

3 October 2018

SCOTTISH OPERA WELCOMES SEVEN EMERGING ARTISTS FOR 2018/19 SEASON

Scottish Opera has welcomed a talented new group of Emerging Artists for the 2018/19 Season: **Lucy Anderson, Samuel Bordoli, Erika Gundersen, Alexey Gusev, Marie Hansen, Bethan Langford, and Sofia Troncoso.**

The Scottish Opera Emerging Artists programme offers young artists a period of full-time work with the Company to help them launch their careers. Initially set up to nurture outstanding young singers, the programme now also includes positions for a répétiteur, costume trainee and a composer in residence.

Scottish soprano **Lucy Anderson**, the Robertson Trust Emerging Artist, completed the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama following undergraduate study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Lucy has received the Frances Collins Award, a Sir James Caird Travelling Scholarship, a Mary Gillespie Award, the Mary D. Adams Scholarship and the Norma Greig French Song Prize. She is a Britten-Pears Young Artist and represented the Guildhall School in the 2018 Bruce Millar Gulliver Prize. Solo concert highlights include *Scenes from Goethe's Faust* with the LSO, a recital of songs by Strauss in Barbican Hall and a performance of works by Tchaikovsky for the BBC SO's *Beloved Friend: Tchaikovsky Project*. This season with Scottish Opera, Lucy takes on the role of Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, goes on the road with *Opera Highlights* next spring and covers the role of First Lady in *The Magic Flute*.

Samuel Bordoli returns for a second year as Composer in Residence. During his first year he composed four new pieces; 'Wings' and three interludes for the Autumn and Spring *Opera Highlights* tours. He also composed *Grace Notes* based on the final pages of Bernard MacLaverty's novel of the same name, as a companion piece to Scottish Opera's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*. With a libretto by MacLaverty himself, *Grace Notes* was performed in the Upper Circle Foyer of Theatre Royal Glasgow before each

performance of *Ariadne auf Naxos* in March 2018. For his work at Scottish Opera, Samuel was nominated for the 'One to Watch' Award at the 2018 Sunday Herald Culture Awards.

Samuel began composing and conducting at an early age, with his first orchestral work performed at the Bedford Corn Exchange when he was aged sixteen. Samuel held the Mendelssohn Scholarship and the Manson Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music and was mentored by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies for nine years after studying with him at Dartington International Summer School. He gained a BMus (Hons) at Birmingham Conservatoire. BBC Radio 3, BBC World Service and ITV News have broadcast his work and Samuel was the first composer to create site-specific compositions for Monument and Tower Bridge in London when his Live Music Sculptures were featured in the City of London Festival in 2012. Other collaborations include creating an opera performed on the Caledonian sleeper train between London and Aberdeen with Tête à Tête and Sound Scotland. Samuel's anthem *The Great Silence*, commemorating choristers who lost their lives in the First World War, premiered at Windsor Festival in a concert celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. Samuel was awarded an ARAM by the Royal Academy of Music in 2018.

This Season, Samuel has composed a new overture to be performed during the opening season of the Music Hall in Aberdeen, which is soon to reopen following a multi-million-pound transformation, as well as new works for the Autumn *Opera Highlights* tour exploring the power of opera.

Erika Gundersen is the 2018/19 Emerging Artist Repetiteur and will work on *Rigoletto*, *Kátya Kabanová*, *Anthropocene* and *The Magic Flute*. She studied as a soloist and repetiteur at the University of British Columbia, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and the National Opera Studio in London. Erika has worked as a pianist, conductor and music director for opera and theatre productions in London, with a particular passion for contemporary repertoire. She has worked as a music director for Vivo d'Arte, London Theatre Workshop and Geoids Musical Theatre, and has been a guest artist for Opera Loki, Pint of Wine Productions and the Southbank Centre.

Baritone **Alexey Gusev** returns as an Emerging Artist to Scottish Opera for the 2018/19 Season. He is from Rostov-on-Don in Russia and graduated from the Rostov State Conservatoire with a degree in Voice, Opera and Concert Singing. He joined the Rostov State Opera and Ballet Theatre as principal baritone, where he remained for seven years. In 2013-14, Alexey sang principal roles for the Astrakhan State Theatre of Opera and Ballet before taking up a scholarship at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and made his debut in Scotland as Napoleon and Andrey Bolkonsky in Prokofiev's *War and Peace*. Alexey is a winner of the International Rachmaninov Competition for Opera Singers, the All-Russian Opera Competition in Moscow and the Clonter Opera Prize 2017. In the 2017/18 Season, Alexey performed in productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Eugene Onegin*, a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and was one of the Autumn 2017 *Opera Highlights* cast members. This Season at Scottish Opera he will perform the roles of Marullo in *Rigoletto* and Kuligin in *Kátya Kabanová*.

Elizabeth Salvesen Costume Trainee, **Marie Hansen**, studied for a Master of Science in Sociology at Copenhagen University before relocating to Scotland and re-engaging in her lifelong interest in making

clothes by taking evening classes in pattern cutting at Glasgow Clyde College. She then realised her skills lay in the craft of constructing garments and decided to make a career change and complete an HND in Fashion Technology at Glasgow Clyde College. While at GCC Marie had the opportunity to undertake a work experience placement at Scottish Opera and became determined to pursue a career in this field. With a passion for theatrical costume, Marie will work on Scottish Opera's Season 2018/19 productions in the Costume Department, headed by John Liddell.

British mezzo-soprano, **Bethan Langford**, is a 2018 graduate of the National Opera Studio and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Highlights so far have included her debut as Dorabella *Così fan tutte* for Bury Court Opera; Second Angel in George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* with the Melos Sinfonia at LSO St Lukes and on tour at The Mariinsky Theatre; Third Maid *Elektra* under Esa-Pekka Salonen for Verbier Festival Academy, and the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia* at Grimeborn. A keen recitalist, Bethan has performed at many leading concert venues and festivals across the UK including the Wigmore Hall, Oxford Lieder Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and Heidelberger Fruhling Festival. She is a proud past recipient of the Elizabeth Eagle-Bott Award for visually impaired musicians from the RNIB, as well as being a Samling Artist and Les Azuriales Young Artist. This Season, Bethan will perform the roles of Giovanna in *Rigoletto*, Glasha in *Kátya Kabanová* and 2nd Lady in *The Magic Flute*, and cover Daisy in *Anthropocene*.

Sofia Troncoso is an American soprano of South American heritage. A 2017/2018 Young Artist at the National Opera Studio, London, she studied previously at the Royal Academy of Music and Northwestern University, Chicago. She won the 2017 Karaviotis Prize and the Audience Prize at Les Azuriales Opera. Recent engagements include performances with Diva Opera, Longborough Opera Festival, Hampstead Garden Opera and Grimeborn. Sofia is also an accomplished recital and concert singer, showcasing music in an array of languages and styles. Notable performances include the 2018 New Year Concert with the Xi'an Symphony Orchestra. In the 2015/16 Season, Sophia was in the Scottish Opera chorus for *The Mikado*. This Season at Scottish Opera, Sofia will perform on the Autumn *Opera Highlights* tour, Papagena in *The Magic Flute* and cover Professor Prentice in *Anthropocene*.

The Emerging Artist singers and repetiteur will perform in three recitals; at the University of St Andrews in November, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in December and the University of Glasgow in January.

The Emerging Artists are supported by The Robertson Trust, The Garrick Charitable Trust, Elizabeth Salvesen and Scottish Opera's Emerging Artist Benefactors.

Performance Diary

Wed 28 November, 1pm

St Andrews University

Fri 7 December, 1pm

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Thu 10 January, 1.10pm

University of Glasgow

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

PHOTO: The attached photo shows the 2018/19 Scottish Opera Emerging Artists (left to right) Sofia Troncoso, Samuel Bordoli, Erika Gundesen, Bethan Langford, Alexey Gusev, Marie Hansen and Lucy Anderson. Photo credit: James Glossop.

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.



Scottish
Government
gov.scot

For additional press details please contact:

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