



PRESS RELEASE

FROM ROSSINI TO PUCCINI - *OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* HAS IT ALL

Scottish Opera is coming to a venue near you this February with its annual tour of *Opera Highlights* (previously *Essential Scottish Opera*) – a relaxed, informal, concert-style evening of well-known opera tunes and little-known gems.

Programmed by Scottish Opera's long-time Head of Music Derek Clark, the ever-popular tour is now in its fifteenth year.

This year the tour is bigger than ever with six additional dates. The Scotland-wide tour takes in **Rutherglen, Strathmiglo, Brechin, Midmar, Carrbridge, Findhorn, Torridon, Ardross, Strathy, Gairloch, Sleat, Benderloch, Killin, Tarbert, Darvel, Peebles, Hawick, Castle Douglas, Livingston** and **Benbecula** and **Barra** in the Western Isles.

Introduced by our four talented young singers and accompanied by pianist **Ruth Wilkinson**, the evening showcases a mix of operatic styles including arias, duets and ensembles from operas like **Puccini's *La bohème***, **Mozart's *Don Giovanni*** and **Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette***, as well as music by **Handel, Rossini, Gilbert and Sullivan, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky** and **Bernstein**.

The cast includes two of Scottish Opera's Emerging Artists, soprano **Miranda Sinani** and mezzo-soprano **Louise Collett**. Miranda and Louise come fresh from their roles in the chorus of Scottish Opera's recent critically acclaimed production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. Joining them on stage is tenor **Adrian Ward**, winner of the 2008 Royal Over-Seas League vocal section prize and baritone **Robert Tucker**, a recent Emerging Performer at the Australian Opera Studio.

Scottish Opera's General Director Alex Reedijk says, 'This is a great chance to see some fantastic young singers performing a selection of the world's most beautiful music right on your doorstep. There's a perfect blend of tunes people will already know and ones we hope they'll be delighted to discover.'

PERFORMANCE DIARY

1. Rutherglen Town Hall

Tuesday 2 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Rutherglen Town Hall, 139 Main Street, Rutherglen, G73 2JJ

Tel: 0141 613 5700

2. Strathmiglo Public Hall

Thursday 4 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Strathmiglo Post Office

Tel: 01337 860 201

also: Falkland Post Office

Tel: 01337 858 743

also: Auchtermuchty Post Office

Tel: 01337 827 940

also: Graham Scott

Tel: 01337 860 544

3. Brechin City Hall

Saturday 6 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Brechin Library, 10 St Ninians Square, Brechin, DD9 7AA

Tel: 01356 622687

also: The Meffan, 20 West High Street, Forfar, DD8 1BB

Tel: 01307 464 123

4. Midmar Village

Tuesday 9 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Colin Stokoe, The Sett, Cottage 3, Tillybirloch, Midmar, AB51 7PS

Tel: 01330 833 719

5. Carrbridge Village Hall

Thursday 11 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Carrbridge Community Arts

Tel: 01479 841 211

6. Universal Hall, Findhorn

Saturday 13 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Phoenix Stores, The Park, Findhorn, IV36 3TZ

Tel: 01309 690 110

www.thebooth.co.uk

7. Torridon Community Hall

Tuesday 16 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Margaret Brown, Torridon Arts and Culture Group

Tel: 01445 791488

also: Dorothy Hall, Torridon Arts and Culture Group

Tel: 01445 791239

8. Ardross Community Hall

Thursday 18 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Ardross Community Hall, Ardross, Alness, Ross-shire, IV17 0XN

Tel: 01349 880 591

9. Strathy Village Hall

Saturday 20 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Janette Mackay

Tel: 01641 541 275

10. Gairloch Community Hall, Achtercairn Brae

Tuesday 23 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Carole Miller

Tel: 01445 731 535

11. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, nr Armadale, Isle of Skye

Thursday 25 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Seall Arts

Tel: 01471 844 207

Email: info@seall.co.uk

www.seall.co.uk

12. Sgoil Lionacleit, Isle of Benbecula

Saturday 27 February, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Macgillivray's Shop, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, Western Isle, HS7 5LA

Tel: 01870 602 525

13. Castlebay Hall, Isle of Barra

Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: A&C MacLean, General Store & Fuel, The Square, Castlebay, Isle of Barra, HS9 5XD

Tel: 01871 810291

14. Benderloch Victory Hall

Thursday 4 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Terry Donovan

Tel: 01631 720 498

15. McLaren Hall, Killin

Saturday 6 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Newsfirst, Main Street, Killin, FK21 8UJ

Tel: 01567 820 362

16. Tarbert Village Hall

Tuesday 9 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Kintyre Electrical, Campbelltown Road, PA29 6TN

Tel: 01880 820 272

17. Darvel Town Hall

Thursday 11 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: The Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock

Tel: 01563 554 900

18. Eastgate Theatre, Peebles

Saturday 13 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, EH45 8AD

Tel: 01721 725777

www.eastgatearts.com

19. Heart of Hawick – Tower Mill

Tuesday 16 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: VisitScotland box office in Tower Mill (box office hours)

Tel: 01450 360688

www.thebooth.co.uk

20. Lochside Theatre, Castle Douglas

Thursday 18 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Lochside Theatre, Lochside Road, Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, DG7 1EU

Tel: 01556 504506

www.lochsidetheatre.co.uk

21. Howden Park Centre, Livingston

Saturday 20 March, 7.30pm

Tickets from: Howden Park Centre

Tel: 01506 777666

www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk

Booking fees may apply. Please check with individual venues/box offices.

Tickets for performances can also be purchased online at scottishopera.org.uk
Telephone bookings can be made on the 24 hour booking line **0844 847 1645**
(Excluding venues 2,18,19,21)

Advance booking is highly recommended. Any remaining unsold tickets will be available for sale at the door. Doors open 30 minutes before the performance begins.

scottishopera.org.uk

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