

12 February 2019

SCOTTISH PREMIERE OF MASCAGNI'S *SILVANO*

In April, Scottish Opera's 2018/19 Opera in Concert series concludes with the Scottish premiere of *Silvano* by Pietro Mascagni.

Audiences have two opportunities to see this passionate seafaring tale; at City Halls in Glasgow on Sunday 14 April at 3pm, and Usher Hall, Edinburgh on Tuesday 16 April, at 7.30pm.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** conducts a cast that features acclaimed soprano and former Kathleen Ferrier Award-winner **Emma Bell** as Matilde, making her debut with Scottish Opera. Emma is joined by **Alexey Dolgov** (*Iolanta* 2017), **David Stout** (*The Burning Fiery Furnace* 2018), **Leah-Marian Jones** (*Rusalka* 2016), with chorus and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. The semi-staged performances are directed by **Roxana Haines** (*Edgar* 2018).

The plot centres on a disastrous love triangle that ends in death and despair. Mascagni revels in this drama and the score, which includes the Barcarolle famously used in Scorsese's *Raging Bull*, displays both his signature lyrical lines and a spicy chromaticism that echoes much of Wagner's work.

Scottish Opera Music Director **Stuart Stratford** said: 'One thing I was determined to do when I became Music Director at Scottish Opera was to champion lesser-known pieces by great composers. Mascagni is unjustly cast as a 'one hit wonder' and, with the roaring success of *Cavalleria Rusticana*, most of his other works get overlooked.

'I was delighted we included his *L'amico Fritz* in the first Opera in Concert series in 2016, and now it is the turn of *Silvano*. Mascagni's writing in this period is deliciously unique and I am sure will inspire you to explore his other neglected works.'

Silvano Cast and Creative Team

Conductor	Stuart Stratford
Director	Roxana Haines
Matilde	Emma Bell
Silvano	Alexey Dolgov
Renzo	David Stout
Rosa	Leah-Marian Jones

Silvano Performance Diary

City Halls, Glasgow

Sun 14 Apr, 3pm

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Tue 16 Apr, 7.30pm

-ENDS-

www.scottishopera.org.uk

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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, 2016's *The Devil Inside* and 2019's *Anthropocene* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh. In 2018, the Company made its US debut with *BambinO* at the Metropolitan Opera New York, and returned to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with *Greek*.

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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