



PRESS RELEASE

4 December 2017

SCOTTISH OPERA AND THE NATIONAL OPERA STUDIO PERFORM RUSSIAN-THEMED REPERTOIRE IN *THE SUNDAY SERIES: OPERA IN CONCERT*

Scottish Opera's The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert continues on 25 February at 3pm in Theatre Royal Glasgow with *From Russia With Love*, a semi-staged performance with the National Opera Studio featuring repertoire with a Russian theme.

Every year, Britain's major opera companies host residences for the London-based National Opera Studio – the UK's leading training programme for young opera professionals. This Season is the Studio's 40th anniversary and Scottish Opera is hosting a week-long residency for the young artists, culminating in this special performance, accompanied by The Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

Scottish Opera's Music Director **Stuart Stratford** has curated The Sunday Series concerts which focus this Season on his love of, and expertise in, Russian music. The varied Russian programme for February's performance includes favourites from Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, as well as lesser known pieces, rarely performed on the Scottish stage, from Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky and Walton.

Stuart Stratford said: '*From Russia With Love* is a fond look at some Russian inspired classics, as well as some lesser known rarities. The audience will join us on an exciting journey across the Russian musical landscape. Visit the exotic fairy tale world of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Golden Cockerel* and *Kashchey the Immortal*, take a look at the passionate sound world of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and *Cherevichki*, and revel in the bleak and austere truth of Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*. Russian classics are also represented with Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and the Russian inspired *The Bear* by Walton.

We are excited to be working with some of the country's most talented developing artists from the National Opera Studio.'

The Sunday Series 2017/18 closes in May with a concert featuring two works by Rachmaninov: *Aleko* and *Francesca da Rimini*. Adapted from a poem by Pushkin, *Aleko* was Rachmaninov's first opera. This will be Scottish Opera's first ever performance of Rachmaninov and the Scottish premiere of *Francesca da Rimini*, a little-known opera telling a story of love and death with a plot drawn from Dante's *Inferno*.

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

From Russia with Love Cast and Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford
Director	Max Hoehn
National Opera Studio:	
Sopranos	Carly Owen Lorena Paz Nieto
Mezzo-sopranos	Bethan Langford Sinead O'Kelly Polly Leech
Countertenor	Fergal Mostyn-Williams
Tenors	Satriya Krisna Andrew Henley Bechara Moufarrej
Baritones	Edmund Danon Daniel Shelvey
Bass-baritone	Emyr Wyn Jones

Performance Diary for The Sunday Series: Opera in Concert

National Opera Studio: *From Russia with Love*

25 Feb 2018, 3pm

Theatre Royal Glasgow

Rachmaninov's *Aleko* and *Francesca da Rimini*

6 May, 3pm

Theatre Royal Glasgow

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; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. 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.



For additional press details please contact:

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

Daisy Bartlett, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, daisy.bartlett@scottishopera.org.uk