



**PRESS RELEASE**

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11 July 2017

## ***OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* TOURS TO 17 VENUES ACROSS SCOTLAND THIS AUTUMN**

Scottish Opera's hugely popular *Opera Highlights* tour kicks off in September, travelling to smaller, more remote venues the length and breadth of Scotland.

Travelling to 17 venues across the country from 21 September to 28 October, the Autumn tour visits Musselburgh, Markinch, Arisaig, Portree, Stornoway, Lochinver, Carrbridge, Findhorn, Cove, Peebles, Stranraer, Campbeltown, Bowmore, Benderloch, Langholm, Greenock and East Kilbride.

Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark** has curated an extremely varied programme including favourites from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, as well as lesser known gems rarely performed on the Scottish stage.

*Opera Highlights* will also feature the world premiere of a work created especially for the tour by Scottish Opera's new Emerging Artist Composer in Residence **Samuel Bordoli**. With

something for everyone, from opera first timers to seasoned fans, *Opera Highlights* promises an intimate performance of great music.

This year's cast is full of fresh new talent including Scottish Opera Emerging Artist baritone **Alexey Gusev** and three recent graduates of the National Opera Studio: soprano **Lucy Hall**, mezzo-soprano **Kate Howden** and tenor **William Morgan**. **Elizabeth Rowe** accompanies the four talented young singers on piano and former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Jack Furness** (*Opera Highlights* 2016) makes a welcome return to the Company to direct.

Director **Jack Furness** said: 'I learnt so much during my time as an Emerging Artist with Scottish Opera, and one of the highlights was...*Opera Highlights!* I'm so pleased to be coming back to direct another show, especially as it involves working with composer Samuel Bordoli. *Opera Highlights* is a real heart-and-soul show. I remember having so much fun in the rehearsal room and I'm sure this time will be no different.'

Scottish Opera's General Director, **Alex Reedijk**, said: 'Touring Scotland is at the heart of what we do and *Opera Highlights* is the perfect show to take to smaller and more remote communities around the country as it truly has something for everyone. We are thrilled to have Jack Furness back with us to direct this production which will travel to 17 venues in Autumn. His 2016 *Opera Highlights* tour was a hit with audiences, and his imaginative approach will no doubt bring out the best in this year's fabulous young cast.'

This Season, Scottish Opera's *Opera Highlights* tour will be travelling around Scotland twice. The Autumn leg of the tour will be followed by a further 14-date tour in Spring 2018, with a brand new cast aboard the trusty minibus. More details will be available on the Scottish Opera website in the coming months.

-ENDS-

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

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

## Cast and Creative Team

Soprano	<b>Lucy Hall</b>
Mezzo-soprano	<b>Kate Howden</b>
Tenor	<b>William Morgan</b>
Baritone	<b>Alexey Gusev*</b>
Music Director/Pianist	<b>Elizabeth Rowe</b>
Director	<b>Jack Furness</b>
Composer in Residence	<b>Samuel Bordoli*</b>
Curator	<b>Derek Clark</b>

\*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

## Performance Diary

### **The Brunton, Musselburgh**

Thu 21 Sep, 7.30pm

### **Markinch Town Hall**

Sat 23 Sep, 7.30pm

### **Astley Hall, Arisaig**

Tue 26 Sep, 7.30pm

### **Aros Centre, Portree**

Thu 28 Sep, 7.30pm

### **An Lanntair, Stornoway**

Sat 30 Sep, 7.30pm

### **Lochinver Village Hall**

Tue 3 Oct, 7.30pm

**Carrbridge Village Hall**

Thu 5 Oct, 7.30pm

**Universal Hall Findhorn**

Sat 7 Oct, 7.30pm

**Cove Burgh Hall**

Tue 10 Oct, 7.30pm

**Eastgate Theatre, Peebles**

Thu 12 Oct, 7.30pm

**Ryan Centre, Stranraer**

Sat 14 Oct, 7.30pm

**Victoria Hall, Campbeltown**

Tue 17 Oct, 7.30pm

**Bowmore Village Hall**

Thu 19 Oct, 7.30pm

**Victory Hall, Benderloch**

Sat 21 Oct, 7.30pm

**Buccleuch Centre, Langholm**

Tue 24 Oct, 7.30pm

**Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock**

Thu 26 Oct, 7.30pm

**Village Theatre, East Kilbride**

Sat 28 Oct, 7.30pm

## Notes to Editors

### **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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