



PRESS RELEASE

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3 December 2018

## ***OPERA HIGHLIGHTS* TOURS TO 18 LOCATIONS ACROSS SCOTLAND IN SPRING 2019**

Hitting the road on the 5 February, Scottish Opera's much-loved *Opera Highlights* sets off once more around Scotland with a brand-new show. Four singers and a pianist journey to 18 venues across Scotland from Ayrshire to the Western Isles.

Opening in East Kilbride, the *Opera Highlights* performers will go on to visit Strathmiglo, Cumbernauld, Ardfern, Barra, Benbecula, Tarbert Isle of Harris, Gairloch, Ardross, Duns, Blairgowrie, Maybole, Durness, Boat of Garten, Aboyne, Whiting Bay and Dunblane, before bringing the tour to a close in Paisley on 16 March.

**Sara Brodie** directs a programme of works by composers from across the centuries, from Handel and Gluck, to Mozart, Verdi, Britten and Bernstein, carefully curated by Scottish Opera's Head of Music **Derek Clark**. Scottish Opera Emerging Artist 2018/19 soprano **Lucy Anderson**, who sang the role of Countess Ceprano in the Company's 2018 revival of *Rigoletto*; mezzo-soprano **Heather Ireson**; tenor **Tom Smith** and baritone **Harry Thatcher** join Music Director/Pianist **Elizabeth Rowe** to bring to life some of opera's best-known arias alongside hidden gems and forgotten favourites.

Director **Sara Brodie** said: ‘*Opera Highlights* 2019 offers a dazzling array of operatic hits from Wagner to Gilbert and Sullivan. We promise an evening of frivolities, folly and flirtation as our singers take you to the depths of the underworld, Paris at dawn, a Viennese masked ball and a tryst by the Thames. Four erstwhile travellers journey the seas of love and back again, in scenes of picaresque torment and delight, to warm your hearts on a chilly night.’

Scottish Opera General Director, **Alex Reedijk**, said: ‘Following the tremendous success of our 17-date Autumn *Opera Highlights* tour, we are greatly looking forward to visiting 18 smaller and rural venues in the Spring. This new, pint-sized production is a celebration of opera and the accomplished creative team will no doubt bring out the best in this talented cast, as they journey around Scotland from Barra to Boat of Garten.’

This tour is supported by The Friends of Scottish Opera, the JTH Charitable Trust and the Scottish Opera Endowment Trust.

-ENDS-

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

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

### Cast and Creative Team

Soprano	<b>Lucy Anderson*</b>
Mezzo-soprano	<b>Heather Ireson</b>
Tenor	<b>Tom Smith</b>
Baritone	<b>Harry Thatcher</b>
Music Director/Pianist	<b>Elizabeth Rowe</b>
Director	<b>Sara Brodie</b>

\*The Robertson Trust Scottish Opera Emerging Artist

### Performance Diary

**Village Theatre, East Kilbride**

Tue 5 Feb, 7.30pm

**Strathmiglo Village Hall, Strathmiglo**

Thu 7 Feb, 7.30pm

**Cumbernauld Theatre, Cumbernauld**

Sat 9 Feb, 7.30pm

**Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern**

Tue 12 Feb, 7.30pm

**Northbay Hall, Barra**

Thu 14 Feb, 7.30pm

**Liniclate School, Benbecula**

Sat 16 Feb, 7.30pm

**Tarbert Village Hall, Harris**

Tue 19 Feb, 7.30pm

**Gairloch Community Hall, Gairloch**

Thu 21 Feb, 7.30pm

**Ardross Community Hall, Ardross**

Sat 23 Feb, 7.30pm

**Volunteer Hall, Duns**

Tue 26 Feb, 7.30pm

**Blairgowrie Town Hall, Blairgowrie**

Thu 28 Feb, 7.30pm

**Maybole Town Hall, Maybole**

Sat 2 Mar, 7.30pm

**Durness Village Hall, Durness**

Tue 5 Mar, 7.30pm

**Boat of Garten Community Hall, Boat of Garten**

Thu 7 Mar, 7.30pm

**Deeside Theatre, Aboyne**

Sat 9 Mar, 7.30pm

**Whiting Bay Village Hall, Isle of Arran**

Tue 12 Mar, 7.30pm

**Victoria Hall, Dunblane**

Thu 14 Mar, 7.30pm

**The Wynd Auditorium at The Spires, Paisley**

Sat 16 Mar, 7.30pm

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.



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