



PRESS RELEASE

19 November 2018

SCOTTISH OPERA'S NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS SHOW *1719!* COMMEMORATES THE JACOBITE RISINGS

In the Spring and Summer of 2019, thousands of primary five, six and seven school pupils will rehearse and perform an opera about one of the most dramatic periods in Scottish history: the Jacobite risings.

Entitled *1719!*, the opera has been composed by **David Munro**, revised and re-orchestrated by **Alan Penman** with words by **Allan Dunn**. Pupils learn the words and songs in their classrooms with teaching materials prepared by Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach department and then work with a team from the Company to prepare for a performance in front of classmates, friends and family.

Scottish Opera's Primary Schools Tour hits the road on 14 January in Mosshead Primary, Bearsden and will visit 50 schools around Scotland including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth and Kinross and the Highlands, until March. It continues on 16 April, touring to schools in areas including Aberdeen, the Borders, the Western Isles, Shetland and Dumfries and Galloway.

1719! travels back to a key moment in Scottish history to tell the story of the Jacobite Scots locked in a desperate struggle to restore the House of Stuart to the throne of Great Britain, while the Hanoverian King George argued with other European rulers over the lands and riches of the New World. King Philip of Spain sent troops and money to help the Jacobites in an attempt to distract the British government from this dispute. Pupils will go back in time 300 years when the Jacobites and their Spanish allies gathered in Glen Shiel for battle with King George's forces, in what was the last close engagement of British and European troops on British soil.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, **Jane Davidson** said: 'An amazing way to learn about one of the most dramatic and exciting periods in Scottish history, *1719!* features more battles than *Braveheart* and is a thrilling adventure that pits the Jacobite troops and their Spanish allies against the

forces of King George's government in the mountains surrounding Glen Shiel. Although not the most famous of engagements in the Jacobite Wars, it had far reaching significance for Britain's role in Europe and 300 years later, is still recalled in the name Sgurr nan Spainteach (The Peak of the Spaniards) in recognition of the Spanish troops who fought there.'

1719! is supported by The Cruden Foundation, New Park Educational Trust, The Forteviot Charitable Trust, Scottish Opera's Education Angels and a number of other generous funders.

More details about *1719!* are available from www.scottishopera.org.uk/join-in/opera-for-schools/

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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

Creative Team

Original score David Munro (revised and re-orchestrated by Alan Penman)

Words Allan Dunn

Performance diary

The Spring tour of *1719!* will take place between 14 January – 29 March 2019. It will visit schools in East Dumbartonshire, Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, Glasgow, South Ayrshire, Perth and Kinross, Angus, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian, the Highlands, East Renfrewshire, Fife, Aberdeen, West Dumbartonshire, Falkirk, Midlothian, Dumfries and Galloway and Moray.

The Summer tour is from 16 April – 27 June 2019. It will visit schools in Aberdeenshire, the Borders, Fife, East Renfrewshire, Edinburgh, Inverclyde, the Western Isles, North Uist, South Ayrshire, Angus, Shetland, Cumbernauld, East Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Moray and Dumfries and Galloway.

Notes to Editors

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. 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.



For additional press details please contact:

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

Emma Ainley-Walker, Press Officer, 0141 242 0552, emma.ainley-walker@scottishopera.org.uk