



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **SCOTTISH OPERA LAUNCHES NEW INTERACTIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE *THE OPERA FACTORY***

*The Opera Factory*, Scottish Opera's brand new interactive musical experience for Primary 3 pupils exploring how an opera is made, launches next month.

It combines advance classroom resources designed to reinforce key learning outcomes of A Curriculum for Excellence Level 1 with a live performance that features singers, actors and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. The first performance of *The Opera Factory* takes place at University of Aberdeen on May 11, with further dates at Inverness Leisure Centre, Scottish Opera Production Studios in Glasgow, The Brunton in Musselburgh and Paisley Town Hall.

To prepare for the hour-long show, teachers use an online resource pack which includes short films and guide vocal tracks presented and sung by mezzo soprano **Sarah Shorter**, to teach a song adapted from the aria '*Non piu andrai*' from Mozart's opera *The Marriage of Figaro*. Specially arranged by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark**, who will also conduct the orchestra, it has new lyrics by **Allan Dunn** and is entitled '*If you go to a show that's an opera*'.

Pupils are introduced to the characters Libby Retto and Compo Zerr, who guide them on a visit around Theatre Royal Glasgow. Libby and Compo meet the different people who work there, from costume and set designers to directors and conductors, learning about the different elements that take an opera from the earliest planning stages to rehearsals and opening night.

**Jane Davidson, Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education** said: 'Scottish Opera is delighted to announce a new project for Level 1 primary pupils that has been designed to unlock the doors that lead straight onto the opera stage. In just 60 minutes, we plan to inspire hundreds of curious 7 and 8 years old to explore the many elements involved in making this amazing art form. From costumes to cakes (prop of course!); from baritones to bass drums and from scenery to stage managers, there are so many things to get involved with. Using a combination of advance learning materials and audience participation, this funny and fast-moving experience is the perfect start to life-long engagement with music and the performing arts.'

It was announced on 12 April that Scottish Opera's Outreach and Education department had been shortlisted in the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards which take place in London on 9 May. *Bambino*, an opera for babies aged 6 to 18 months and Memory Spinners, a group for people living with dementia, are nominated in the Learning and Participation category.

For more information visit [www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools)

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

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; 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.



### Performances

Fri 11 May, 11.30am  
Hillhead Central Building, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Aberdeen AB24 3FX

Wed 16 May, 11.30am  
Inverness Leisure Centre, Bught Lane, Inverness, IV3 5SS

Tue 22 May, 11.30am & 1.30pm  
Scottish Opera Production Studios, 40 Edington Street, Glasgow G4 9RD

Wed 30 May, 11.30am & 1.30pm  
The Brunton, Ladywell Lane, Musselburgh EH21 6AA

Fri 1 June, 1.30pm  
Paisley Town Hall, Abbey Close, Paisley PA1 1JF

**For additional press details please contact:**

Emily Henderson, Press Manager, 0141 242 0511, [emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:emily.henderson@scottishopera.org.uk)

Daisy Bartlett, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, [daisy.bartlett@scottishopera.org.uk](mailto:daisy.bartlett@scottishopera.org.uk)