



PRESS RELEASE

14 July 2016

SCOTTISH OPERA'S NEW SEASON OPENS WITH *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*

Scottish Opera's hit production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by the great British baritone **Sir Thomas Allen**, opens the Company's 16/17 season in October at Theatre Royal Glasgow.

A revival of its 2010 production, *The Marriage of Figaro* then goes to Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh, and in January 2017 will travel to the Empire Theatre in Liverpool. Beautiful period designs by **Simon Higlett** provide the backdrop to this timeless comedy of social revolution and change.

The role of Figaro is performed by former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Ben McAteer** (*The Devil Inside* 2016), who is joined by Jette Parker Young Artists **Samuel Dale Johnson** as Count Almaviva, and **Anna Devin** (*Don Giovanni* 2013) as Susanna. Scottish talents **Donald Maxwell**, **Eleanor Dennis** and **Marie McLaughlin** play Antonio, Countess Almaviva, and Marcellina,

respectively. Conductors **Tobias Ringborg** (*Il trovatore* 2015) and **Timothy Burke** share conducting duties.

Director **Sir Thomas Allen** said of the production: 'The greatest works of art stand examination again and again. There's always something new to find in layer after layer; a road that will take you to new aspects of the story.'

Ben McAteer added: 'I'm thrilled to be returning to Scottish Opera this season and to be taking on the role of Figaro. He's cheeky, irreverent and gets most of the good tunes! Most exciting for me is the chance to work closely with **Sir Thomas Allen**. I've been a huge fan of his since I started listening to opera as a teenager, and his insight and experience is something I'm looking forward to learning from.'

The opera tells the tale of the once charming Count Almaviva, now a scheming bully who spends his days pestering the serving girls. Figaro, his head of staff, is engaged to Susanna, but Almaviva has a particular soft spot for her and is doing everything he can to delay their wedding. Figaro, Susanna and Rosina, the Count's disillusioned wife, conspire to expose his schemes but then Figaro's old foe Dr Bartolo turns up, with a revelation of his own to tell.

Audiences also have the chance to attend *The Marriage of Figaro* Unwrapped, a free one-hour taster delving further in to the show and how it was created, as well as Pre-show Talks. Those who are visually impaired can enjoy the full opera experience at Audio-described performances, which have live commentary that describes the action on stage without compromising the music.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Cast List

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Susanna | Anna Devin & Lucy Hall (5 & 7 Jan 2017) |
| Figaro | Ben McAteer |
| Countess Almaviva | Eleanor Dennis |
| Count Almaviva | Samuel Dale Johnson |
| Cherubino | Hanna Hipp |
| Antonio | Donald Maxwell |
| Marcellina | Marie McLaughlin |
| Dr Bartolo | Graeme Broadbent |
| Don Basilio/Don Curzio | Paul Curievici |
| Barbarina | Lucy Hall & Kelly Mathieson (5 & 7 Jan 2017) |

Creative Team

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Conductors | Tobias Ringborg & Timothy Burke (27 Oct, 1, 3, 9, 17 Nov 2016, 5, 7 Jan 2017) |
| Director | Sir Thomas Allen |
| Designer | Simon Higlett |
| Original Lighting | Mark Jonathan |
| Original Choreographer | Kally Lloyd-Jones |
| Revival Choreographer | Steinvor Palsson |

Performance Diary

Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA

Wed 12 Oct, 7.15pm

Fri 14 Oct, 7.15pm

Sun 16 Oct, 4pm

Tue 18 Oct, 7.15pm

Thu 20 Oct, 7.15pm

Sat 22 Oct, 7.15pm

Free events

The Marriage of Figaro Unwrapped

Wed 19 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Pre-show Talk

Sat 22 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Touch Tour

Sat 22 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Audio-described performance

Sat 22 Oct, 7.15pm

His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Thu 27 Oct, 7.15pm

Sat 29 Oct, 7.15pm

Free events

The Marriage of Figaro Unwrapped

Fri 28 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Pre-show Talk

Sat 29 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Touch Tour

Sat 29 Oct, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Audio-described performance

Sat 29 Oct, 7.15pm

Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Tue 1 Nov, 7.15pm

Thu 3 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 5 Nov, 7.15pm

Free events

The Marriage of Figaro Unwrapped

Fri 4 Nov, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Pre-show Talk

Sat 5 Nov, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Touch Tour

Sat 5 Nov, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Audio-described performance

Sat 5 Nov, 7.15pm

Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT

Wed 9 Nov, 7.15pm

Fri 11 Nov, 7.15pm

Sun 13 Nov, 4pm

Thu 17 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 19 Nov, 7.15pm

Free events

The Marriage of Figaro Unwrapped

Thu 10 Nov, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Touch Tour

Sun 13 Nov, 2.45pm

The Marriage of Figaro Audio-described performance

Sun 13 Nov, 4pm

The Marriage of Figaro Pre-show Talk

Sat 19 Nov, 6pm

Empire Theatre, Lime Street, Liverpool L1 1JE

Thu 5 Jan, 7.15pm

Sat 7 Jan, 7.15pm

Supported by Cross Border Touring Fund

Free events

The Marriage of Figaro Unwrapped

Fri 6 Jan, 6pm

Supported by The Empire Theatre (Merseyside) Trust Ltd.

The Marriage of Figaro Pre-show talk

Sat 7 Jan, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Touch Tour

Sat 7 Jan, 6pm

The Marriage of Figaro Audio-described performance

Sat 7 Jan, 7.15pm

Notes to Editors

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 10,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and free *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



For additional press details please contact:

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk

Eilidh Clark, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, eilidh.clark@scottishopera.org.uk