



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **SCOTTISH OPERA OPENS NEW ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL SPACE IN HILLINGTON**

Scottish Opera has created a new rehearsal space, called Silver Cloud Studio, in Scotland's largest business park.

Located in Hillington Park, Silver Cloud Studio measures over 5000 square foot and has been converted from a large industrial unit into a modern rehearsal area for The Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

Hillington Park accommodates over 8,000 people working in a range of sectors including retail, manufacturing and engineering, and is located between Glasgow and Paisley. It was founded in 1938 as Scotland's first industrial estate, and doubled in size in 1939 after Air Ministry war planners decided to set up a 'shadow' aero engine manufacturing facility for the Rolls Royce Merlin engines that powered Spitfire and Hurricane fighter planes.

**Alex Reedijk**, Scottish Opera's General Director said: 'I am delighted that Silver Cloud Studio is now open. Suitable rehearsal space is often difficult to find and our new studio at Hillington Park provides – with surprisingly minimal adaptation – an ideal rehearsal environment for The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and other users. We hope to extend its utility to our Education Department, and in due course, other community activity.'

**Roddy Proudfoot**, Head of Asset Management at Hillington Park said: 'The range of commercial organisations based at Hillington Park is large but Scottish Opera has demonstrated that our commercial space can be extremely adaptable to accommodate virtually any use. Scottish Opera is one of the country's most creative forces and it has demonstrated exactly that by turning an industrial unit into a fantastic rehearsal space for its orchestra.'

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

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

#### 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 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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