Carey Jones
Gertrude	Shuna Scott Sendall**
The Witch	Leah-Marian Jones
Sandman	Miranda Sinani
Dew Fairy	Marie Claire Breen*

## Production Team

Conductor	Emmanuel Joël-Hornak
Director	Bill Bankes-Jones
Designer	Tim Meacock
Lighting	Mark Doubleday
Movement Director	Kally Lloyd-Jones

\* Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

\*\* The John Mather Charitable Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

## Performance Dates

### Theatre Royal Glasgow

Sat 4 Feb, Wed 8 Feb, Fri 10 Feb, 7.15pm

Sun 12 Feb 4pm\*+

*Hansel and Gretel Unwrapped*

Tue 7 Feb 6pm

### Festival Theatre Edinburgh

Tue 14 Feb, Thu 16 Feb, Sat 18 Feb\*+, 7.15pm

*Hansel and Gretel Unwrapped*

Wed 15 Feb 6pm

\*Pre-show talk

+Audio-described performance/Touch tour