

12 September 2018

OPERA IN CONCERT 2018/19 OPENS WITH SCOTTISH PREMIERE OF PUCCINI'S *EDGAR* AT THEATRE ROYAL GLASGOW

Scottish Opera's 2018/19 Opera in Concert series opens with the Scottish premiere of *Edgar* by Giacomo Puccini on Sunday 28 October, at Theatre Royal Glasgow.

A gem from the world of verismo opera, Puccini's rarely-performed second opera was commissioned following the success of *Le villi*, which was performed as part of Scottish Opera's 2016/17 Opera in Concert programme.

Italian conductor **Gianluca Marcianò** leads a cast that features soloists **Peter Auty** (*Eugene Onegin* 2018), **Justina Gringyte** (*Carmen* 2015), **Claire Rutter** (*L'enfant prodigue* 2016), **David Stout** (*La bohème* 2017) and **Richard Wiegold** (*Madama Butterfly* 2007). They are joined by a chorus, which includes members of Scottish Opera Young Company, and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. This semi-staged performance is directed by **Roxana Haines**.

Edgar tells the story of an impulsive young knight who runs off with the seductive gypsy Tigrana. Edgar eventually tires of their indulgent life and fakes his own death, but Tigrana soon takes her revenge. Despite the dark themes of murder and vengeance, Puccini's score is one of remarkable lyricism, lush harmonies and rich orchestral colouring, clearly heralding the later genius of both *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** said: 'I'm thrilled that we're performing *Edgar*, Puccini's second opera, following on from the success of *Le villi* last year. It has all the elements you'd expect from a Puccini opera – amazing melodies and beautiful harmonies. It's not a tug of war, it's a tug of love; the sacred love of Fidelity and the profane love of Tigrana. It's a wonderful opportunity to share a forgotten

masterpiece. Puccini famously didn't want it to be staged in his lifetime. We're doing it in concert, with semi-staging, which is a lovely way to experience the piece.'

The Opera in Concert series continues in April 2019 with the long-overdue Scottish premiere of Mascagni's *Silvano*, a passionate seafaring story whose hard-hitting drama is reminiscent of the composer's celebrated *Cavalleria rusticana*. Conducted by **Stuart Stratford**, *Silvano* tells the tale of a love triangle that ends in death and despair, and includes the Barcarolle famously featured in Scorsese's *Raging Bull*. It is performed in City Halls, Glasgow and at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh with soloists including acclaimed soprano **Emma Bell** as Matilde, **Alexey Dolgov** (*Iolanta* 2018) as Silvano, **Lester Lynch** as Renzo and **Leah-Marian Jones** (*Rusalka* 2016) as Rosa.

Scottish Opera is also performing at the award-winning Lammermuir Festival in East Lothian for the first time this September, with a new semi-staged performance of Benjamin Britten's *The Burning Fiery Furnace*. Soloists, chorus and instrumentalists will perform Britten's colourful and exotic Church Parable in Haddington's mediaeval St Mary's Parish Church, telling the tale of Nebuchadnezzar and the three Israelites.

Edgar Cast and Creative Team

Conductor	Gianluca Marcianò
Director	Roxana Haines
Edgar	Peter Auty
Tigrana	Justina Gringyte
Fidelia	Claire Rutter
Frank	David Stout
Gualtiero	Richard Wiegold

Performance Diary

Puccini's *Edgar*
28 Oct, 3pm
Theatre Royal Glasgow

-ENDS-

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. Earlier this year the Company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera New York, and returns to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with *Greek* in December.

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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