

29 June 2018

## SCOTTISH OPERA'S POP-UP OPERA COMES TO FESTIVAL 2018

This summer, Scottish Opera is bringing two brilliant Pop-up Opera shows for audiences of all ages to Festival 2018, the cultural programme surrounding the city's hosting of the first ever European Championships.

From August 2, performances of *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore* and *Be A Sport, Spike!*, which has been commissioned by Festival 2018, are being staged at various Glasgow venues including Go Live! at the Green, schools, parks and community centres. Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow – will also be journeying to other areas hosting sport across Scotland, including Balloch, Perth, Kilsyth, Stirling, Edinburgh and Kirkintilloch.

The 30-minute shows, which are brought to life by a storyteller, singers, instrumentalists and a series of colourful illustrations, have been on tour since the end of May visiting the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Perth's Solas Festival and Haddington Show.

Commissioned for Festival 2018 with music by **Karen MacIver** and words by **Ross Stenhouse**, *Be A Sport, Spike!* is for children aged four to seven. Mike 'The Spike' McTavish is the greatest sportsman the world has ever seen. There's no-one who can run faster, jump higher or swim further than mega-fit Spike. But there is one thing that Spike can't do – sing! Audiences will join Spike and his friends as he starts to exercise those vocal cords, and finds out that a little perseverance can go a long way.

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, *HMS Pinafore*, has been whittled down by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark** to create *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore*. Aboard the ship HMS Pinafore, Josephine, the captain's daughter, is in love with one of the crew and her father doesn't approve. Overturning social order and parental wishes, the couple plans to elope, but a surprise confession soon leaves everything in doubt.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson** said: 'In 2018, Scottish Opera continues to bring its unique brand of miniature opera to audiences across Scotland. There's something for everyone in the shows on offer which are, as ever, a mixture of comedy and drama; from pinafores to pistols at dawn and a brand new piece commissioned for Festival 2018 for children aged four to seven years and their families – *Be A Sport Spike!*'

Glasgow 2018 Championships Director, **Colin Hartley**, said: 'Festival 2018 are delighted to be working with Scottish Opera as part of this summer's cultural programme. As a UNESCO City of Music, it's fantastic that the show will be staged at various venues across Glasgow, including Go Live! at the Green – a brilliant family day out offering sport, fitness, art and entertainment, all taking place on Glasgow Green during the Championships. It's also brilliant to see Scottish Opera's travelling opera house head to partner areas who will also be hosting sport during the inaugural European Championships.'

Pop-up Opera is supported by Festival 2018.

-ENDS-

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

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

#### Cast and Creative Team

<b>Narrator</b>	Flora Munro/Steven Wren
<b>Soprano</b>	Jessica Leary
<b>Baritone</b>	Oscar Castellino
<b>Cello</b>	Andrew Drummond Huggan/Laura Sergeant
<b>Guitar</b>	Sasha Savaloni/Ian Watt

#### *A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore*

<b>Music arrangement</b>	Derek Clark
<b>Illustrations</b>	Otto Von Beach

#### *Be A Sport, Spike!*

<b>Music</b>	Karen MacIver
<b>Words</b>	Ross Stenhouse
<b>Illustrations</b>	Iain Piercy

Performance Information

**Go Live! at the Green, Greendyke Street, Saltmarket, Glasgow G1 5DB**

Thu 2 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Platform, The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Road, Glasgow, G34 9JW**

Fri 3 Aug: 10.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm

**Springburn Park, Glasgow, G21 3AH**

Sat 4 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Kids and Adults Together, Fountainwell Square, Sighthill G21 1RB**

Sun 5 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Drumchapel Community Centre, 320 Kinfauns Drive, Glasgow G15 7HA**

Tue 7 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 3pm

**North United Communities Milton, The Huts at Milton, 15 Skerry Street, Milton G22 7PT**

Wed 8 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 3pm

**Go Live at the Green, Greendyke Street, Saltmarket, Glasgow G1 5DB**

Thu 9 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Ruchill Community Centre, Bilsland Drive, Glasgow, G20 9NF**

Fri 10 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 3pm

**Moss O' Balloch Park, Balloch Road, Balloch, West Dunbartonshire**

Sat 11 Aug: 12.30pm, 2.30pm & 4pm

**Pollok Civic Realm, 27 Cowglen Road, Glasgow, G53 6EQ**

Sun 12 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 4pm

**Fallin Primary School, Lamont Crescent, Fallin By Stirling, FK7 7EJ**

Wed 15 Aug: 11am & 1pm

**Balgrayhill Community Centre, 139 Balgrayhill Road, Glasgow G21 3AE**

Fri 17 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**Perth, Horsecross Plaza, Perth, PH1 5HZ**

Sat 18 Aug: 11am, 1pm & 3pm

**West of Scotland Housing Association, 40 Barrowfield Drive, Bridgeton, G40 3QH**

Sun 19 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 3pm

**North Edinburgh Arts, 15A Pennywell Court, Edinburgh EH4 4TZ**

Fri 24 Aug: 11am, 1pm and 3pm

**Kirkintilloch Canal Fun Day (East Dunbartonshire Council)**

Sat 25 Aug: 12pm, 2pm & 4pm

**Albert Halls, Stirling, Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 2QL**

Sun 26 Aug: 11am, 1pm and 3pm

### 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.

Festival 2018 is the world-class arts and culture programme that will complement the 11 days of sporting events at the 2018 European Championships. Further information is available at [www.glasgow2018.com/festival](http://www.glasgow2018.com/festival)

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