



PRESS RELEASE

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30 January 2017

## **THE SUNDAY SERIES: OPERA IN CONCERT CONTINUES WITH ROSSINI'S FIRST MASTERPIECE *LA SCALA DI SETA***

The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert, curated by Scottish Opera's Music Director, **Stuart Stratford**, continues on 2 April at 3pm in Theatre Royal Glasgow with *La scala di seta* (*The Silken Ladder*) by Gioachino Rossini. A further performance of the work will be given at Perth Concert Hall on 7 April at 7.30pm.

Written when the Italian master was only 18 years old, this fun one-act opera is regarded by many as his first masterpiece.

Rossini expert **David Parry** conducts The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and soloists **Christopher Turner** as Dormont, **Jennifer France** (*Ariodante* 2016) as Guilia, **Katie Bray** as Lucilla, **Luciano Botelho** as Dorvil, **Nicholas Lester** (*The Trial* 2017) as Germano and **Joshua Bloom** as Blansac.

**David Parry** said: 'What a complete delight to present *La scala di seta*! It is one of Rossini's earliest operas, a one-act *farsa* produced for Venice, where such entertainments were extremely popular. Rossini is well-known for a small selection of his thirty-nine operas, //

*barbiere di Siviglia, La Cenerentola, L'italiana in Algeri*, and a handful of overtures. This is a pity: having conducted many of his lesser-known works, including several serious or tragic operas, I realise what range he had as a composer, and that each of his operas has its unique atmosphere and tone. *La scala di seta* is no exception to this, and is a little gem: the famous overture gives a hint of its quality. But the opera already demonstrates Rossini's unique ability to combine high-energy and sentiment. A performance of the complete work is not to be missed.'

The last performance in this Season's The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert is Puccini's *Le Villi*, on 21 May, which will be the Scottish premiere of the 1883 work.

-ENDS-

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

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Cast and Creative Team

<b>Conductor</b>	David Parry
<b>Dormont</b>	Christopher Turner
<b>Guilia</b>	Jennifer France
<b>Lucilla</b>	Katie Bray
<b>Dorvil</b>	Luciano Botelho
<b>Dormont</b>	Christopher Turner
<b>Germano</b>	Nicholas Lester
<b>Blansac</b>	Joshua Bloom

Performance Diary for The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert

Rossini's *La scala di seta*

2 Apr 2017, 3pm

*La scala di seta* is also performed at Perth Concert Hall on 7 Apr 2017, 7.30pm

Puccini's *Le Villi*

21 May 2017, 3pm

## Notes to Editors

### **David Parry's biography**

David made his operatic debut with *La Cenerentola* for English Music Theatre and subsequently joined the staff at Dortmund then at Opera North. He was Music Director of Opera 80, and founding Music Director of Almeida Opera, with whom he gave the world premieres of works by Nigel Osborne, Kevin Volans, Elena Firsova and Parnam Vir.

Other significant premieres have included Stephen Oliver's *Mario and The Magician* at the Batignano Festival, and Jonathan Dove's *Tobias and the Angel* (2006) and his oratorio *There was a Child* at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival (2009). In the UK he has conducted frequently at English National Opera, Opera North and Garsington Opera, and is regularly at the helm of orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham, Hallé, Academy of St Martin in the Fields and English Chamber Orchestra.

Recent engagements include *Pirates of Penzance* for English National Opera, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for Staatstheater Stuttgart and *Madama Butterfly* at the Perth Festival, Australia.

Last at Scottish Opera in 2015 conducting *Carmen*, in 2016/17 he is conducting *Tales of Hoffman* in Wuppertal, *Il turco in Algeri* at Garsington and a mixed programme for Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

### **Scottish Opera biography:**

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 8,000 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.



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