



PRESS RELEASE

28 August 2017

SCOTTISH OPERA'S NEW SEASON OPENS WITH SIR DAVID McVICAR'S SUMPTUOUS *LA TRAVIATA*

The passionate and flamboyant production of Verdi's *La traviata* by **Sir David McVicar**, who wowed audiences and critics earlier this year with his production of *Pelléas and Mélisande*, opens Scottish Opera's 2017/18 Season in Glasgow this October.

First performed by Scottish Opera in 2008, *La traviata* will also tour to Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh and is a revival of the co-production with Welsh National Opera, Gran Teatre del Liceu and Teatro Real, Madrid.

Verdi's magnificent opera tells the story of Violetta and Alfredo, set in the demi-monde of 1880s Paris. McVicar's production gets to the core of their doomed love affair, finding a heartbreakingly human story in the midst of hedonistic high society. Russian-Dutch soprano **Gulnara Shafigullina**, recently Violetta at The Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, and **Anush Hovhannisyan**, who represented Armenia at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World this year, head the cast of international talent as Violetta.

Multi-award-winning Dutch tenor **Peter Gijbetsen** as Alfredo is joined by British baritone **Stephen Gadd** (*Le Villi* 2017) as Giorgio Germont, **Simon Thorpe** as Baron Douphol, **Christopher Turner** as Gastone and **James Platt** as Doctor Grenvil.

Three of Scottish Opera's 2017/18 Emerging Artists also perform. Robertson Trust Scholarship Emerging Artist **Catherine Backhouse**, **Alex Otterburn** (*Greek* 2017) and **Laura Zigmantaite** play Annina, Marchese D'Obigny and Flora Bervoix respectively. **David Parry** (*Carmen* 2016) conducts. The beautiful period set and costume design is by **Tanya McCallin** with **Stephen Powles** reviving **Jennifer Tipton's** original lighting design.

La traviata's run in Glasgow coincides with the special milestone of Theatre Royal's 150th anniversary on November 28. Home to Scottish Opera as well as Scottish Ballet, the Victorian theatre first opened in 1867 with a new extension featuring a spiral staircase and roof terrace added in 2014.

Alex Reedijk, Scottish Opera's General Director said: 'Sir David McVicar's *La traviata* has been in great demand in opera houses around the world since its Scottish premiere almost a decade ago. Verdi's opera is one of the most popular in the world, and I am delighted that audiences in Scotland have another opportunity to see this wonderful production with an exciting international cast.'

Audiences also have the chance to attend *La traviata* Unwrapped, a 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.

The original production was supported by Dunard Fund.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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Cast List

Violetta Valéry	Gulnara Shafigullina & Anush Hovhannisyan (28 Oct, 7, 23, 28 Nov)
Alfredo Germont	Peter Gijsbertsen
Giorgio Germont	Stephen Gadd
Flora Bervoix	Laura Zigmantaite*
Baron Douphol	Simon Thorpe
Gastone	Christopher Turner
Marchese D'Obigny	Alex Otterburn*
Doctor Grenvil	James Platt
Annina	Catherine Backhouse*

*Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

Creative Team

Conductors	David Parry and Dane Lam (7, 23, 28, 30 Nov)
Original Director	Sir David McVicar
Revival Director	Marie Lambert
Set & Costume Designer	Tanya McCallin
Original Lighting Designer	Jennifer Tipton
Revival Lighting	Stephen Powles
Original Choreographer	Andrew George
Revival Choreographer	Colm Seery

Performance Diary

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

Thu 19 Oct, 7.15pm

Sun 22 Oct, 3pm

Tue 24 Oct, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)

Wed 25 Oct, 7.15pm

Sat 28 Oct, 7.15pm

Tue 28 Nov, 7.15pm (150th anniversary of the opening of Theatre Royal Glasgow)

Thu 30 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 2 Dec, 7.15pm

La traviata Unwrapped

Thu 26 Oct, 6pm

La traviata Pre-show Talk

Sat 28 Oct, 6pm

La traviata Touch Tour

Sat 28 Oct, 6pm

La traviata Audio-described performance

Sat 28 Oct, 7.15pm

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

Thu 2 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 4 Nov, 7.15pm

La traviata Unwrapped

Fri 3 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Pre-show Talk

Sat 4 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Touch Tour

Sat 4 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Audio-described performance

Sat 4 Nov, 7.15pm

Eden Court, Bishops Road, Inverness IV3 5SA

Tue 7 Nov, 7.15pm

Thu 9 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 11 Nov, 7.15pm

La traviata Unwrapped

Fri 10 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Pre-show Talk

Sat 11 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Touch Tour

Sat 11 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Audio-described performance

Sat 11 Nov, 7.15pm

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

Wed 15 Nov, 7.15pm

Fri 17 Nov, 3pm (Dementia Friendly Performance)

Sun 19 Nov, 3pm

Tue 21 Nov, 7.15pm

Thu 23 Nov, 7.15pm

Sat 25 Nov, 7.15pm

La traviata Unwrapped

Thu 16 Nov, 6pm

La traviata Touch Tour

Sun 19 Nov, 1.45pm

La traviata Audio-described performance

Sun 19 Nov, 3pm

La traviata Pre-show Talk

Sat 25 Nov, 6pm

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 *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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